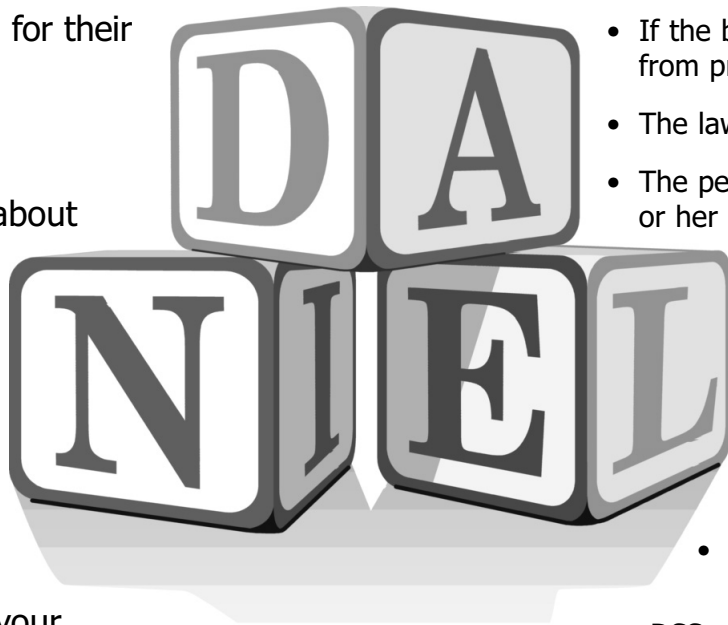


Daniel's Law

Daniel's Law is a law designed to provide a safe haven for abandoned babies. It is named for an infant boy who survived after being buried in a landfill soon after his birth. Nurses named him Daniel as he recovered at a hospital.

Like Daniel, other babies are born to women in crisis. Some of these babies are left alone, abandoned by mothers who don't plan to return or provide for their care.

If you are pregnant and confused or frightened about what to do with your baby or know someone who is pregnant and in crisis – there are people who can help – the Department of Social Services, your local health department and your local hospital.



What does Daniel's Law do?

Daniel's Law is intended to save babies. It is not intended to hurt or punish anyone. It provides a safe option for mother and baby.

- A person who abandons a newborn cannot be prosecuted for abandonment if he or she takes the unharmed baby to staff or an employee of a Safe Haven. Safe Havens are defined as a hospital or hospital outpatient facility, law enforcement agencies, fire stations, emergency medical services (EMS) stations, or a house of worship during the time the church or synagogue is staffed.
- If the baby has been harmed in some way, the immunity from prosecution may not apply.
- The law applies to infants up to 30 days old.
- The person leaving the child does not have to reveal his or her identity.
- The person leaving the child will be asked to provide medical information about the baby's parents, and if possible, the name of the baby's parents. This will help the medical personnel treat the baby for any health problems.
- The hospital will provide medical care and contact DSS.
- DSS will have legal custody of the child and will place the child in a foster home.
- DSS will immediately pursue family court action to free the child for adoption.