



How you will feed your new baby is one of the important decisions you will be making in preparation for your infant's arrival. Doctors agree that for most women breastfeeding is the best and most healthy choice. It is your right to be informed about the benefits of breastfeeding and to ask for help. You have the right to be encouraged and supported in your decision to breastfeed. You have the right to be informed about the benefits of breastfeeding and to ask for help. You have the right to be encouraged and supported in your decision to breastfeed. You have the right to be informed about the benefits of breastfeeding and to ask for help. You have the right to be encouraged and supported in your decision to breastfeed.

(1) **Maternity Information Leaflet:**

If you attend prenatal childbirth education classes provided by the maternal health care facility and all hospital clinics and diagnostic and treatment centers providing maternal services in accordance with article 28 of the public health law you must receive the Breastfeeding Mothers' Bill of Rights. Each maternal health care facility shall provide the maternity information leaflet, including the Breastfeeding Mothers' Bill of Rights, in accordance with section twenty-eight hundred three-i of this chapter to each patient or to the appointed personal representative at the time of prebooking or time of admission to a maternal health care facility. Each maternal health care provider shall give a copy of the Breastfeeding Mothers' Bill of Rights to each patient at or prior to the medically appropriate time.

This will help you make an informed choice on how to feed your baby.

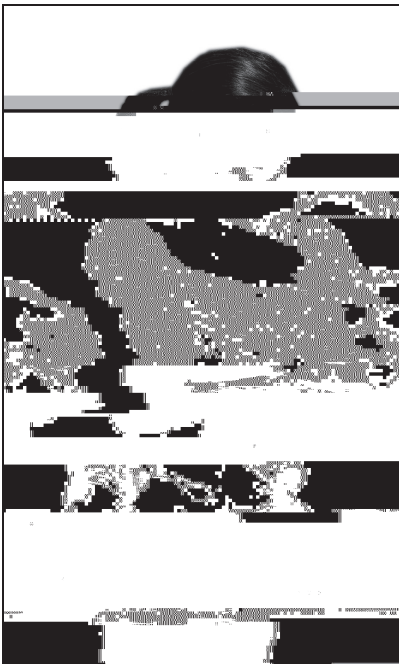
You have the right to receive information that is free of commercial interests and includes:

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(2) **Maternity Information Leaflet:**

- You have the right to have your baby stay with you right after birth whether you deliver vaginally or by cesarean section. You have the right to begin breastfeeding within one hour after birth.
- You have the right to have someone trained to help you in breastfeeding give you information and help you when you need it.





- You have the right to have your baby not receive any bottle feeding or pacifiers
- You have the right to know about and refuse any drugs that may dry up your milk.
- You have the right to have your baby in your room with you 24 hours a day.
- You have the right to breastfeed your baby at any time day or night.
- You have the right to know if your doctor or your baby's pediatrician is advising against breastfeeding before any feeding decisions are made.
- You have the right to have a sign on your baby's crib clearly stating that your baby is breastfeeding and that no bottle feeding of any type is to be offered.
- You have the right to receive full information about how you are doing with breastfeeding and get help on how to improve.

- You have the right to breastfeed your baby in the neonatal intensive care unit. If nursing is not possible, every attempt will be made to have your baby receive your pumped or expressed milk.
- If you, or your baby, are re-hospitalized in a maternal care facility after the initial delivery stay, the hospital will make every effort to continue to support breastfeeding, to provide hospital grade electric pumps and rooming in facilities.
- You have the right to have help from someone specially trained in breastfeeding support and expressing breast milk if your baby has special needs.
- You have the right to have a family member or friend receive breast feeding information from a staff member if you request it.

### (3) **Additional Information:**

- You have the right to printed breastfeeding information free of commercial material.
- You have the right, unless specifically requested by you, and available at the facility, to be discharged from the facility without discharge packs containing infant formula, or formula coupons unless ordered by your baby's health care provider.
- You have the right to get information about breastfeeding resources in your community including information on availability of breastfeeding consultants, support groups and breast pumps.
- You have the right to have the facility give you information to help choose a medical provider for your baby and understand the importance of a follow-up appointment.
- You have the right to receive information about safely collecting and storing your breast milk.
- You have the right to breastfeed your baby in any location, public or private, where you are otherwise authorized to be. Complaints can be directed to the New York State Division of Human Rights.

All the above are your rights. If the maternal health care facility does not honor these rights you can seek help by contacting the New York State Department of Health or by contacting the hospital complaint hotline at 1-800-804-5447 or via email at [hospinfo@health.state.ny.us](mailto:hospinfo@health.state.ny.us)