

CALL FOR ARTISTS - Request for Proposal (RFP)

LA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE SEEKS AN ARTIST OR ARTIST TEAM TO CREATE AN ARTWORK FOR THE LAC+USC CHILD CARE CENTER

Project Budget: \$68,000

Project Location: 1200 N State Street, Los Angeles, CA 90035

Date Issued: Monday, September 28, 2020

Deadline: Friday, October 23, 2020

The Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture (“Arts and Culture”) Civic Art Division seeks an Artist or Artist team to create a permanent mosaic mural for the exterior of the LAC+USC Child Care Center in Los Angeles. **In this Call for Artists, Department is requesting qualifications for inclusion in the Child Care Center’s civic art selection process.**



Fig 1, Child Care Center with Exterior Mural

1. OVERVIEW

• LAC+USC

Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center, referred to as LAC+USC, has long and storied history of providing health and medical services for greater Los Angeles. LAC+USC is a world-class teaching hospital, a Level One Trauma Center, and a hub in the County-run healthcare system serving over 10 million residents. The LAC+USC Wellness Center empowers participants towards better health and advocacy services, and in 2021, LAC+USC will also include one of the country’s first Restorative Care Villages, with a comprehensive, holistic approach to the interrelated and complex needs of homelessness, substance abuse, mental illness, and job training/housing.

• Neighborhood

LAC+USC is located in Boyle Heights, a neighborhood in the region east of the Los Angeles river with a population of approximately 100,000. In the early 1910s, Boyle Heights was one of the only communities that did not have restricted housing covenants that discriminated against people of color. By the 1920s

through the 1960s, Boyle Heights was known to be a diverse center of Jewish, Mexican and Japanese immigrant life. In 2010, the Census revealed that 95% of the Boyle Heights community was Hispanic or Latinx.

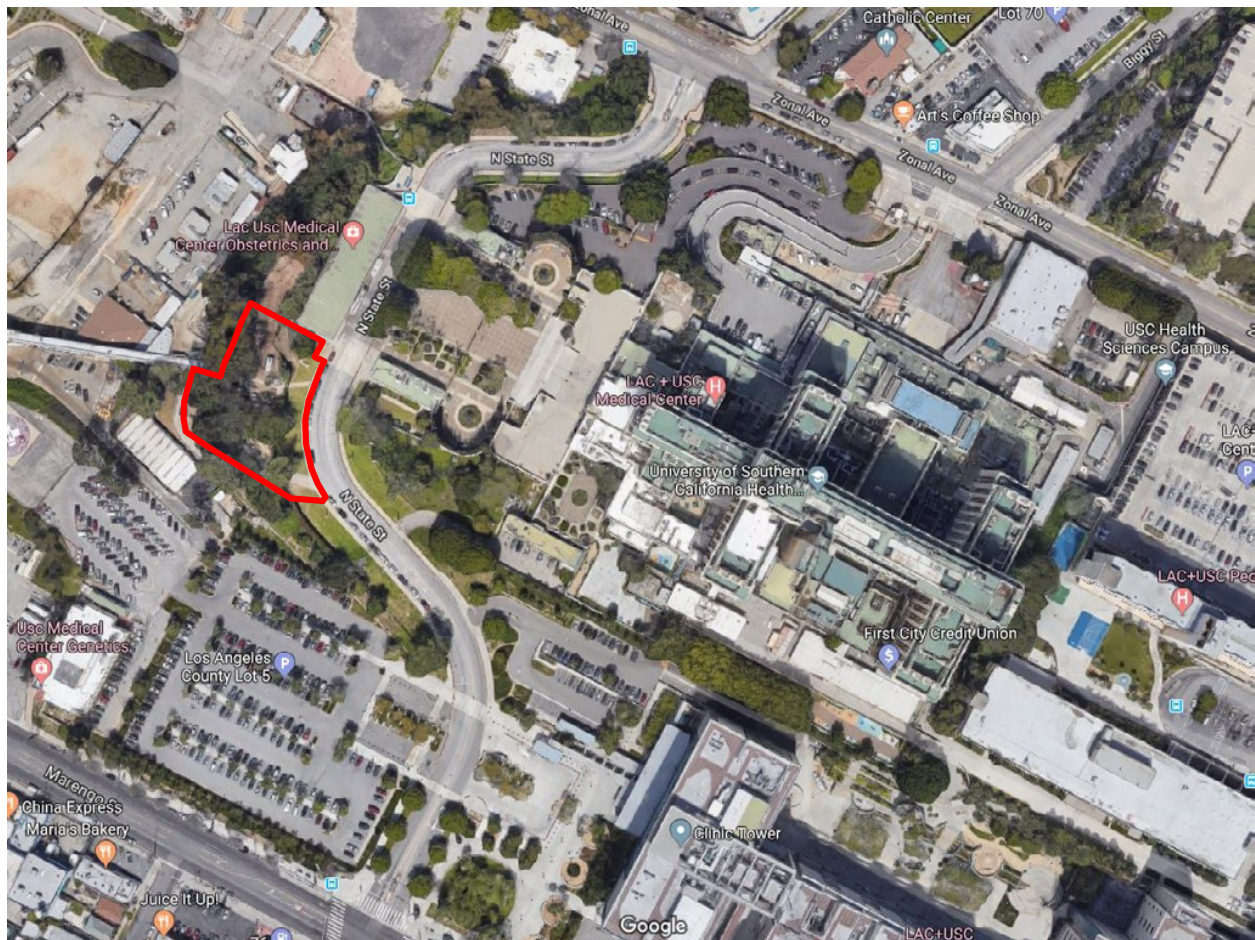


Fig 2, Aerial View of Child Care Center Site

- **Child Care Center**

The new LAC + USC Child Care Center (CCC) will be located on a site directly west of the historical center of LAC+USC, its iconic General Hospital building, built in 1933. The CCC building, which wraps around a courtyard shaded by a large, 100-year-old, protected oak, will provide a nurturing and secured environment for children from 6 months old through pre-K.

- **CCC Mission**

The Child Care Center encourages children to develop at their own rate and become active participants in their own learning. This “constructivist” approach emphasizes materials, manipulation, choice, child language and thought, and “adult scaffolding”: children are encouraged to handle, examine, combine, and transform materials and ideas, and then discuss the outcomes and discoveries with adults and other children. The mission of the Center is to encourage children to become independent, responsible, and confident problem solvers and decision makers — ready for school and ready for life.

2. ARTWORK GOALS AND LOCATION

The selected artist or artist team will create an original and site-specific artwork for the LAC+USC Child Care Center that will embrace the mission of the CCC and embody the following intentions set forth by the LAC+USC community:

- **Welcoming, inclusive, reflective of local community**
- **Energetic, hopeful, playful, accessible to children**
- **Inspiring trust, reassuring, healing, warm [colors]**

The artwork is located on State Street, opposite the main entrance to the CCC within a small benched-in area where families can meet before or after pick-up and staff can break for lunch. LAC+USC visitors driving on State Street will encounter the mural on their way to Zonal Avenue. Community members will also regularly pass the artwork walking to the LAC+USC Wellness Center from the West.



Fig 3, Child Care Center with Mural Wall of State Street

3. BUDGET

The all-inclusive artist budget is \$68,000. This budget includes Artists' fees, liability insurance, and all costs associated with design, fabrication, delivery, and installation of artwork, including community engagement.

Artist payments will be made based on submitted invoices on a milestone basis. In the event there are unspent funds in the budget after completion of the project, the Department may, at its sole discretion, choose to contract with selected artist(s) for additional artwork or related services up the maximum budget.

4. ELIGIBILITY

This artwork opportunity is open to local artists residing or working within the Greater Los Angeles Area- Orange County, Ventura County, San Bernardino County, Riverside County and Los Angeles County. Artists who do not have prior experience with artwork of this scale are encouraged to apply in artist teams with the appropriate qualifications.

Artists who have artwork in the County's Civic Art Collection will be eligible if this project has a higher budget than the previously commissioned project or if the artist has not done a civic art project with the Department for five years.

5. PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

October 5, 2020	Optional RFP Assistance Workshop
October 23, 2020	Deadline for Submissions for Call for Artists, 5:00 PST
November 13, 2020	Selection Meeting, PCC1- (3) Artists Selected to Develop Proposals

January 8, 2021	Selection Meeting, PCC2- Artwork Proposal Selected for Commission
March 2021	Begin Fabrication
May 2021	Artwork Installation Complete

6. RFP ASSISTANCE WORKSHOP (OPTIONAL)

Applicants will learn about the LAC+USC Child Care Center project and the application process for the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture Civic Art Division.

- Date and time **October 5, 2020 at 6:30 PM**
- Location via Zoom
- RSVP **Required by Thursday, October 1**

RSVP to iregn@arts.lacounty.gov

Indicate "LAC+USC CCC RFP WORKSHOP" in the subject line.

After you RSVP, you will receive an email with a link to the Zoom meeting.

7. SELECTION CRITERIA

The Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture Civic Art Division strives to create artworks which reflect aesthetic and technical quality, innovation, site-specificity and civic engagement. To ensure that the artwork meets the expectations of the CCC users, staff, neighborhood residents, and other stakeholders, the selected artist or artist team will be required to participate in a rigorous design process. This process includes place-based research through creative public engagement, regular site visits and design meetings, conservator review, structural engineering, budget tracking and timeline management.

Artists will be selected on the basis of their qualifications, as demonstrated by the quality of their past work and suitability of their artistic expression for this particular site.

Panelists may use one or more of the following criteria in evaluating Artists' qualifications:

Artwork & Design Criteria	
Artistic Merit	Visual images, video clips, portfolios, studio visits or other documentation of excellence
Site Specificity	Ability to respond to the site-specific contextual issues and considerations of a project and reflect diverse sensibilities/perspectives of the County and its communities
Project Management	Ability to successfully manage all aspects of the project including budgets, committees, sub-contractors, installers and other construction and administrative logistics
Community Responsiveness and Public Engagement	Ability to engage the community, users, and diverse stakeholders to gather input and/or offer insight to the artwork design and concept.

Only artists meeting these criteria should apply.

If an Artist proposal is selected, the Artist will be required to enter into a contract with the County of Los Angeles. Selected Artists will be required to have commercial general liability insurance, automobile insurance (if applicable), and become a registered vendor with the County of Los Angeles (registration is

free). During the development of the project, the Artists will work with a Civic Art Project Manager for necessary review and approval of the final design

8. CALL FOR ARTISTS SUBMITTAL

A. All submittal materials must be received by **Friday, October 23, 2020 at 5:00pm Pacific Standard Time**. Any materials received after the date and time will not be accepted or considered.

B. Submittal materials for this Call for Artists may be delivered through postal mail OR the online file transfer service WeTransfer.com:

- Submit materials through postal mail to the following address. Do not send original artwork:
Department of Arts and Culture
Civic Art Division
Attention: Iris Anna Regn
1055 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 800
Los Angeles, CA 90017
- To submit materials through WeTransfer.com:
 - Resume and letter of interest must be saved as a single pdf document.
 - Attachments A-C can be a separate pdf document or combined with resume and letter of interest if possible.
 - Name your pdf files using the following naming convention: "FirstInitialLastName-Application" (example: JJones-Application). If you are applying as a team, use the team's name (example: JCollective-Application). If your A-C attachments are a separate pdf, use the name "FirstInitialLastName-Attachments" (example: JJones-Attachments)
 - Submit your pdf files through WeTransfer.com to iregn@arts.lacounty.gov

C. Submission Materials:

1. Resume including name, mailing address, phone number(s), email and web page (if applicable), biography, related work, art, or program experience. Include a team biography if applying as an artist team. Resumes should not exceed three (3) pages.
2. A one-page letter of interest addressing:
 - Why this project interests you;
 - How you will engage and welcome different audiences, such as CCC users, staff, and LAC+USC visitors;
 - Brief description of your artistic or community practice, your sources of inspiration;
 - Your experience managing budgets of similar scale and working within time constraints.

Only letters that address all of these points will be considered.
3. Five (5) to ten (10) images or video clips of your work:
 - Submit digital images in JPEG format, PC compatible no larger than 1920x1920 pixel resolution (do not zip or stuff your files);
 - Title each image with artist's name and a number – for example 01JaneJones, 02JaneJones;
 - Do not insert multiple photos into one image.

A maximum of ten (10) examples of your work are allowed. Anything exceeding this amount will not be reviewed.
4. A list of images submitted, with thumbnails of each image that includes:
 - Title, date, medium and dimension;
 - Location of artwork; brief description (maximum 100 characters);
 - Artwork budget;

- Commissioning agency or client, and project manager, if applicable.
- 5. Three professional references, with title, phone and email addresses included.
- 6. Required Attachments (see pages 9-11)
 - 1. ATTACHMENT A. Certification of No Conflict of Interest;
 - 2. ATTACHMENT B. Attestation of Willingness to Consider Gain/Grow Participants;
 - 3. ATTACHMENT C. Compliance with Fair Chance Employment Hiring Practices Certification.

Do not send ATTACHMENT D (Safe Baby Surrender Information), it is an informational attachment only.

9. ARTIST SELECTION COMMITTEE: PROJECT COORDINATION COMMITTEE

The Project Coordination Committee (PCC), which will select the Artist for proposals and commission, is composed of project stakeholder representatives: Arts Deputy from the First Supervisorial District; Arts Commissioner; community representatives; representative from the design team; representative from the Department of Health Services; representative from LA County Chief Executive Office; and an arts professional. The Civic Art Division staff serves as a non-voting advisor to the PCC.

Artists should send images that can be understood by an audience that is not professionally versed in the arts. Artists should not submit art proposals.

10. SELECTION PROCESS

The Civic Artist will be selected through a two phased process:

1. Phase 1: PCC1: After receipt of Artists' responses to this RFP, the Civic Art Project Manager will facilitate the evaluation of appropriate submissions by the Project Coordination Committee. Up to three finalists and one alternate will be invited to develop conceptual design proposals for presentation in Phase 2.
2. Phase 2: PCC2: In this Phase, the Artists selected in Phase 1 will present their proposals to the PCC. With guidance from the Civic Art Division, the PCC will review artist proposals, conduct finalist interviews, and select the artists or artist teams who will be commissioned for the artwork.

11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Questions:

For questions about this RFP, please contact Iris Anna Regn, Civic Art Project Manager, at iregn@arts.lacounty.gov. For additional information about the Civic Art Division, please visit the Civic Art online at <https://www.lacountyarts.org/experiences/civic-art>.

Late Applications:

Late applications will not be considered.

Right to Reject Submissions:

The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any and all responses received, or commission another artist through another process.

Artist Notification:

All Artists who submit their materials for review will receive written notification of the results of the selection process, including identification of the selected Artists.

Disclaimers:

The request for proposals does not constitute an offer to contract or promise for remuneration, recognition, or any other thing. Submission of any materials in response to this request for qualifications will not constitute an express or implied contract. The information contained and/or any program or event described herein may be changed, amended, modified, canceled, revoked or abandoned without notice at any time and for any reason in the sole discretion of the Department or the County of Los Angeles. If restrictions are enacted, all programming will be adapted for online public engagement.

Eligibility and Priority:

Artists will not be eligible for more than two County projects at any given time. Priority will be given to Artists who have had no prior Civic Art commissions of the same budget.

Form of Agreement:

Because the artwork will be located on public property, and because the County of Los Angeles is a public entity subject to laws, rules, and regulations which are not necessarily applicable to private persons or companies, the Department has prepared a form agreement for use in connection with artwork commissioned for Civic Art. A copy of the form agreement can be found on the Department of Arts and Culture website at www.lacountyarts.org/civicart_opportunities.htm.

If an Artist is selected, the Artist acknowledges that they are willing and able to enter into a contract in the form made available on the Department of Arts and Culture website. The Department of Arts and Culture reserves the right to revise or change its form agreement at any time, for any reason, and to require Artists to use the revised form for contracting purposes.

12. STANDARD COUNTY PROVISIONS

Insurance Requirements:

Selected Artists will be required to have commercial general liability insurance, automobile insurance (if applicable) and be registered vendors with the County of Los Angeles.

Public Records Act:

Responses to this Call for Artists shall become property of the County. When the Department makes final selection of the Artists, all submissions in response to this Call for Artists become a matter of public record, with the exception of those parts of each submission which are justifiably defined and identified by the Artist as business or trade secrets, and plainly marked as "Trade Secret," "Confidential," or "Proprietary."

The County shall not, in any way, be liable or responsible for the disclosure of any such record or any parts thereof, if disclosure is required or permitted under the California Public Records Act or otherwise by law. A blanket statement of confidentiality or the marking of each page of the submission as confidential shall not be deemed sufficient notice of exception. The Artist must specifically label only those provisions of their respective submission which are "Trade Secrets," "Confidential," or "Proprietary" in nature.

Conflict of Interest (Board Policies 5.090):

No County employee whose position in the County enables him/her to influence the selection of a Contractor for this Call for Artists, nor any spouse or economic dependent of such employee, shall be employed in any capacity by Artist or have any other direct or indirect financial interest in the selection of an Artist. Artist shall certify that he/she is aware of and has read Section 2.180.010 of the Los Angeles County Code as stated in Attachment A "Certification of No Conflict of Interest."

An Artist, or its subsidiary or Subcontractor ("Proposer/Contractor"), is prohibited from submitting a proposal in a County solicitation if the Proposer/Contractor has provided advice or consultation for the solicitation. A Proposer/Contractor is also prohibited from submitting a bid or proposal in a County solicitation if the Proposer/Contractor has developed or prepared any of the solicitation materials on behalf of the County. A violation of this provision shall result in the disqualification of the

Contractor/Proposer from participation in the County solicitation or the termination or cancellation of any resultant County contract.

Consideration of GAIN/GROW Participants for Employment (Board Policy 5.050):

As a threshold requirement for consideration of a County Contract, Contractors shall demonstrate a proven record of hiring participants in the County's Department of Public Social Services Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) or General Relief Opportunity for Work (GROW) Programs or shall attest to a willingness to consider GAIN/GROW participants for any future employment openings if they meet the minimum qualifications for that opening. Contractors shall attest to a willingness to provide employed GAIN/GROW participants access to the Contractor's employee mentoring program, if available, to assist these individuals in obtaining permanent employment and/or promotional opportunities. Contractors who are unable to meet this requirement shall not be considered for a County Contract.

Contractors shall complete and return the form, Attestation of Willingness to Consider GAIN/GROW Participants, as set forth in Attachment B.

Acknowledgement of County's Commitment to Fair Chance Employment Hiring Practices (Board Policy 5.250):

On May 29, 2018, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a Fair Chance Employment Policy in an effort to remove job barriers for individuals with criminal records. The policy requires businesses that contract with the County to comply with fair chance employment hiring practices set forth in California Government Code Section 12952, Employment Discrimination: Conviction History (Section 12952).

Contractors are required to complete Attachment C ("Compliance with Fair Chance Employment Hiring Practices Certification"), certifying that they are in full compliance with Section 12952 for the term of any contract awarded pursuant to this solicitation.

Safely Surrendered Baby Law (Board Policy 5.135):

The contractor shall notify and provide to its employees, and shall require each subcontractor to notify and provide to its employees, information regarding the Safely Surrendered Baby Law, its implementation in Los Angeles County, and where and how to safely surrender a baby. The information is set forth in Attachment D (Safely Surrendered Baby Law) of this solicitation document. Additional information is available at www.babysafela.org.

13. DEFINITIONS

Project Coordination Committee: means the selection committee made up of representatives from involved County departments, the community, and arts professional(s).

Artwork: means the work as ultimately conceived, designed, fabricated and installed by the Artist after consultation with and approval by the Project Coordination Committee and applicable jurisdictional agencies.

Artist Team: means a professional collaboration of individual artists and consultants who do not necessarily operate under a single entity.

REQUIRED FORMS – ATTACHMENT A
CERTIFICATION OF NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Los Angeles County Code, Section 2.180.010, provides as follows:

CONTRACTS PROHIBITED

Notwithstanding any other section of this Code, the County shall not contract with, and shall reject any SOQs submitted by, the persons or entities specified below, unless the Board of Supervisors finds that special circumstances exist which justify the approval of such contract:

1. Employees of the County or of public agencies for which the Board of Supervisors is the governing body;
2. Profit-making firms or businesses in which employees described in number 1 serve as officers, principals, partners, or major shareholders;
3. Persons who, within the immediately preceding 12 months, came within the provisions of number 1, and who:
 - a. Were employed in positions of substantial responsibility in the area of service to be performed by the contract; or
 - b. Participated in any way in developing the contract or its service specifications; and
4. Profit-making firms or businesses in which the former employees, described in number 3, serve as officers, principals, partners, or major shareholders.

Contracts submitted to the Board of Supervisors for approval or ratification shall be accompanied by an assurance by the submitting department, district or agency that the provisions of this section have not been violated.

Contractor Name

Contractor Official Title

Official's Signature

REQUIRED FORMS – ATTACHMENT B

**ATTESTATION OF WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER
GAIN/GROW PARTICIPANTS**

As a threshold requirement for consideration for contract award, Contractor shall demonstrate a proven record for hiring GAIN/GROW participants or shall attest to a willingness to consider GAIN/GROW participants for any future employment opening if they meet the minimum qualifications for that opening. Additionally, Contractor shall attest to a willingness to provide employed GAIN/GROW participants access to the Contractor's employee mentoring program, if available, to assist these individuals in obtaining permanent employment and/or promotional opportunities.

To report all job openings with job requirements to obtain qualified GAIN/GROW participants as potential employment candidates, Contractor shall email: GAINGROW@DPSS.LACOUNTY.GOV and BSERVICES@WDACS.LACOUNTY.GOV.

Contractors unable to meet this requirement shall not be considered for contract award.

Contractor shall complete all of the following information, sign where indicated below, and return this form with any resumes and/or fixed price bid being submitted:

- A. Contractor has a proven record of hiring GAIN/GROW participants.

_____ YES (subject to verification by County) _____ NO

- B. Contractor is willing to provide DPSS with all job openings and job requirements to consider GAIN/GROW participants for any future employment openings if the GAIN/GROW participant meets the minimum qualifications for the opening. "Consider" means that Contractor is willing to interview qualified GAIN/GROW participants.

_____ YES _____ NO

- C. Contractor is willing to provide employed GAIN/GROW participants access to its employee-mentoring program, if available.

_____ YES _____ NO _____ N/A (Program not available)

Contractor Organization: _____

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

Telephone No.: _____ Fax No.: _____ Email: _____

REQUIRED FORMS - ATTACHMENT C**COMPLIANCE WITH FAIR CHANCE EMPLOYMENT HIRING PRACTICES
CERTIFICATION**

Company Name:		
Company Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Telephone Number:	Email address:	
Solicitation/Contract for _____ Services		

PROPOSER/CONTRACTOR CERTIFICATION

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a Fair Chance Employment Policy in an effort to remove job barriers for individuals with criminal records. The policy requires businesses that contract with the County to comply with fair chance employment hiring practices set forth in California Government Code Section 12952, Employment Discrimination: Conviction History (California Government Code Section 12952), effective January 1, 2018.

Proposer/Contractor acknowledges and certifies compliance with fair chance employment hiring practices set forth in California Government Code Section 12952 and agrees that proposer/contractor and staff performing work under the Contract will be in compliance. Proposer/Contractor further acknowledges that noncompliance with fair chance employment practices set forth in California Government Code Section 12952 may result in rejection of any proposal, or termination of any resultant Contract, at the sole judgment of the County.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information herein is true and correct and that I am authorized to represent this company.

Print Name:	Title:
Signature:	Date:

Safely Surrendered



No shame. No blame. No names.

In Los Angeles County: 1-877-BABY SAFE • 1-877-222-9723

www.babysafela.org



Safely Surrendered Baby Law

What is the Safely Surrendered Baby Law?

California's Safely Surrendered Baby Law allows parents or other persons, with lawful custody, which means anyone to whom the parent has given permission to confidentially surrender a baby. As long as the baby is three days (72 hours) of age or younger and has not been abused or neglected, the baby may be surrendered without fear of arrest or prosecution.

Every baby deserves a chance for a healthy life. If someone you know is considering abandoning a baby, let her know there are other options. For three days (72 hours) after birth, a baby can be surrendered to staff at any hospital or fire station in Los Angeles County.

How does it work?

A distressed parent who is unable or unwilling to care for a baby can legally, confidentially, and safely surrender a baby within three days (72 hours) of birth. The baby must be handed to an employee at a hospital or fire station in Los Angeles County. As long as the baby shows no sign of abuse or neglect, no name or other information is required. In case the parent changes his or her mind at a later date and wants the baby back, staff will use bracelets to help connect them to each other. One bracelet will be placed on the baby, and a matching bracelet will be given to the parent or other surrendering adult.

What if a parent wants the baby back?

Parents who change their minds can begin the process of reclaiming their baby within 14 days. These parents should call the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services at 1-800-540-4000.

Can only a parent bring in the baby?

No. While in most cases a parent will bring in the baby, the Law allows other people to bring in the baby if they have lawful custody.

Does the parent or surrendering adult have to call before bringing in the baby?

No. A parent or surrendering adult can bring in a baby anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, as long as the parent or surrendering adult surrenders the baby to someone who works at the hospital or fire station.

Does the parent or surrendering adult have to tell anything to the people taking the baby?

No. However, hospital or fire station personnel will ask the surrendering party to fill out a questionnaire designed to gather important medical history information, which is very useful in caring for the baby. The questionnaire includes a stamped return envelope and can be sent in at a later time.

What happens to the baby?

The baby will be examined and given medical treatment. Upon release from the hospital, social workers immediately place the baby in a safe and loving home and begin the adoption process.

What happens to the parent or surrendering adult?

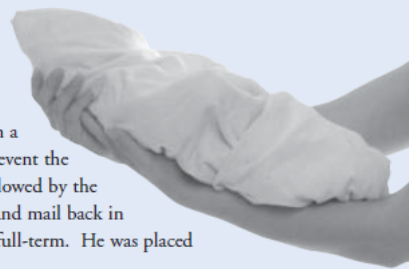
Once the parent or surrendering adult surrenders the baby to hospital or fire station personnel, they may leave at any time.

Why is California doing this?

The purpose of the Safely Surrendered Baby Law is to protect babies from being abandoned, hurt or killed by their parents. You may have heard tragic stories of babies left in dumpsters or public bathrooms. Their parents may have been under severe emotional distress. The mothers may have hidden their pregnancies, fearful of what would happen if their families found out. Because they were afraid and had no one or nowhere to turn for help, they abandoned their babies. Abandoning a baby is illegal and places the baby in extreme danger. Too often, it results in the baby's death. The Safely Surrendered Baby Law prevents this tragedy from ever happening again in California.

A baby's story

Early in the morning on April 9, 2005, a healthy baby boy was safely surrendered to nurses at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. The woman who brought the baby to the hospital identified herself as the baby's aunt and stated the baby's mother had asked her to bring the baby to the hospital on her behalf. The aunt was given a bracelet with a number matching the anklet placed on the baby; this would provide some identification in the event the mother changed her mind about surrendering the baby and wished to reclaim the baby in the 14-day period allowed by the Law. The aunt was also provided with a medical questionnaire and said she would have the mother complete and mail back in the stamped return envelope provided. The baby was examined by medical staff and pronounced healthy and full-term. He was placed with a loving family that had been approved to adopt him by the Department of Children and Family Services.



Ley de Entrega de Bebés *Sin Peligro*



Los recién nacidos pueden ser entregados en forma segura al personal de cualquier hospital o cuartel de bomberos del Condado de Los Ángeles

Sin pena. Sin culpa. Sin nombres.

En el Condado de Los Ángeles: 1-877-BABY SAFE • 1-877-222-9723

www.babysafela.org



Ley de Entrega de Bebés Sin Peligro

¿Qué es la Ley de Entrega de Bebés sin Peligro?

La Ley de Entrega de Bebés sin Peligro de California permite la entrega confidencial de un recién nacido por parte de sus padres u otras personas con custodia legal, es decir cualquier persona a quien los padres le hayan dado permiso. Siempre que el bebé tenga tres días (72 horas) de vida o menos, y no haya sufrido abuso ni negligencia, pueden entregar al recién nacido sin temor de ser arrestados o procesados.

Cada recién nacido se merece la oportunidad de tener una vida saludable. Si alguien que usted conoce está pensando en abandonar a un recién nacido, infórmele que tiene otras opciones. Hasta tres días (72 horas) después del nacimiento, se puede entregar un recién nacido al personal de cualquier hospital o cuartel de bomberos del condado de Los Angeles.

¿Cómo funciona?

El padre/madre con dificultades que no pueda o no quiera cuidar de su recién nacido puede entregarlo en forma legal, confidencial y segura dentro de los tres días (72 horas) del nacimiento. El bebé debe ser entregado a un empleado de cualquier hospital o cuartel de bomberos del Condado de Los Ángeles. Siempre que el bebé no presente signos de abuso o negligencia, no será necesario suministrar nombres ni información alguna. Si el padre/madre cambia de opinión posteriormente y desea recuperar a su bebé, los trabajadores utilizarán brazaletes para poder vincularlos. El bebé llevará un brazalete y el padre/madre o el adulto que lo entregue recibirá un brazalete igual.

¿Qué pasa si el padre/madre desea recuperar a su bebé?

Los padres que cambien de opinión pueden comenzar el proceso de reclamar a su recién nacido dentro de los 14 días. Estos padres deberán llamar al Departamento de Servicios para Niños y Familias (Department of Children and Family Services) del Condado de Los Ángeles al 1-800-540-4000.

¿Sólo los padres podrán llevar al recién nacido?

No. Si bien en la mayoría de los casos son los padres los que llevan al bebé, la ley permite que otras personas lo hagan si tienen custodia legal.

¿Los padres o el adulto que entrega al bebé deben llamar antes de llevar al bebé?

No. El padre/madre o adulto puede llevar al bebé en cualquier momento, las 24 horas del día, los 7 días de la semana, siempre y cuando entreguen a su bebé a un empleado del hospital o cuartel de bomberos.

¿Es necesario que el padre/madre o adulto diga algo a las personas que reciben al bebé?

No. Sin embargo, el personal del hospital o cuartel de bomberos le pedirá a la persona que entregue al bebé que llene un cuestionario con la finalidad de recabar antecedentes médicos importantes, que resultan de gran utilidad para cuidar bien del bebé. El cuestionario incluye un sobre con el sello postal pagado para enviarlo en otro momento.

¿Qué pasará con el bebé?

El bebé será examinado y le brindarán atención médica. Cuando le den el alta del hospital, los trabajadores sociales inmediatamente ubicarán al bebé en un hogar seguro donde estará bien atendido, y se comenzará el proceso de adopción.

¿Qué pasará con el padre/madre o adulto que entregue al bebé?

Una vez que los padres o adulto hayan entregado al bebé al personal del hospital o cuartel de bomberos, pueden irse en cualquier momento.

¿Por qué se está haciendo esto en California?

La finalidad de la Ley de Entrega de Bebés sin Peligro es proteger a los bebés para que no sean abandonados, lastimados o muertos por sus padres. Usted probablemente haya escuchado historias trágicas sobre bebés abandonados en basureros o en baños públicos. Los padres de esos bebés probablemente hayan estado pasando por dificultades emocionales graves. Las madres pueden haber ocultado su embarazo, por temor a lo que pasaría si sus familias se enteraran. Abandonaron a sus bebés porque tenían miedo y no tenían nadie a quien pedir ayuda. El abandono de un recién nacido es ilegal y pone al bebé en una situación de peligro extremo. Muy a menudo el abandono provoca la muerte del bebé. La Ley de Entrega de Bebés sin Peligro impide que vuelva a suceder esta tragedia en California.

Historia de un bebé

A la mañana temprano del día 9 de abril de 2005, se entregó un recién nacido saludable a las enfermeras del Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. La mujer que llevó el recién nacido al hospital se dio a conocer como la tía del bebé, y dijo que la madre le había pedido que llevara al bebé al hospital en su nombre. Le entregaron a la tía un brazalete con un número que coincidía con la pulsera del bebé; esto serviría como identificación en caso de que la madre cambiara de opinión con respecto a la entrega del bebé y decidiera recuperarlo dentro del período de 14 días que permite esta ley. También le dieron a la tía un cuestionario médico, y ella dijo que la madre lo llenaría y lo enviaría de vuelta dentro del sobre con franqueo pagado que le habían dado. El personal médico examinó al bebé y se determinó que estaba saludable y a término. El bebé fue ubicado con una buena familia que ya había sido aprobada para adoptarlo por el Departamento de Servicios para Niños y Familias.

