

Breastfeeding and Jury Duty

Postponing Jury Duty for Breastfeeding Parents

In 2015, the Colorado Legislature passed the “Postponement of Jury Service for a Person Who is Breastfeeding a Child Act” ([Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-71-119.5](#)). The statute states “A person who is breast-feeding a child and is temporarily unable to or chooses not to leave the child in order to serve on a jury must be excused temporarily from service as a juror for up to two consecutive twelve-month postponements.”

Through the steps below, a breastfeeding person may be excused from jury participation for the remainder of the calendar year. If you are summoned for jury duty again the following year and you are continuing to breastfeed the child, you may re-apply to be dismissed from service for an additional calendar year. There is no age limit for the breastfeeding child.

The Process is Simple

The process to be excused from jury service if you are breastfeeding a child is simple:

1. Get a written medical statement from a medical professional, such as a doctor, lactation professional, nurse, physician’s assistant, and/or other medical professional. The medical statement must be on the medical professional’s official letterhead and must include your name, juror number, and appearance date. For instance, it can be as simple as: “For [jury summons appearance date], [Your name] ([juror number]), is breastfeeding their son/daughter.”
2. Noting all deadlines, read and follow all instructions on your jury summons carefully.
 - If required by your county, complete paperwork by choosing the breastfeeding reason and sign the Affidavit. Breastfeeding is listed under “Disqualification” on the forms.
 - Mail, fax, or scan and email your medical statement, with the postponement paperwork and signed summons if required, to your county’s jury commissioner, listed on your jury summons. For a list of jury commissioners, visit:
https://www.courts.state.co.us/Jury/Jury_Commissioners.cfm.

Online postponement forms are available, but may not be updated to include breastfeeding as an option.

Families’ Experiences

“I had my doctor write me a quick (signed) note and fax it to me, and then I scanned it and emailed it to my jury commissioner.”

“I went by my doctor’s office to talk with them about getting a medical statement. The front desk took all the information, and sent it to my doctor, who then faxed it to the jury commissioner. It was very easy.”

“I call my daughter’s doctor and they faxed me a letter stating I was still breastfeeding her. I added my jury info and just emailed it to the person listed on the summons letter I received in the mail. I heard back within a day that I was relieved from being a juror and my postponement was accepted.”

Find out more about the breastfeeding exemption at
<https://www.courts.state.co.us/Jury/FAQs.cfm>.

