



Inmate Lactation & Breast Milk Procedure

Policy:

It is the policy of the Amador County Jail to provide support for lactating mothers, within the limitations of the jail environment, who are booked into our facility.

Background:

Breast milk is the best food source for infants and it is recommended infants be provided breast milk for at least one year after birth to support enhanced growth and development. Breast feeding supports the mother-child bond, may enhance the mother's motivation to care for her child, and could help the mother stay out of the correctional system. Other health benefits have been documented including reducing the risk of chronic diseases for both mother and infant.

Facility Limitations:

Due to structural limitations of the Amador County Jail there is no certainty of absolute privacy for a woman wishing to express breast milk to maintain lactation. The cooperation of the infant's caregiver is required to pick up the breast milk and to ensure the breast milk is handled correctly and safely. Information from Women, Infants & Children (WIC) or the Center for Disease Control (CDC) on the proper handling of breast milk will be supplied to caregivers the first time they receive the expressed breast milk. It is recognized that unpredictable events can occur in a correctional environment. The ultimate authority for an inmate to participate in this breast milk/lactation program, or to make changes to the program, rests with the Sheriff or the authorized designee.

Procedure:

A. This protocol is to be initiated for all lactating women who are booked and not immediately released. An inmate can be identified as a lactating mother in several ways that include, but are not limited to:

1. Receiving screening & health questionnaire

2. Inmate's request to jail or medical staff
3. Sick call slip
4. Medical visit

B. The jail's medical provider should be contacted for a determination of medical appropriateness prior to allowing an inmate access to a breast pump.

C. If determined to be medically appropriate, and the inmate's institutional behavior or classification does not preclude access, an inmate shall be permitted to access a breast pump, under conditions approved by medical and custodial staff. Inmates may express breast milk at any time of the day, except during facility lockdowns, facility emergencies, headcounts, and meals. The on-duty Correctional Sergeant may make special provisions on a case-by-case basis.

D. When a lactating mother is received at the facility, correctional staff should contact WIC to request a consultation for the inmate with WIC's Certified Lactation Counselor. WIC can provide the inmate with resource information, education materials, and support services that can benefit the inmate while in custody and when released from the facility.

E. An area affording the inmate privacy, without compromising security, should be sought. Only female Correctional Officers should participate in supervising inmates during breast pumping, unless an exigent security arises requiring immediate action by male staff members to ensure the safety and security of the facility. A sheet, blanket, or other appropriate cover may be utilized by an inmate during pumping unless a security concern exists. Such concerns and restrictions shall be documented.

F. The use of prescription and illicit drugs by a lactating mother can present a risk to developing children. To reduce the risk of harm to the child all inmates seeking to have expressed breast milk released outside the facility will be subject to drug screening by the jail's medical provider. Pumped breast milk will not be released to a care giver outside the Amador County Jail without written authorization from a competent medical authority. Additional drug screening may occur at any time as determined by medical staff, the Corrections Captain, or authorized designee. If an inmate is receiving treatment from Amador County Behavioral Health or another mental health provider, the opinion of the involved worker, psychologist, or psychiatrist should be sought prior to approving the inmate's participation in the program.

G. All inmates wishing to have breast milk released to a party outside the facility will be required to review and sign the "Authorization and Consent for the Sheriff's Office to Assume Custody & Release of Inmate Breast Milk" form. A new form will be required for every new period of incarceration. Up to three persons authorized to receive the inmate's breast milk may

be listed on the form. Inmates shall be informed that they may withdraw consent at any time and any changes to the list of authorized recipients will require the completion of a new form.

H. Inmates approved to pump breast milk will be supplied with a “single use pump” or “kit” to be utilized with an electric pump. Sterile disposable storage bags will be provided to the inmate for storage of the pumped breast milk. The inmate should be notified that medical staff or the Lactation Consultant from WIC is available to assist them if needed. The Lactation Consultant, or an appropriate medical authority, will also assist the inmate with support and care related to the cessation of lactation or weaning.

I. The bag holding the pumped breast milk will be sealed by the lactating inmate. The inmate shall legibly write their full name and the date and time the milk was pumped on the bag. In the event the inmate is incapable of doing so, a Correctional Officer may assist by writing this information on the bag in the presence of the inmate.

J. Bagged breast milk shall be promptly placed into a designated locked freezer. The freezer shall be locked after the breast milk is deposited. The freezer shall remain closed and locked unless milk is being deposited inside or removed for distribution to an authorized receiving party or for destruction.

K. The receiving party is required to pick-up the expressed breast milk at least every forty-eight hours (48) hours, but may come as often as once per day. Breast milk not picked up before 48 hours will be disposed of in a medically approved manner. Corrections staff should always wear required personal protective equipment when handling containers and equipment that may be contaminated by body fluids.

L. Receiving parties authorized by the inmate shall be required to provide identification prior to receiving the pumped breast milk. The authorized receiving party shall review and sign the “Transfer of Breast Milk to Authorized Recipient Agreement” form the first time they receive inmate transferred breast milk. The receiving party will also be provided with information supplied by WIC or the Centers for Disease Control during this first receipt of transferred milk. A new “Transfer of Breast Milk to Authorized Recipient Agreement” form will need to be completed whenever the involved inmate’s period of incarceration ends.

G. The Correctional Officer facilitating the breast milk transfer shall have the receiving party sign the Breast Milk Transfer Log acknowledging receipt and responsibility. The date, time of transfer, and approving officer should also sign the transfer log.