First, be sure the baby qualifies under the Safe Haven Law. All three of these must be met:

☐ The infant must appear to be under age one-year old, or the parent/agent must state the infant is under age one.

☐ The infant must appear unharmed (this is not a medical judgement).

☐ The infant must be left with an on-duty staff member at an approved location.

Use the following protocol:

☐ Accept the abandoned infant.

☐ Provide the birth parent or agent a medical history form, along with an envelope (postage paid recommended). The medical history form can be found at: www.health.nd.gov/safehaven
  • The parent/agent is not required to answer the questions or complete the form. The parent/agent may choose to complete any of the questions voluntarily. If/when the medical form is returned, it must be forwarded to the North Dakota Department of Human Services.

Ask the parent/agent:

☐ The city/state/time/place of the birth of the infant

☐ Does either parent have an Indian tribal affiliation? If yes, what tribe? (If the infant’s tribal affiliation is known, the Indian Child Welfare Act will apply, and the tribe will be contacted about possible tribal membership.)

☐ Whether a birth certificate was issued and the first name on the birth certificate

Provide medical and legal information to the birth parent or their agent, along with an envelope (postage paid recommended). See Baby Safe Haven Pamphlet on https://www.health.nd.gov/safehaven

☐ Call for a medical transport to the nearest appropriate facility (clinic or emergency department). Use emergency transport if needed. Care for the infant while waiting for medical responders to arrive.

☐ Report the situation to Child Protection Services at 1-833-958-3500 only after the parent or their agent leaves the location. Provide medical and legal information obtained from birth parent/agent to Child Protection Services.

For more specific information on the North Dakota Baby Safe Haven Law please visit our resource page at www.health.nd.gov/safehaven and the Baby Safe Haven Training at: https://babysafehaven.pcad.org/nd-safe-haven-law/

For questions or more information about the NDDoH Baby Safe Haven Training Program and Baby Safe Haven educational materials, contact Alicia Belay at: abelay@nd.gov