



## Safe Places to Leave your Baby

Parenting is an exciting and enjoyable time for some and for others it can bring a great deal of stress and fear. If for any reason you feel you cannot parent your child, there are safe places where you can leave your baby. These safe places will take your baby with open arms, no questions asked, and will also make sure your baby receives the care and protection he or she deserves.

State law in South Dakota allows you to voluntarily leave your baby with a hospital or child placement agency if your child is less than 60 days old. This is also known as the *Baby Moses Law*. Leaving your baby with one of these places is NOT a crime as long as your child has not been harmed.

You can leave your baby with:

- Hospitals or clinics
- Law enforcement officers
- Licensed child placement agencies
- Department of Social Services offices
- Emergency medical technicians
- Firefighters

You may be asked for medical information related to your baby's medical history. However, you will NOT be required to provide any information, including your name or the other parent's name.

## Contact Us

South Dakota  
Department of Social Services  
Division of Child Protection  
Services

Phone: 605.773.3227

Email: [CPS@state.sd.us](mailto:CPS@state.sd.us)

Online: [dss.sd.gov/childprotection](https://dss.sd.gov/childprotection)

## Safe Havens in South Dakota

Secure places to leave your baby...  
no questions asked



South Dakota  
Department of  
**Social Services**



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Department of  
**Social Services**

# Your Parental Rights Will Be Terminated

If you do not *express your intent to return* for your baby, your parental rights to your child will be terminated after 14 days. Your baby then is taken in to care by the Department of Social Services' Division of Child Protection Services or the licensed child placement agency.

The place where you leave your baby must notify the Department of Social Services about having your child. The Department **cannot** attempt to identify, contact or investigate you unless it appears your child has been harmed. The Department or the child placement agency will take custody and care for your baby.

Your baby's other parent has the right to file for custody after you have given the baby up. To gain custody, the other parent has 30 days to prove he or she is the parent of your baby and that he or she did not consent to giving up the child's custody.

If the other parent does not come forward and 60 days have passed, a circuit court hearing is held to terminate the parental rights. *This means you no longer have any rights to your baby.*

\*For more information on this law, see SDCL 25-5A-27 through 25-5A-35.

\*\*If applicable, the Indian Child Welfare Act must be followed.

# Safe Places to Consider

**All About U Adoptions**  
229 E 2nd Ave, Suite 2  
Milbank, SD 57252  
Phone: 605.949.2507

**Bethany Christian Services**  
400 S Sycamore Ave, Suite 105-2  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-4875  
Phone: 605.336.6999

**Bethany Christian Services Western South Dakota**  
2525 W Main St. #309  
Rapid City, SD 57702-2443  
Phone: 605.343.7196

**Catholic Family Services**  
523 NW Duluth  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-2714  
Phone: 605.988.3775 or 800.700.7867

**Catholic Social Services**  
918 5th St  
Rapid City, SD 57701-3798  
Phone: 605.348.6086

**Lutheran Social Services**  
621 E Presentation St  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104  
Phone: 605.221.2346 or 888.201.5061

**Lutheran Social Services**  
2920 Sheridan Lake Road  
Rapid City, SD 57702-5350  
Phone: 605.348.0477 or 800.260.1439

**New Horizons Adoption Agency Inc.**  
2500 W 49th St, Suite 213  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-3619  
Phone: 605.332.0310

# Local DSS Offices to Leave Your Baby

**Aberdeen**  
3401 10th Ave SE  
605.626.2388

**Brookings**  
1310 Main Ave S, Suite 101  
605.688.4330

**Chamberlain**  
320 Sorenson Dr  
605.734.4500

**Deadwood**  
20 Cliff St  
605.578.2402

**Eagle Butte**  
1302 N Willow  
605.964.4484

**Hot Springs**  
2500 Minnekahta Ave,  
Building 1  
605.745.5100

**Huron**  
1000 18th St SW, Suite 3  
605.353.7100

**Lake Andes**  
140 West Highway 50  
605.487.7607

**Martin**  
404 3rd Ave  
605.685.6521

**Mission**  
671 N Marge Ln  
605.856.4489

**Mitchell**  
116 E 11th Ave  
605.995.8000

**Mobridge**  
920 6th St W  
605.845.2922

**Pierre**  
912 E Sioux Ave  
605.773.3521

**Rapid City**  
510 N Cambell St  
605.394.2525

**Sioux Falls**  
811 E 10th St, 605.367.5444

**Sturgis**  
2200 W Main St  
605.347.2588

**Vermillion**  
114 Market St, Suite 102  
605.677.6800

**Watertown**  
2001 9th Ave SW, Suite 300  
605.882.5050

**Winner**  
649 W 2nd St  
605.842.0400

**Yankton**  
3113 Spruce St, Suite 200  
605.668.3030

