

Lindenhof Group baby window: baby left in baby window at Lindenhof Hospital

Press Release

Berne - On Friday 11 April 2014, at 12:01, a newborn baby was placed in the baby window at Lindenhof Hospital in Berne. The baby girl had been born a few days previously at full term. She is in good health and will remain at the hospital for the time being for further medical examination. She is the ninth baby to be placed in a baby window in Switzerland, and the first at the Lindenhof Group baby window.

The Berne child and adult protection authority (KESB) was notified immediately and will arrange guardianship of the child. A legal guardian has the same rights as a parent. The privacy of baby and mother are strictly protected.

The mother is urged to contact KESB Bern (Weltpoststrasse 5; tel. 031 635 20 00; e-mail: info.kesb.be@jgk.be.ch, outside office hours: KESB standby service on tel. 117) or the Swiss Aid for Mother and Child foundation (SAMC) so that the best solution can be found for the child. The SAMC will provide the mother with the necessary financial and social support free of charge so that she can have a future together with her child. The mother can also seek advice anonymously.

Joint project

The baby window is part of a joint project between the Lindenhof Group and the Swiss Aid for Mother and Child foundation (SAMC). The baby window allows a mother who finds herself with no alternatives to give her child into safe medical care in complete anonymity. The service is intended to prevent child abandonment, of which there have been cases in the canton of Berne over the past few years.

Fourth baby window in Switzerland

A baby window was set up at Lindenhof Hospital, a private hospital run by the Lindenhof Group, in November 2013. It allows mothers to hand their newborn babies into safe care. The new baby window at Lindenhof is the fourth such amenity in Switzerland. Baby windows are already operating in Einsiedeln, Davos and Olten. The idea for baby windows came from the Swiss Aid for Mother and Child foundation (SAMC).

To protect all those involved and to comply with the requirements of official and professional secrecy, data protection and personality rights, KESB Bern, Lindenhof Hospital and SAMC cannot provide any further details about this specific case.

Swiss Aid for Mother and Child (SAMC) is a charity providing advice and support to women, couples and families who find themselves in difficulty because of pregnancy or the birth of a child. www.samc-foundation.ch

The Lindenhof Group is the largest private hospital group in the canton of Berne and operates three hospitals: Lindenhof, Sonnenhof and Engeried. These three hospitals employ 2,200 members of staff and treat over 120,000 patients every year.

Press office **of the Lindenhof Group, tel. (mobile) 079 616 86 32, 031 311 67 90, medienstelle@lindenhofgruppe.ch**