

Baby Box in Latvia: A Place for a Baby's Life

It's for the life of a baby who is unwanted, unexpected and unloved. It's for the life of a baby whose mother has, for reasons unknown, decided to leave her child in a stairwell, garbage can or deep, deep well. It sounds awful, but that is reality in Latvia even today. Each year, at least a few newborns who have been abandoned to die are found in our country. How many are there who were never found?

No child should experience the moment of abandonment by his or her mother, but if it does happen, we do hope that the Baby Box will protect the mother and the child from a tragic and dreadful crime.

Latvia's first "Baby Box: A Place for a Baby's Life" was opened on September 8, 2009 at the Rīga Paediatric Clinical University Hospital with the full financial and moral support of the Gedeon Richter pharmaceutical company.



Now in Latvia we have 8 "Baby Box" places in hospitals to save the lives of children all over Latvia. Specific cities were selected after an evaluation of the situation in each one – there are at least one Baby Box in each of Latvia's regions.

During these years 43 children's lives have been saved. 26 of them – in Rīga, capital of Latvia.

In order to encourage women to think hard about whether really to leave their baby in the Baby Box, there is information outside the Baby Box about a 24/7 phone line where psychological and practical assistance can be found. Specialists will help to find immediate solutions, and they will offer both practical and moral support.

Information next to each Baby Box

Maybe your life is so tough right now that you're prepared to give up your baby. Maybe someone can help you. It's always best for a baby to be with his or her mother, and if you can resolve your situation in any way, then please do so.

Perhaps you have no food for yourself or your baby.

Perhaps there is someone who beats you up and humiliates you.

Perhaps you are emotional and feel hatred toward the baby.

Perhaps you have problems with alcohol or drugs.

Perhaps you have no home.

If so, please call us - 6722-7033.

If you open the door and put your baby in the Baby Box, you are waiving your rights to the infant, and a new family will be found for the child. If you change your mind and want the baby back, you'll have to go to the Custody Court, and it will evaluate whether that would be in the child's interests. Please think very carefully and once again before you take a final decision.

The Baby Box is a place where a baby's life can be saved.

If you require more information about the “Baby Box: A Place for a Baby’s Life” project, please feel free to contact us, the organisers of the project:

Edīte Kaņepāja-Vanaga
+371-2943-3750
edite@divigani.lv

Laura Zvirbule
+371-2920-5454
laura@divigani.lv