

# Breastfeeding Laws in Arkansas

## A FACT SHEET FOR ARKANSAS BUSINESSES AND PUBLIC PLACES

Arkansas has two laws supporting breastfeeding families. The newest law effective July 1, 2009 requires employers to provide reasonable break time and space to an employee who needs to express/pump breastmilk. The first Arkansas breastfeeding law was passed in April of 2007. This law allows a mother the right to breastfeed her child in any public place.



<http://www.arbfc.org>

### WHAT DO ARKANSAS BREASTFEEDING LAWS MEAN FOR BUSINESSES AND PUBLIC PLACES?

#### **Act 621: 11-5-116. Break time for expressing breast milk.**

(a)(1) An employer shall provide reasonable unpaid break time each day to an employee who needs to express breast milk for her child in order to maintain milk supply and comfort.

(2) To the extent possible, the break time required under subdivision (a)(1) of this section shall run concurrently with any paid or unpaid break time already provided to the employee.

(b)(1) An employer shall make a reasonable effort to provide a private, secure, and sanitary room or other location in close proximity to the work area, other than a toilet stall, where an employee can express her milk.

(2) The room or location provided under subdivision (b)(1) of this section may include the employee's normal work space if the employee's normal work space meets the requirements of this section.

(c) This section does not require an employer to provide break time if to do so would create an undue hardship on the operations of the employer.

(d) The employee shall make reasonable efforts to minimize disruption to the employer's operations.

#### **20-27-2001. Breastfeeding in public.**

A woman may breastfeed a child in a public place or any place where other individuals are present.

The 2007 law also amended the AR indecency law (Code 5-14-112) to provide protection from prosecution for indecent exposure.

### Get educated about breastfeeding and Arkansas breastfeeding laws!

#### **Why support breastfeeding?**

- ∂ Breastfeeding protects mothers and their breastfed children from many illnesses and diseases including obesity, diabetes, and some cancers.
- ∂ Breastfeeding saves businesses time and money because breastfed children get sick less often and their parents miss less work.

#### **Why is it important to support breastfeeding in public and workplace breast pumping?**

- ∂ A mother needs to breastfeed her baby whenever he is hungry, to satisfy the baby and maintain her milk supply. Babies who are fed when they are hungry are less likely to cry and disrupt the place of business.
- ∂ Working mothers need to pump their milk to maintain their milk supply to provide the best food for their baby's health.

#### **How can businesses best support breastfeeding families?**

- ∂ While paid breaks are not required, if an employer already provides paid breaks to employees, they must pay when those breaks are used to pump.
- ∂ Encourage fellow employees to offer kind support to those who are pumping to nourish their babies.