COBA | COALITION OF OKLAHOMA BREASTFEEDING ADVOCATES

Lactation Support for Incarcerated Women
Position Statement

COBA believes that every child deserves access to human milk regardless of the circumstances surrounding his or her birth. Supporting lactation during incarceration benefits both child and mother. Current systems must establish policies to support the care of incarcerated pregnant and breastfeeding women.

OUR POSITION:

- Lactation education, accommodation policies and milk expression programs will be adopted for all incarcerated mothers.
- Humane practices that support women and their infants both before and following birth will be provided for all incarcerated mothers.
- Whenever possible, incarcerated mothers will have direct access to their baby through prison nursery programs.
- If applicable and available, consider community-based alternatives to incarceration for mothers.
- Policies will support treatment as an alternative to punishment through trauma-based services.
- Incarcerated mothers will receive services that focus on the parenting relationship between mother and child.
- Correctional facilities will collaborate with necessary community partners and services to facilitate making pumped and stored milk available to the infant.

November 2026