

Washington State Laws Protect a Woman's Right to Breastfeed



2001: Breastfeeding in public is not considered indecent exposure. (RCW 43.70, 9A.88.010).

2009: Breastfeeding mothers are protected under state anti-discrimination law, and can breastfeed their children in public places such as restaurants, pools, theaters, government buildings, museums, libraries, busses, or parks. No one, including business owners or employees can tell a mother to leave, go to the restroom, or cover the child. (RCW 49.60.030 and 49.60.215).

If you are breastfeeding and someone complains to you, politely explain that the law protects the right of the mother to stay where she is to breastfeed. This law does not apply to employees.

To learn more about this law or to file a discrimination complaint within six months of the incident, contact the WA Human Rights Commission by calling 800.233.3247 or visiting www.hum.wa.gov.

For information about breastfeeding promotion, legislation, and support for working mothers and employers visit the Breastfeeding Coalition of Washington, www.breastfeedingwa.org



**WA State Human
Rights Commission**

Breastfeeding
Coalition of Washington

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