

Ohio Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):

WIC helps eligible pregnant and breastfeeding women, women who recently had a baby, infants, and children up to 5 years of age. WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding education and support; supplemental, highly nutritious foods, and iron-fortified infant formula; and referral to prenatal and pediatric health care and other maternal and child health and human services programs. bit.ly/3nqKbnd

Ohio Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):

The Ohio Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides benefits to supplement the food budget of low-income households in Ohio so families can purchase healthy food and move towards self-sufficiency. benefits.ohio.gov

Safe Havens (If you change your mind):

If either parent changes their mind and wishes to get their newborn back, the parent will need to go to the local public children services agency in the county where the newborn was left. The parent will be asked to complete a DNA test to prove maternity or paternity and this may be at cost to the parent.

For more Information about Safe Havens

Call during business hours; (866) 886-3537 (opt 4).

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health or addiction-related crisis that is non-life-threatening (thoughts of suicide, emotional distress, or substance use/addiction), call, chat, or text 988 for free, 24/7, confidential support. If you or someone you know is in immediate, life-threatening danger, call 911.

Mike DeWine, Governor
State of Ohio
Kara B. Wentz, Director
Ohio Department of Children & Youth
DCY 08099 (10/2024)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Are you the Parent of a Newborn?

We are here to help.

As a parent of a newborn, you have options. You may choose to raise your child, place your newborn for adoption, or relinquish your newborn to a Safe Haven.

The following resources are available to help any parent who has questions or concerns.

Medicaid Benefits:

The Department of Medicaid provides health insurance for eligible individuals, including pregnant women, infants, and children. Learn more information about the services and programs available at bit.ly/3y5EKih

Publicly Funded Child Care

Eligible families may receive assistance with all or part of the cost of monthly child care expenses. More information at: bit.ly/3leZFnZ

24/7 Breastfeeding Hotline: 1-888-588-3423

The Appalachian Breastfeeding Network operates Ohio's 24/7 Breastfeeding Support Hotline through the Ohio Department of Health. It is available all day, every day, including weekends and holidays and is operated by live, trained lactation professionals. This service is provided free of charge to all callers, including mothers, their families and partners, expectant parents, and healthcare providers.

Help Me Grow

Help Me Grow is a system of supports for pregnant women, caregivers with new babies, and families with young children with developmental delays and disabilities. Services are provided through Home Visiting and Early Intervention. More information at helpmegrow.org

Cash Assistance:

Ohio Works First (OWF) provides cash benefits to needy families for up to 36 months. Lower income families may be eligible to receive monthly cash assistance. For more information: childrenandyouth.ohio.gov/for-families/apply

Adoption:

Making an adoption plan means placing your child for adoption with another family. Your child may be placed with a relative, a friend, or someone who is working with an adoption agency or attorney. Placing a child for adoption is permanent, and once the decision is made, it cannot be changed. Before you make this important decision, you must talk to an assessor.

Safe Havens

Safe Havens were established in 2001 and allow a parent to leave a newborn infant (up to 30 days old) with:

- a medical worker in a hospital;
- a medical worker at a fire department or other emergency service organization; or
- a peace officer at a law enforcement agency.

If the newborn is left with a person at one of these places, and has not been abused or neglected, the parent will face no legal consequences for making this choice.

Who can take a newborn to a Safe Haven

The parent (mother or father) can take a child to a Safe Haven. The law provides protection from prosecution only for the newborn's parents.

Does the parent have to call before taking a newborn to a Safe Haven?

No. A parent may take a newborn to a Safe Haven at any time until the newborn is 30 days old.

What information will the parent have to provide?

The parent is not required to provide any information, including his or her name. However, it would help the newborn if the parent chose to provide basic health information. The parent will be offered a form to guide them in providing the most important health information: childrenandyouth.ohio.gov/for-families/apply

What happens next?

If the newborn needs medical attention, it will be provided. The professional staff person who accepts the newborn will contact the county children services agency, which will work to find the child a permanent home. There are many families who want to adopt a baby.

When a parent cannot care for a newborn, leaving the baby at a Safe Haven may be the best choice for the child. If the parent is not sure about this decision, an adoption social worker can help by providing information on available options and services for parents and their babies.