

Morrison-Talbott Library Breastfeeding Policy

Background

According to the Illinois Department of Human Services, breastfeeding provides numerous benefits to families and babies. As such, breastfeeding is protected under the following statutes in the state of Illinois:

The 'Right to Breastfeed Act' (740 ILCS 137/) ensures that a parent may breastfeed in any location, public or private, where the parent is otherwise authorized to be, regardless of whether the parent covers their breasts or not.

The 'Pregnancy Accommodation Act' (P.A. 98-1050) requires Illinois employers provide reasonable accommodations to employees who are pregnant or have recently given birth.

The 'Nursing Mothers in the Workplace Act' (820 ILCS 260/) requires Illinois employers provide reasonable break time to express milk for a nursing infant/child up to one year after birth and a private place other than a bathroom for employees to express milk.

The Illinois Legislature in 1995 codified in (720 ILC S5/11-30) that "Breast-feeding of infants is not an act of public indecency."

Policy

Morrison-Talbott Library supports a family's decision and right to breastfeed, and recognizes that breastfeeding in public is protected by law. Morrison-Talbott Library abides by relevant federal and Illinois statutes regarding nursing.

The library strives to be a breastfeeding-friendly public space. We will create a welcoming environment where nursing parents are able to enjoy a welcoming attitude from library staff and administration. Library staff shall remain knowledgeable of current breastfeeding statutes and shall be able to handle complaints about breastfeeding should they arise.

To educate our community, the library will make available educational breastfeeding materials and lactation resources. The library will welcome local breastfeeding organizations and peer-to-peer breastfeeding support groups to partner on educational programming and/or hold meetings.

The library shall display signs to indicate that the library is a breastfeeding-friendly public space.

The library respects the right of a nursing parent to breastfeed according to the 'Right to Breastfeed Act.' To support a nursing parent's desire for a quiet, private space, the library shall offer a semi-private lactation space for feeding or expressing.