

# *North Carolina Women's Hospital*

## **Safe Surrender of Newborns**

### **What is the North Carolina Safe Surrender Law?**

Some women who have given birth realize they will not be able to take care of a baby. North Carolina has a Safe Surrender law for this kind of crisis. The law allows an overwhelmed parent to anonymously surrender a newborn to a responsible adult without giving any information about themselves or the baby. This can be done up to 7 days after birth.

### **Who can I surrender my baby to?**

A responsible adult can be a health care provider, a law enforcement officer, a fireman, a social services worker, an emergency medical worker, or anyone who appears responsible.

### **What happens after I surrender my baby?**

The responsible adult will call 911 or the county Department of Social Services. The birth mother or responsible adult is not required by law to give any information although any details about the health and birth of the baby would be helpful in providing care for the baby.

### **Where do I find more information about the North Carolina Safe Surrender Law?**

You can go to [www.safesurrender.net](http://www.safesurrender.net) to learn more about North Carolina's law. Advice for pregnant and new mothers is available at the local health departments. In an emergency call 911.

### **Do I have other options?**

If your baby is more than 7 days old and you realize you cannot care for the baby, **you should contact your local Department of Social Services**. If you are interested in making an adoption plan for your baby, there are agencies that can help you arrange for a safe and loving home. Contact your county Department of Social Services or a licensed adoption agency.