

SAFE HAVEN HOTLINE

Wooster Community Hospital, in collaboration with several other county-wide organizations, has implemented a Safe Haven Hotline.

The Ohio Safe Haven for Newborns Law provides that a parent can leave their unharmed baby, up to three days old, with a medical worker in a hospital, a medical worker at a fire department or other EMS organization, or a peace officer at a law enforcement agency – and there will be no questions asked and they won't have to identify themselves.

Wooster Community Hospital has implemented a *Safe Haven Hotline* that is now live and in use (**330-263-SAFE**). The hotline rings into the Emergency Department at the hospital. Posters and flyers promoting the hotline are being distributed throughout the county.

This has been a collaborative effort between WCH and several organizations:

- Wayne County Children's Services
- Wayne County Sheriff's Department
- Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney
- Wayne County Fire Chiefs Association
- Wooster City Police Chief
- Wooster City Fire Chief
- Wooster City Law Director

With community education about the law, and with the implementation of this hotline, our hope is that there will never be another infant abandoned in Wayne County. Our goal is to get children to the hospital so that our Women's Pavilion staff is able to provide them with the care they need as soon as possible. The hotline rings into the Emergency Department, because they will be the first to receive a Safe Haven infant.

If you would like Safe Haven Hotline posters or flyers for your organization, please contact Wayne County Children's Services at 330-345-5340.