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Baby Left at Hospital

Denver (February 27, 2008) – A baby was pronounced dead after being found outside a hospital in Denver tonight. Colorado’s Safe Haven law (SB 00-171) was designed to prevent such tragedies. Under the Safe Haven law, parents can deliver their unharmed baby, up to 72 hours old, to a firefighter or hospital staff member, no questions asked. The law is specific in its requirement that the baby be delivered to a live person. The law also allows the parent to remain anonymous at the face-to-face relinquishment. As this event illustrates, the law is specific for a reason. This event also highlights the need to continue educating the community about the Safe Haven law, so a mother in crisis knows how to protect her infant from harm, and herself from prosecution.

Colorado Safe Haven for Newborns is the non-profit agency working to get the word out about the Safe Haven law. They have a 24-hour toll-free hotline anyone can call -- 866-694-2229 (866-694-BABY). Trained staff will counsel a person in crisis about what to do.

“We are so sad to learn about the loss of this precious life,” said Linda Prudhomme, Colorado Safe Haven for Newborns’ Executive Director. “In order to save these babies, people need to know about the Safe Haven law. The mother needs to know that the baby has to be given to a live person in order to make certain the baby will be safe. She shouldn’t feel alone. She can safely give up her baby without giving up her name.”

Colorado Safe Haven for Newborns (CSHN) is an organization that promotes awareness of the state law that is designed to prevent the death of newborns. This law allows a desperate parent a safe alternative. By taking an unwanted newborn to a firefighter or hospital personnel, the law permits either parent to hand over his or her baby, up to 72 hours old, with no questions asked. The law promises complete confidentiality, and as long as the baby is unharmed, no criminal charges will be filed.

If people are interested in finding out how they can help support Colorado Safe Haven for newborns they can call 303-795-0416 or go to www.coloradosafehaven.org.

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