

**Subject** Safe Place for Newborns

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## Overview

Under the Safe Place for Newborns statute, the mother of a newborn or an individual acting with the mother's permission may relinquish a newborn, within seven days after the newborn's birth, at a location designated as a safe place. The location where the newborn is relinquished must not ask about the identity of the newborn's mother or call the police, as long as the newborn is unharmed. If the newborn is relinquished at a location other than a hospital, the newborn is transported to a hospital, and a social service agency assumes responsibility for the newborn.

This bill adds to the settings where newborns may be relinquished under this section to include fire stations that are continuously staffed 24 hours per day and newborn safety devices installed at locations designated as a safe place. It also prohibits an individual from being criminally prosecuted solely for relinquishing a newborn at a safe place.

## Summary

Section	Description
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1	<b>General.</b>
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Amends § 145.902, subd. 1. In para. (a), amends the definition of "safe place" at which a newborn may be relinquished to include (1) a fire station that is staffed continuously 24 hours per day and that has an alarm to notify the nearest first responder if a newborn is relinquished while all staff are called out in an emergency; and (2) a newborn safety device installed by a location designated as a safe place.

In para. (b), establishes criteria that a newborn safety device must meet to allow it to accept newborns under this section: is designed to allow a parent to anonymously place the newborn in the device; allows an emergency medical services provider to remove the newborn from the device; includes an alarm system connected to the

Section	Description
	<p>location where the device is installed; is approved by the FDA; and is located at a fire station or hospital, in a conspicuous location that is visible to staff.</p> <p>In para. (c), requires a newborn safety device to have available for a parent relinquishing a newborn at the newborn safety device, information on how to contact relevant social service agencies.</p>
2	<p><b>Immunity.</b></p> <p>Amends § 145.902, subd. 3. Prohibits a person from being criminally prosecuted solely for the act of relinquishing a newborn at a safe place according to this section.</p>



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