



Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor

Charles M. Palmer
Director

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Newborn Boy Declared Safe Haven Baby

(Des Moines, Iowa) - Iowa Department of Human Services officials are using the state's safe haven procedures for the 19th time since the law went into effect.

A boy was born on June 14 at an Iowa hospital, and his mother immediately asked that the child be declared a safe haven baby. The infant was released to the custody of the DHS. A court hearing to terminate parental rights will be held within a month.

"Iowa's safe haven procedure is once again showing how it can protect a newborn child whose mother is in crisis," said DHS Director Charles M. Palmer.

Under Iowa's safe haven law, parents may give up custody of babies aged 14 days or younger with no questions asked. As usual in safe haven cases, specific details are withheld in order to protect the identity of the parents and child. In all previous cases, safe haven babies have been successfully adopted.

The safe haven law was approved in the wake of a high-profile case in 2001 involving a teen mother in eastern Iowa who killed her home-delivered newborn.

For more information

<http://dhs.iowa.gov/safe-haven>

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