

Update on Our Special “Saved Babies” in Illinois

We are the parents of the first safely abandoned baby in Illinois under this law. The law was made possible by the Save Abandoned Babies Foundation. We always have a difficult time finding the words to express the tremendous, loving efforts your organization went to and is still going to for this law.

Matthew is the absolute light of our lives. He is a happy healthy and very energetic little boy. I am so glad your organization made it possible for his birthmother to make this very loving, unselfish decision under the law.



Matthew – Illinois' first baby saved under the “Safe Haven” law – with his adoptive parents.



Matthew at a Press Conference publicizing Illinois' Safe Haven Law.

All we can say is thank you to everyone involved with your organization, the law, and our son's birthmother; all of you hold a very special place in our hearts.

It is truly a joy to have Matthew call us Mommy and Daddy, which without your organization's hard, exhausting work for this law would not have been possible.

Thank you so much! John, Tracy, and Matthew

Recently I was driving and heard a news blurb about abandoned babies in Illinois. Nineteen had been safely abandoned under the new law, and it nearly didn't register. Then it struck me: one of the nineteen was safely buckled in the carseat behind me. Our little one was made possible by the efforts of your group, the state law that made his *safe* abandonment possible, and the mother that cared enough for herself and her child to have a healthy pregnancy.

Our child is very healthy, happy, and above all loved. The safe haven law provided a happy ending to the story of our child's birth, and we consider it to be a wonderful beginning for a life filled with so much promise. From our child, his new grandparents, aunts, uncles, extended family, church family, his new mother, and myself... Thank you with the deepest gratitude for all your efforts and encouragement to continue your work.

– Happy Illinois Daddy



“Angel” is Illinois' first saved baby safely relinquished to a Police Station.

My name is Zoë, and this is my story...

My story began sometime in 2004 when my birth mom became pregnant. Many mommies rejoice at the news of a pregnancy. Mine didn't. I don't know all the reasons, but I do know that she had at least one other child and wasn't in a position to have another one.

As her pregnancy advanced, my birth mom knew that she could not keep me. She was scared and hungry, and began to think through her choices. She could have tried to raise me. She could have had an abortion. She could have set me out on the street after I was born.

This is where all of you become a part of my story. Because of you, she had another choice. Because of you and your efforts, the Safe Haven Law existed – and my birth mom knew about it.

She made a courageous and loving decision. She birthed me at home. Then she dressed me in a size 6 diaper and carried me safely in her arms to the hospital emergency room.

She handed me to a police officer and said: "I can't do this. I can't take care of this baby." She told the officer when I was born. Then she took her other son and left.

First the doctor examined me and certified me healthy – and hungry! The hospital staff found me a t-shirt and a blanket and best of all, formula!

And while all this happened, the phone calls began. The hospital notified the Department of Children and Family Services. DCFS called the adoption agency. The agency called my forever family – and completed their family.

Less than 10 hours elapsed from the time that my birth mom brought me to safety at the hospital and my adoptive family wrapped their arms around me. My future is bright!

THANK YOU for all your hard work on the Safe Haven Law. Your work saved my life, gave me a future, gave my birth mom peace, and brought my adoptive family great joy



The Illinois safe haven law works. My partner and I are the parents of a beautiful son because one brave mother was aware of the law and legally abandoned him at a safe haven. Some have disparaged our son's birth mother for her actions, but I ask those people if they were in the same situation, would they have the strength and courage to care enough for a baby to first acknowledge their inability to parent, then to carry the child to term and deliver the baby at home and finally to have the fortitude to take the child to a safe haven just hours after giving birth. I don't think most people realize what an amazingly honest, generous and kind act a legal abandonment is.

We will always think of our son's birth mother as a hero. We will always remember her in our prayers. We will always include her proudly in our son's story.

We are forever grateful for the law that made us a family.