



****PRESS RELEASE****
Laramie Police Department August 1, 2018

**Agencies Team Up to Make Laramie
a “Baby Safe Haven” Community**



Local public safety agencies and Ivinson Memorial Hospital have teamed up to coordinate efforts to make Laramie a Baby Safe Haven community. The Wyoming Legislature passed the Safety for a Newborn Child Act many years ago, which allows the parent or parent’s designee of a newborn child, who is 14 days or younger, the means to legally and anonymously relinquish custody of the child at a staffed fire station, hospital, police department or sheriff’s office. Physical custody of the child is then transferred to the Department of Family Services, who will ensure that the child is properly cared for, placed into foster care, and eventually adopted.



At each Baby Safe Haven location in Laramie, there will be signs indicating the proper instructions to relinquish a newborn child. Those locations include the Laramie Fire Department, Laramie Police Department, Albany County Sheriff’s Office, University of Wyoming Police Department, and Ivinson Memorial Hospital. At each location, a parent or parent’s designee will find an optional questionnaire that can be anonymously completed and returned either at the time of relinquishment or through the mail. The purpose of the questionnaire is solely to gain information about the baby’s health and is not intended to identify the mother or father of the baby.



Public safety and hospital representatives realize that child relinquishment is done rarely but all agree that a formalized program will ensure that, in those rare instances, relinquishment can be done safely.

If you have questions about the program you can contact any of the public safety agencies or Ivinson Memorial Hospital. More information can be found at <https://www.nationalsafehavenalliance.org/> or by calling their hotline at 1-888-510-BABY.

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