



PRESS-REGISTER

Infant turned in at local hospital

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Staff Reporter

A newborn baby girl, who arrived at the University of South Alabama Children's & Women's Hospital on Tuesday, became the 18th infant in the state surrendered under the Secret Safe Place for Newborns program, Mobile County District Attorney John Tyson Jr. said.

"She's healthy. She's strong," Tyson said. "We've had a Christmas baby and a Labor Day baby, and now we've got an Independence Day baby."

The Secret Safe Place for Newborns program began in Mobile in 1999 to combat infanticide and the unsafe abandonment of unwanted newborns. The concept grew to a statewide statute and has since spread to 46 other states.

At designated Secret Safe Place locations throughout the area, including hospitals with an emergency room, a new parent can leave a baby anonymously without being questioned. The parent will face prosecution only if the baby is harmed or illegally abandoned in a nonauthorized place.

The program also gives mothers a chance to change their minds about their decision and guarantees a health exam and foster care for the child.

"Her (the baby's) arrival at the hospital is cause for celebration that another mother in crisis has made the right choice by surrendering her child to the welcoming arms of hospital staff participating in our Secret Safe Place for Newborns program," Tyson said of the most recent arrival.

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