

Saver gets its first baby

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A month-old baby boy was given a chance at life when his mother placed him in the Helderberg Baby Saver on Tuesday.

This is the first baby to benefit from the Baby Saver initiative since its inception almost two years ago.

The Baby Saver is a special safe that was built into the wall at the Choices Centre in Schapenberg Road, Somerset West where mothers can place their unwanted baby. When a baby is placed in the safe, an alarm is triggered and an appointed responder collects the baby.

The idea for the Baby Saver was initiated a year ago after two incidents of babies found abandoned in Somerset West.

Founder Sandy Immelman says she experienced "such an adrenaline rush"

when the alarm was triggered at 15:00 on Tuesday, and a healthy baby boy was found in the safe.

She explains that the alarm has been activated before, but no baby was found in the safe. She says two possible reasons for this could be that either it was a false alarm or the mother might have placed her baby in the safe and changed her mind.

"We are excited to see everything is put in place to ensure the efficacy of the initiative, works," said Immelman.

Immelman explained Secure Rite, which is the security provider monitoring the alarm,



Paramedic Cindie van Rooyen with the month-old baby boy who was found in the Baby Saver at the Choices Centre in Somerset West. The baby was wrapped in a green blanket for warmth.

PHOTO: FACEBOOK

contacted one of the four responders, Amanda-Lee Jones of Patch as soon as it was triggered.

Jones said she and armed response officers of Secure Rite and paramedics responded to the incident immediately. She said the mother of the baby was also on the scene. "The baby was beaming with good health, glowing almost. He was very content and even fell asleep during the process of checking him out," said Jones.

She said with the baby, who was wrapped up in a blanket, a nappy bag with his birth certificate, clean clothes, blankets, and everything he could need in it were also in the safe.

She says the "well-educated, well-spoken" mother placed her baby in the Baby Saver owing to her circumstances. "Her body language indicated sadness, but also some relief," said Jones.

The baby boy was transported to Helderberg Hospital by paramedics where he is temporarily being cared for.

According to Immelman, the baby is most likely to be placed for adoption or fostering.

"The most important thing is getting the message out there that discarding of unwanted babies for example by means of dumping is not the only option. By placing the baby in the Baby Saver, mothers are giving the baby a good chance at survival."

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