

Jury Duty

Why are changes needed? In Michigan, lactating individuals have the option under law to claim exemption from jury service due to breastfeeding.¹ However, this excludes valuable members of society from performing their civic duty and does not create fair representation within the jury box. Courthouse accommodations are clearly lacking. Currently, it is unfeasible for a lactating individual to serve on a jury due to lack of time, space, and accommodations for breastfeeding and/or expressing milk. Courts need to be more accessible for breastfeeding individuals and provide accommodations for those who seek to fulfill their civic duty through the juror process.

MIBFN Recommends:

- Jury duty summons should include specific information for breastfeeding jurors: the availability of milk expression time and location that does not include a bathroom; access to baby or child for breastfeeding during the trial; whether the court provides assistance in finding child care; and other logistical support for breastfeeding accommodations.
- Exemptions for breastfeeding individuals who are unable to serve should be upheld.
- Mandatory breastfeeding accommodation education for all court employees from clerks to judges.
- District, circuit, and federal courts should adopt official policies providing accommodations for breastfeeding and milk expression during jury duty for breastfeeding individuals.

To learn more about the MIBFN Jury Duty campaign, visit www.mibreastfeeding.org/jury-duty/

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1. Michigan Legislature, Revised Judicature Act Of 1961 Act 236 of 196 600.1307a Qualifications of juror; exemptions; effect of payment for jury service; "felony" defined.

The Michigan Breastfeeding Network's mission is to optimize state and community support of breastfeeding by leading collaborative actions for advocacy, education and coalition building. To learn more about our advocacy efforts, visit www.mibreastfeeding.org/advocacy.