

Press Packet - MIBFN Breastfeeding and Incarceration Toolkit

Below are all the tools necessary for sharing about the [MIBFN Breastfeeding and Incarceration Toolkit](#). Please feel free to copy and paste any text needed and include the photos provided as necessary.

Email communications@mibbreastfeeding.org with any questions or suggestions.

Thank you – The Michigan Breastfeeding Network

PHOTO OPTIONS:

- For use on screens (Web, online newsletters, social media) Size - 268 KB - <https://tinyurl.com/y8dl5g86>
- For use in print (larger) Size – 1MB - <https://tinyurl.com/y7djw3zr>
- MIBFN W.O.R.K. Together Toolkits Logo - <https://tinyurl.com/y9es9akt>

TEXT OPTIONS: (Sentence, Paragraph And Press Release Length)

Sentence:

The Michigan Breastfeeding Network (MIBFN) introduces the latest release in its W.O.R.K. Together Series the “Breastfeeding and Incarceration Toolkit,” which provides information and tools for breastfeeding advocates and incarcerated breastfeeding individuals, including resources for families and/or the child’s caregivers at www.mibbreastfeeding.org/incarceration.

Paragraph:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 2, 2018

**MIBFN Announces Release of “Breastfeeding and Incarceration Toolkit”
Encourages Advocacy and Policy Change for Breastfeeding Behind Bars**

Lansing, MI: Michigan Breastfeeding Network (MIBFN) introduces the latest release in its W.O.R.K. Together Series the “Breastfeeding and Incarceration Toolkit,” which provides information and tools for breastfeeding advocates and incarcerated breastfeeding individuals, including resources for families and/or the child’s caregivers at www.mibreastfeeding.org/incarceration. The “Breastfeeding and Incarceration Toolkit” navigates readers through the issues that impact incarcerated families and includes information on the legal landscape in regards to breastfeeding rights. The Toolkit is part of the Breastfeeding Roadblock Toolkits Series that serves to address problems that can deter breastfeeding initiation and interfere with breastfeeding duration.

There are now more women behind bars than at any other point in U.S. history. From 1995 to 2008, the number of women in state and federal prisons nationwide increased astronomically by 203 percent. 207,00 women are incarcerated in the United States and approximately 100,000 babies are born each year inside the prison system. Despite these staggering numbers, there are no formal laws protecting lactating individuals behind bars. The time has come to ensure that all incarcerated women receive breastfeeding support and that their children receive the immunological, digestive, and developmental benefits of breast milk regardless of the circumstance surrounding their birth. Breastfeeding has the ability to break the cycle of incarceration and provides a pathway to rehabilitation for families. The objective of the “Breastfeeding and Incarceration Toolkit” is to advocate for change for those incarcerated to breastfeed their children and provide pathways for such action, to provide guidance to prisons in order to create programs and implement policies that support breastfeeding, and to inform and educate those already incarcerated about breastfeeding.

The “Breastfeeding and Incarceration Toolkit” is a compendium of useful tools made up of five components: 1) Platform for Sharing Breastfeeding and Incarceration Stories; 2) Resources for Advocates; 3) Template Prison Lactation Policies; 4) Template Letters for the Court; and 5) the MIBFN Guide to Breastfeeding and Incarceration. The “Breastfeeding and Incarceration Toolkit” lays the groundwork for breastfeeding support for incarcerated families and will depend on the voices of many in order to build a true network of support. MIBFN needs you to get involved and share your perspective. Whether you are breastfeeding while incarcerated, working within the prison system, or advocating for the rights of the incarcerated please take the time to share your story and let us know what is needed in this important platform for breastfeeding support. We ask for you to join the movement and share your ideas and input in order to make this a complete tool for breastfeeding advocates. Together we can positively transform the lives of women and children for many generations to come.

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About Michigan Breastfeeding Network

The mission of the Michigan Breastfeeding Network (MIBFN) is to lead the statewide collaborative actions for advocacy, education, and coalition building in order to create a supportive breastfeeding culture. To learn more, visit www.mibreastfeeding.org.