

# Appendix C

## **SAFELY SURRENDERED BABY LAW**

*The Safely Surrendered Baby Law allows a parent or person with lawful custody to surrender a baby confidentially, without fear of arrest or prosecution for child abandonment. A parent who is unable or unwilling to care for an infant can legally and confidentially surrender their baby within three days of birth at any public or private hospital emergency room in California. When surrendering the baby, a parent will be given a medical information questionnaire designed to gather family medical history, which will be useful in caring for the child in the future. After the child is voluntarily surrendered, the parent may return to the hospital within 14 days to reclaim their child if the parent changes their mind and decides they want to keep their child. The parent and child are given a matching identification bracelet when the child is surrendered, which allows the parent to reclaim their child while keeping their identity confidential. Safely surrendered babies are given a medical exam and placed in a foster home or pre-adoptive home. The Safely Surrendered Baby Law protects infants from abandonment and protects the parent from prosecution for criminal child abandonment.*

*(Information adapted from the California Department of Social Services.)*