



Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor

Charles M. Palmer
Director

May 2, 2014

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 18th time.

A boy was born on April 15 at an Iowa hospital, and his mother immediately asked that the child be declared a safe haven baby.

"Iowa's law is once again showing how it can protect the life of a newborn by allowing a mother in crisis to hand over care," DHS Director Charles M. Palmer said Friday.

The infant was placed in the custody of DHS, and a court hearing to terminate parental rights will be held within a month. Under Iowa's safe haven law, parents may give up custody of babies ages 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.

Safe Haven for Newborns:

http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/Consumers/Safety_and_Protection/Safe_Haven.html

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