

PROVIDING DESIGNATED PRIVATE SPACE FOR NURSING MOTHERS IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS OWNED AND OPERATED BY DANE COUNTY

Dane County has a history of supporting breastfeeding as an employer and in the community due to breastfeeding's substantial benefits to mothers and babies. In August 2014, Dane County recognized World Breastfeeding Week and further committed to supporting breastfeeding. Many nursing mothers visit public county buildings for their job, to access services and benefits, to exercise and enforce their legal rights, and to participate in local government. The current policies and practices for accommodating members of the public seeking privacy to nurse or express milk vary. The lack of a designated space and procedure results in county staff and nursing mothers having to creatively problem-solve in an often time-consuming, haphazard, and uncomfortable manner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that all public buildings owned and operated by Dane County shall designate at least one private room, other than a restroom, for persons seeking privacy to nurse or express milk. The designated room does not have to be reserved exclusively for this purpose, but it should be a room that could be made available to a member of the public if the need arises.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the private room shall include an air exchange, lighting, an electrical outlet, a chair, and a lockable door. Windows, if any, in the private room must have a window treatment appropriate to ensure privacy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the management of each building should make all building staff aware of the room(s) that have been designated for the use of nursing mothers and what the procedure is should a member of the public request use of the room(s).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that where a private room cannot be designated in a public building owned and operated by Dane County without displacing county staff or without having to construct a new room within the facility, and where building staff has explored but cannot identify another option that would reasonably meet the intent of this resolution, an exception to the requirements of this resolution will be made.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that all public buildings owned and operated by Dane County post a sign at the building entrance and outside the public restrooms indicating the availability of the designated room and the procedure for accessing it.