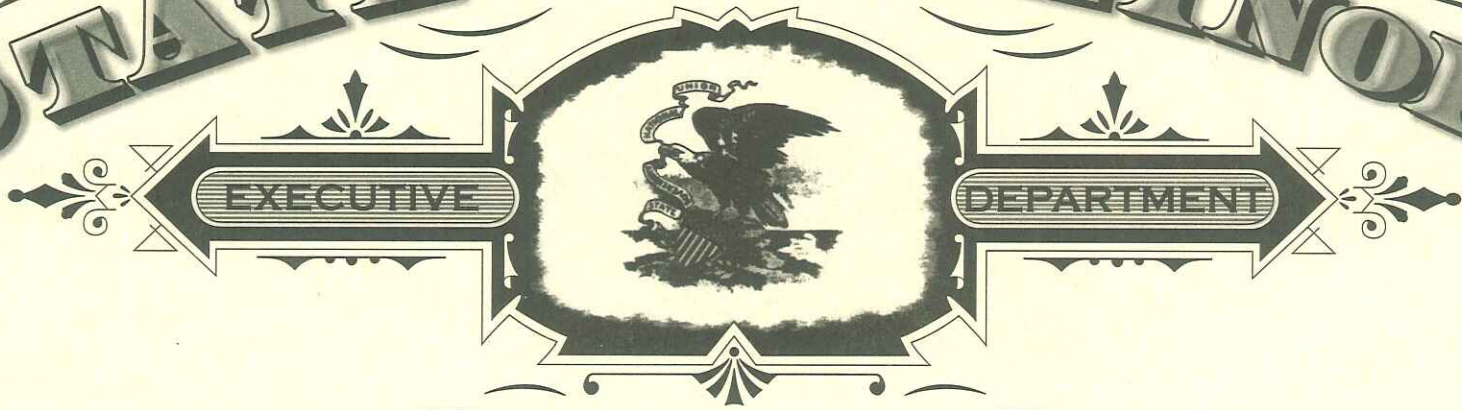


STATE OF ILLINOIS



Proclamation

WHEREAS, signed into law in August 2001, the Illinois Abandoned Newborn Protection Act allows parents to relinquish a newborn infant to personnel at a local hospital, police station, fire station, or emergency medical facility anonymously and free from prosecution; and,

WHEREAS, signed into law in August 2011, exactly ten years later, an expansion of this law increased infant safe havens to include college or university police stations or any district headquarters of the Illinois State Police; and,

WHEREAS, relinquished babies then may become custody of the state and are placed in a responsible and nurturing safe haven; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Abandoned Newborn Protection Act provides a safe alternative to abandonment for Illinois parents who feel they cannot cope with the responsibility of caring for a newborn baby; and,

WHEREAS, it is the hope of the State of Illinois that as awareness of this Act increases, it will stop the abandonment of newborn infants, a practice that has led to healthy babies being found harmed, deceased or in unsafe places; and,

WHEREAS, since the signing of the Illinois Abandoned Newborn Protection Act, numerous newborn babies have been safely relinquished in Illinois pursuant to this Act, but at the same time, newborn infants continue to be unsafely relinquished; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Abandoned Newborn Protection Act is a critical statute in the State of Illinois, as it affords the chance of a better life for abandoned newborn babies, but continued public awareness of the Act is necessary to fulfill the goals of protecting all newborn infants and providing parents with a responsible and safe mechanism to relinquish a newborn infant:

THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim April 2012 as **SAVE ABANDONED BABIES MONTH** in Illinois, and encourage all citizens to recognize the importance of protecting abandoned infants and giving them the proper care they deserve.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,
this SECOND *day of* NOVEMBER, *in*
the Year of Our Lord two thousand and
ELEVEN, *and of the State of Illinois*
the one hundred and NINETY-THIRD

Deese White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Pat Quinn

GOVERNOR