

# JURY DUTY



Michigan Breastfeeding Network

A Guide To Your Breastfeeding Rights In Michigan

## WHY HAVE I BEEN CALLED TO SERVE AS A JUROR?



Jury Duty is an obligation that we all have as citizens of the United States. When we serve as a juror we represent the opinion of the people, by making sure that our laws are carried out in a just way. **When you serve on a jury as a breastfeeding mother, you bring to the table your own valuable experiences and opinions.**

## WHAT IF I CHOOSE TO SERVE ON A JURY AS A BREASTFEEDING MOM?

If you decide that you would like to serve on a jury as a breastfeeding mom, here are some questions to consider:

### JURY DUTY: THINGS TO CONSIDER



- 1 Are there policies in place for breastfeeding jurors?
- 2 Can I expect to be given time and a proper place to pump that is not a bathroom?
- 3 Does the court provide assistance in finding child care?
- 4 Can I seek an exemption if I learn that the trial is expected to be longer than a few days?
- 5 Do I have a personal use of a working breast pump that I can bring to court?
- 6 Do I have experience pumping outside of the home within time constraints?
- 7 Has my baby received supplemental feedings in the past?
- 8 Is my baby old enough for supplemental food?
- 9 Do I have a stored supply of expressed breastmilk?
- 10 Is the caregiver for my baby comfortable with handling feedings in my absence?

**IF YOU ARE UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE ANSWER TO ANY OF THE QUESTIONS ABOVE,** you may want to consider filing for an exemption at this time. Please see the section below for details.

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Many breastfeeding mothers who have been called to jury duty feel that serving while they are still nursing their child is a hardship for them and their family. [The 2012 Michigan Jury Duty Exemption Law for Nursing Mothers](#) provides these mothers with a legal exemption from jury service for the period during which you are nursing your child. **You'll need a letter from your healthcare provider** verifying that you are a nursing mother.

## TOOLS FOR YOU

For more information and tools, including a [template letter for your healthcare provider](#), or to print your own copy of this handout, please visit:

[www.mibreastfeeding.org/Toolkits/JuryDuty](http://www.mibreastfeeding.org/Toolkits/JuryDuty)

## IT'S THE LAW IN MICHIGAN



Michigan is one of the 17 states (plus Puerto Rico) that **exempt nursing mothers** from jury duty