

Press release

4 February 2015

Baby left in Baby Hatch at Lindenhof Hospital

On Wednesday, 4 February 2015, at 8.40 a.m., a newborn baby was placed in the baby hatch at Lindenhof Hospital in Berne. The little girl was born during the night of 3 to 4 February. She is in good health and will remain at the hospital for the time being for further medical examination. She is the thirteenth baby to be placed in a baby hatch in Switzerland.

The child and adult protection authority (KESB) for Berne was informed immediately. A guardian will now take on the rights and responsibilities that the parents of a child would normally have. In particular, care will be taken to protect the baby girl's privacy.

The baby's mother can contact the child and adult protection authority for Berne or the Swiss Aid for Mother and Child foundation. Absolute discretion and non-bureaucratic assistance is assured in order to find the best solution for both mother and child.

Offer of help in extreme circumstances

The baby hatch was set up to provide an offer of help in extreme circumstances. It is intended to help prevent infanticide or child abandonment. If a mother finds herself in a desperate situation, the baby hatch gives her the opportunity to place her child in safe hands anonymously.