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**For More Information Contact
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Another Iowa Safe Haven Baby

DES MOINES, Iowa – Iowa Department of Human Service officials are using the state's safe haven procedures for the 15th time since the law went into effect a decade ago.

A healthy boy was born in an Iowa hospital on May 12 and his mother immediately asked that the child be declared a safe haven baby.

"Our safe haven law has once again achieved the intended results—saving the life of a child," said DHS Director Chuck Palmer.

Under Iowa's safe haven law, parents may give up custody of babies aged 14 days or less with no questions asked. The law was approved in the wake of a high-profile case in 2001 involving a teen-aged mother in eastern Iowa who killed her home-delivered newborn.

The latest safe haven child was released to the custody of the DHS and was placed with a foster family that intends to adopt. A court hearing to terminate parental rights will be held within a month.

As usual in safe haven cases, specific details are being withheld in order to protect the identity of the parents and child. In all previous cases, safe haven babies have been successfully adopted.

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