

*Ukiah Valley
Medical Center*



Marketing/Development

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOCAL HOSPITAL PROVIDES SAFE ARMS FOR NEWBORNS

Ukiah Valley Medical Center reminds the public that the hospital is part of the “Safe Arms for Newborns” Program which follows California State Senate Bill 1368. The law allows the mother of an infant 72 hours old or younger to legally surrender her child anonymously to an employee of any hospital emergency department in the State of California.

This new law took effect on January 1st, 2001 after a campaign began in 1996 to increase public awareness of infant abandonment. The law also allows for a two-week “cooling off” period in which the child would not yet formally be entered into the Child Welfare System, giving the mother of the child time to reconsider her decision and work to reclaim her child if she so desires.

The Emergency Department at Ukiah Valley Medical Center is available for any mother who, for any reason, wants to surrender her newborn child rather than abandon the baby. Every child deserves a chance at life.

For more information about the Safe Arms for Newborns program at Ukiah Valley Medical Center, contact Jarrod McNaughton at (707) 463-7606. (Please see attached SB-1368 Fact Sheet).

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Ukiah Valley Medical Center is a member of Adventist Health, a not-for-profit health care system headquartered in Roseville, California, and affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Spanning California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington, the organization is comprised of more than 85 distinct business units, including 20 hospitals—controlled, managed or leased—with over 3,100 beds, 17,500 employees, numerous clinics and outpatient facilities, 16 home care agencies and two joint-venture retirement centers. For more information, visit www.uvmc.org or www.adventisthealth.org.