



Safe Haven Baby Boxes

ARGUMENTS AGAINST SAFE HAVEN BABY BOXES AND ANSWERS

ARGUMENT 1: *Baby Boxes remove the chance for a mother to be offered medical care and supportive services. About 25% of parents who come to a Safe Haven, initially planning to use the Safe Haven Law, when given the opportunity to talk about options, choose to either make an adoption or parenting plan.*

ANSWER: Safe Haven Baby Boxes has a National Crisis Line (1-866-99BABY, answered by a person not voicemail, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week) that offers mothers every possible supporting service and option including a parenting plan, adoption plan, referrals to pregnancy resource centers, face to face surrenders and, as a last resort, assistance with a safe surrender in a Safe Haven Baby Box, and much more. When a mother or parent comes to our baby box, an orange bag is made available to them inside the box with resources and information, including our National Crisis Line if they need to reach out. The following video shows exactly [what is in the orange bag](#).

ARGUMENT 2: *Baby Boxes strip away any chance of personal contact, which means the parent is completely alone, contributing to her being frightened. She does not have the comfort of placing her baby into the arms of anyone. Instead, she has the idea reinforced that what she is doing is 'bad' and something that she should feel ashamed about*

ANSWER: We promote many different options, which include a face to face surrender. There are still mothers who want total anonymity, because they feel they are being judged, have outstanding arrest warrants, involvement with the department of child service for their other children, addictions, or many other reasons. It is just a bridge too far for them to relinquish their child face to face to an authority.

ARGUMENT 3: *Baby Boxes will add tremendous confusion as to where and what is considered a Safe Haven location. There are so many bad possible outcomes. Imagine a mother coming to a hospital, looking for a Baby Box, but that hospital does not have one. She becomes frustrated, confused, and leaves the baby alone, abandoned. Will the baby survive? The mother is bleeding, in need of medical help that she does not get. How will people feel when she is found having bled to death?*

ANSWER: Safe Haven Baby Boxes provides constant awareness and informs the public when Baby Boxes become available in a certain area. When someone calls our crisis line in search of a place to surrender their infant, we give them locations and explain what will happen during the surrendering process. Our Baby Box [locations](#) are on our website, as well as a [visual map](#) available.

ARGUMENT 4: *Many women are looking for a place that will offer delivery of their baby in the hospital. Baby Boxes will confuse hopes for a safe delivery by suggesting that her only option is to leave the baby in a Baby Box.*

ANSWER: We have never EVER remotely suggested that our Baby Boxes should be the only option available to a mother. In fact we promote all options available to a mother in crisis with the Safe Haven Baby Box being the last resort.

ARGUMENT 5: *Many States offer a packet of information for the relinquishing parent. The packet may provide a request for medical information and explain parental rights under the law. Using Baby Boxes prevents the parents from receiving this important information.*

ANSWER: We have a bag available at outreach of our baby box locations specifically for the mother which includes information of where they can receive medical help if needed. [what is in the orange bag.](#)

ARGUMENT 6: *A large concern comes from the Nassau County Police Department and New York City Police Department's Bureau of Special operations (BSO) known as Homeland Security. The Department has concerns about pipe bombs being placed inside one of them by terrorists and causing catastrophic injuries to doctors, hospital staff and first responders. If a terrorist makes a coordinated attack on a hospital, police/fire station, key emergency personnel will be killed or critically wounded. "Baby Boxes" will be added to the list as a high-risk location making them a "soft target" and will require costly increases in the liability insurance at these locations.*

ANSWER: This question comes directly from Tim Jaccard formerly of the Nassau county Police Department and it is answered in this video. [SHBB response to AMT--Children of Hope](#)

ARGUMENT 7: Each box will cost approximately \$5,000 (updated \$10,000) to build with a plan to install 100. Half a million dollars! What about the cost of installation? Most hospital, fire and police stations are brick or stone buildings, and the installation would be nearly impossible. These buildings are built as the strongest structures in the neighborhoods. It would be extremely costly to cut a hole into one of these buildings to place a Baby Box in a prominent place that could be easily found by a woman in crisis. Do the states have money to purchase and install them? Think about what that money could do if used for an awareness campaign instead. How many more babies and mothers would be saved by reaching all women? What is needed is awareness campaigns NOT Baby Boxes.

ANSWER: Tax dollars are not used to pay for our Baby Box Program. Funding comes fully from private donors, fundraising campaigns, or other organizations. As we have stated, Baby Boxes are just a small part of our organization. We also put full effort into Awareness campaigns, including education, training, billboards, and other Safe Haven Awareness projects. Our latest video posted on the social media platform Tik Tok, used by many teens and young women as their source of information, has had over 24 million views. The production and distribution was not funded by one penny of taxpayer money: [How a Baby Box Works](#)

ARGUMENT 8: *What about safety? What happens if a baby is left in a box for a long period of time or overnight and the mother does not follow “Back to Sleep” instructions? What if the alarm malfunctions? What if a dead or injured baby is left in the box?*

ANSWER: This argument can be answered by viewing our short video that shows [How the Baby Box works](#). There are three fail safe silent alarms that go off when a mother places her baby inside our Baby Box. If one alarm malfunctions, there is still another one that will go off. If there is a loss of power, there is an alarm that will go off to notify the staff. The average that a newborn stays in the box is 2 minutes, and in most cases the maximum will be five minutes. Along with the silent alarms, the Baby Box locks from the outside and cannot be reopened until it is reset, and the box is also climate controlled. The baby relinquished in the Safe Haven Baby Box in Clarksville, Indiana, May 2, 2021 was in the box for 15 seconds. [Baby surrendered to 'Safe Haven' box in Clarksville, Indiana | khou.com](#)

ARGUMENT 9: *What if the baby has been kidnapped, relinquished without the father agreeing, or is abused?*

ANSWER: Protocols to address these possibilities are followed if the baby has been relinquished face to face or in a Safe Haven Baby Box. Safeguards include:

- The anonymous relinquishment of an abused or deceased child is not legal and a full investigation is pursued. The privileges of anonymity and immunity are forfeited if there is evidence of child abuse or neglect.
- Law enforcement agencies are tasked with determining whether the baby has been reported as a missing child.
- Before the infant can be adopted reasonable efforts are made to find the father according to the law established in each state.

NOTE:

- These arguments were taken from the websites of organizations opposing Safe Haven Baby Boxes or other news sources.
- The Safe Haven Baby Box project was never intended to be a replacement for face to face relinquishments or any other safe surrender options. Relinquishment in a Baby Box is only intended to expand the options for a mother in crisis. Safe Haven Baby Boxes are a last resort but a life saving option for the babies of mothers choosing between a dumpster and a Baby Box.
- This information was updated May 9, 2021.