

Senate Bill (SB) 1368



Safely Surrendered Baby Law

PRESENTED BY THE SAFELY SURRENDERED BABY COALITION OF KERN COUNTY





Highlights

Purpose

The Difference

Who and Where

The Process

Statistics





Purpose

The purpose of this law is to provide a safe alternative for the surrender of a newborn baby that prevents harm and possible death.

With this law, a parent/legal guardian can feel safe to surrender their baby without judgment regardless of the reason they cannot care for the baby.

Confidentiality is a key component of the safely surrender process. The ultimate goal is to ensure that every baby has a chance for a healthy life.



ABANDONMENT,
ADOPTION,
AND SAFE SURRENDER

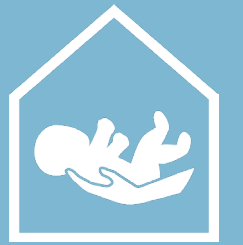
*What is the
difference?*

Abandonment

- EXTREMELY DANGEROUS
- ABANDONMENT IS ILLEGAL AND WILL BE HELD LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE.

Adoption

- ADOPTION CAN BE DONE AT ANY AGE OF THE CHILD.
- PARENT'S RIGHTS - DUE PROCESS
- OPEN OR CLOSED ADOPTION
- 30 - DAY WAITING PERIOD



Safe Surrender



- The SAFE SURRENDER OF A NEWBORN AT A SAFE LOCATION
- DONE WITHIN THE FIRST 72 HOURS OF THE BABY'S LIFE
- 14 DAY WINDOW TO RECLAIM
- CONFIDENTIAL FOR ALL PERSONS INVOLVED
- PROTECTS PARENT(S)/LEGAL GUARDIAN FROM PROSECUTION FOR CHILD ABANDONMENT UNDER CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE SECTION 271.5





Who can surrender a baby?



Parent(s)



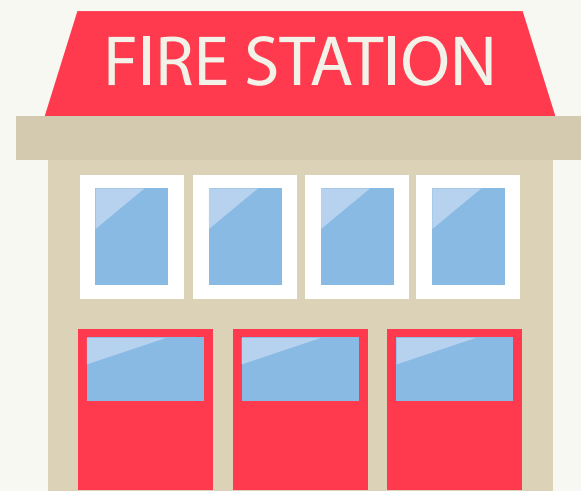
Legal guardian



Other person with
lawful custody

Where can a baby be surrendered?

Visit [KCDHS.org/SSB](https://www.kcdhs.org/SSB) for exact locations in Kern County.



Fire Station



Emergency Room
Hospital

What is the process?

SURRENDER SITE

Surrender within 72 hours (3 days) of birth at a hospital emergency room or fire station with the logo. Surrendering parent/guardian must specify that he/she is surrendering the baby. No questions asked.

What is the process?

IDENTIFIER



Matching coded ID bracelets are given to the baby and parent/guardian. These bracelets are vital in the 14-day reclaiming process. The 14 days begins at surrender date and time.

What is the process?

QUESTIONNAIRE



An optional medical questionnaire may be completed onsite or by mail. The questionnaire is offered solely for the purpose of collecting medical information critical to the health and survival of the infant.

What is the process?

BABY CARE

Upon surrender, the baby will be examined and provided medical treatment if needed.

Child Welfare Agency will be notified, and the baby will be placed in a safe surrender foster home within 48 hours.

Can the baby be reclaimed?

14 DAYS

The parent/guardian or person with lawful custody has 14 days from the date the baby was surrendered to reclaim.

HOW

Bring the coded bracelet to the surrendered site or call 1-877-BABYSAF (1-877-222-9723)

C W A

Child Welfare Agency will verify identity, assess parent's circumstances and ability, and cancel any court hearings.



After 14 days

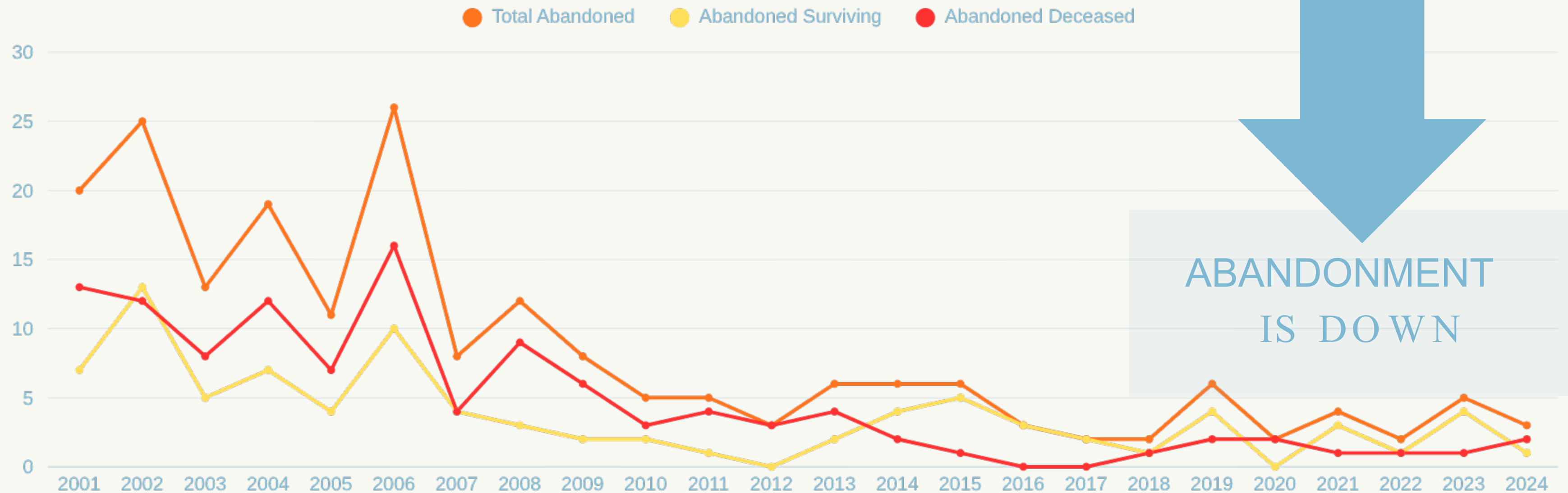
COURT HEARING

A court hearing will be held to terminate parental rights.

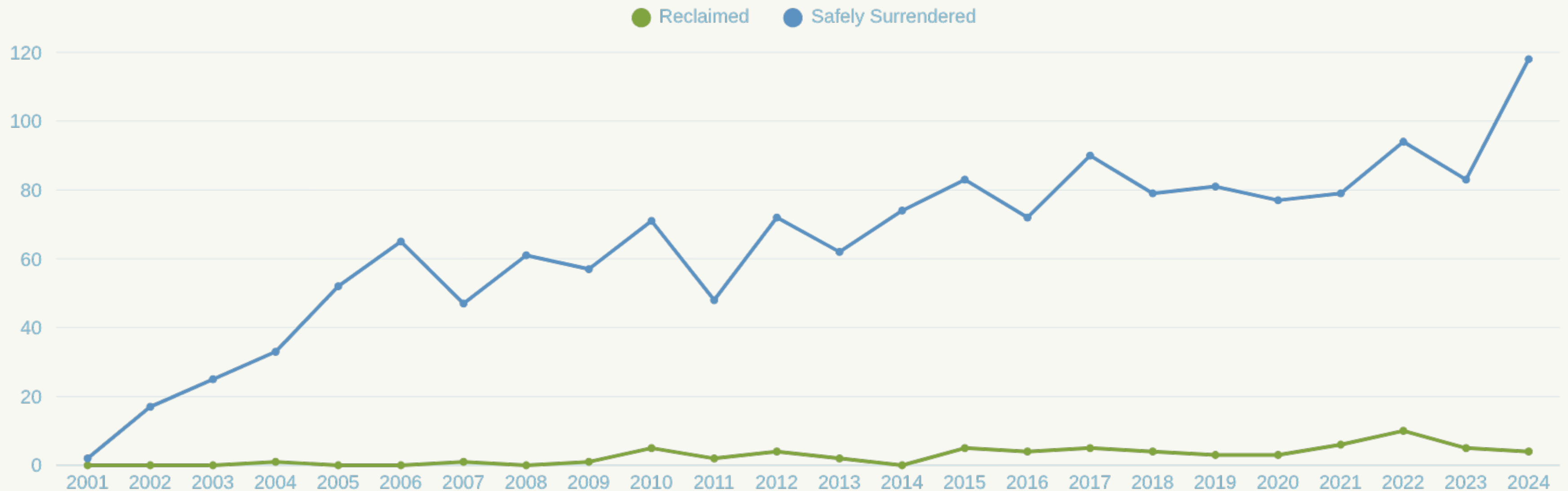
ADOPTION

Once parental rights are terminated, the adoption process can begin immediately with the safe surrender foster parent.

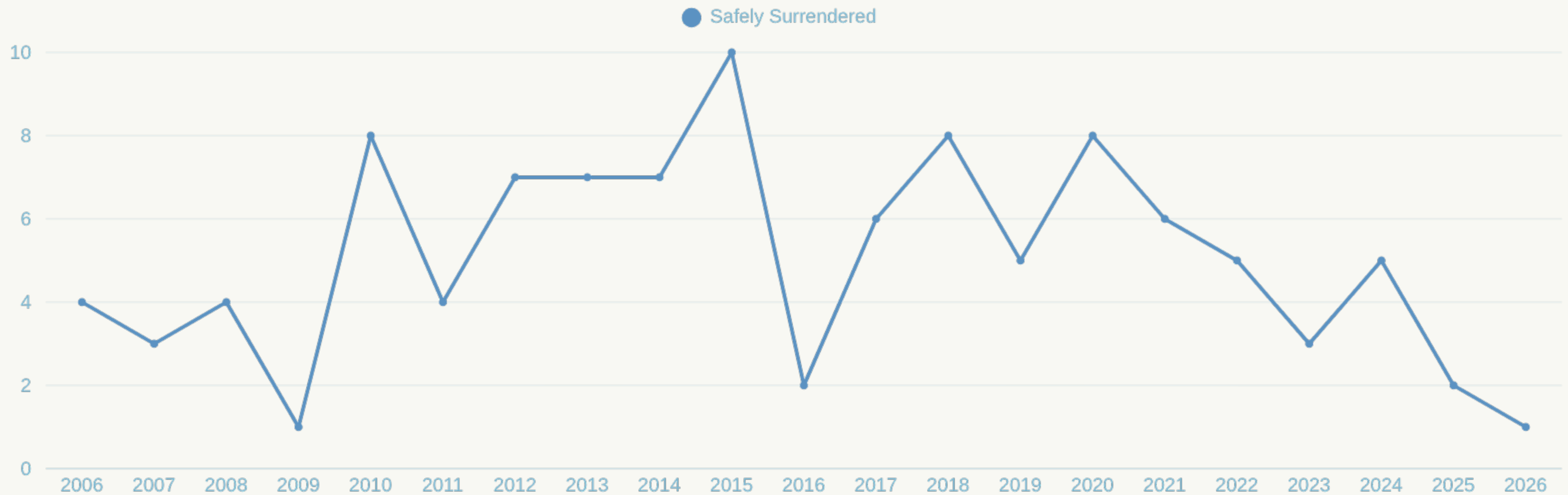
California's Abandonment Data



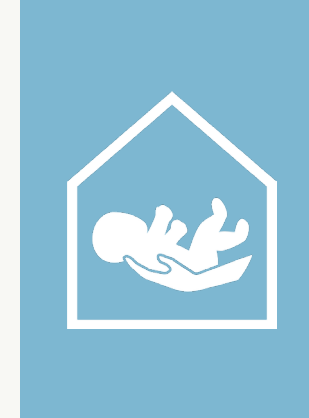
California's Safe Surrender Data



Kern County's Safe Surrender Data



Info



KERN COUNTY DEPT OF HUMAN SERVICES

kcdhs.org/ssb

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CALIFORNIA DEPT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

cdss.ca.gov/safe-surrender-baby

1-877-BABYSAF

(1-877-222-9723)

Kern County DHS

