



News Release

Safe Haven Locations for Newborns

Not all women who get pregnant are ready to raise a child. Sometimes they see no options except to abandon the baby. Safe Havens provide an alternative to leaving infants in unsafe places. It allows a birth parent to leave a newborn infant (up to 30 days old) with: a medical worker in a hospital, fire department or other emergency service organization, or a peace officer at a law enforcement agency. If the infant is left with a person at one of these places and has not been abused or neglected, the parent will face no legal consequences for making this choice.

To better mark Safe Haven locations, The Lima Exchange Club presented Safe Haven Signs to the Lima Police Department, Lima Fire Department, Allen County Sheriff's Department, Shawnee Township Police Department, St. Rita's Medical Center and Lima Memorial Health System. "We hope the effort raises awareness about the Safe Haven option", said Brook Elrod, Chairwoman of the Club's child abuse prevention committee. The provision which has been around since 2001, has never been used in Allen County, said Scott Ferris, ACCS Executive Director. It has only been used approximately 70 times statewide.

