INDIANA SB345

A Recipe for Corrupt Practices

Start

Was the baby left at a safe haven facility or in a newborn safety device?

NO → SB345 does not apply

A newborn safety devices is another name for a "baby box."

YES → Is the baby less than 31 days old?

NO → Indiana's safe haven law does not apply.

YES → Did the EMS provider notify the Indiana Department of Children Services of the baby's abandonment?

Under SB345, there is no requirement for an EMS provider to notify the Department of Child Services that a baby has been abandoned in a newborn safety device. The state accordingly has no genuine ability to regulate these abandonments, let alone oversee, monitor, or track them.

ALERT: Corruption/Trafficking!
An EMS provider is given sole discretion where to place a baby, whether with DCS or with a private adoption agency. SB345 does not specify a procedure or any requirements to choose any agency.

YES → The Indiana Department of Child Services must take immediate care, control, and custody of the baby.

DCS must seek a hearing within a day of the baby's abandonment, and seek appointment of a guardian ad litem.

Whether it's the DCS or the adoption agency that has custody of the baby, either one must file a petition to terminate the parent-child relationship within 15 days of taking custody. The petition must seek adoption of the baby.

A Court "may not inquire about the reasons for the parents' absence or investigate why the parent chose to leave the safe haven infant."

ALERT: Corruption/Trafficking!
The court cannot ask about the circumstances of the surrender, thus foreclosing an inquiry into any perceived irregularities in the surrender or placement.

NO → Did the EMS provider notify a child-placing agency of the baby's abandonment?

Despite being illegal, the lack of any notice to anyone of an abandonment in a Safe Haven Baby Box is a real possibility under SB345.

NO → Lack of any notice violates Indiana law.

ALERT: Corruption/Trafficking!
Financial incentives and other pressures can be easily exerted on select Safe Haven Baby Box EMS providers **not to notify** the Department of Child Services of abandonments---and instead refer them directly to waiting adoption agencies.

YES → The adoption agency must take immediate care, control, and custody of the baby.

ALERT: Corruption/Trafficking!
Adoption agencies would be able to coordinate abandonments through safe haven baby boxes as well as through any relationship they may develop---directly or indirectly---with 1) EMS providers and employees; or 2) Safe Haven Baby Boxes Inc., the corporation that oversees a national hotline that can be used specifically to direct where to abandon a baby in the state.

This must occur "without unnecessary delay"

The agency must place the baby with a "preapproved foster care provider who intends to adopt the safe haven infant."

ALERT: Corruption/Trafficking!
Adoption is a multi-billion dollar industry that prizes infants above all other children for adoption. Agencies charge upwards of $50,000 or more for an infant adoption.

Adoptee Rights Law Center