

Florida Breastfeeding Coalition

Breastfeeding  —the gold standard.

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August 16, 2009

Chick-fil-A, Inc.

Attention: Dan T. Cathy, President & Chief Operating Officer

5200 Buffington Road

Atlanta, GA 30349-2998

Dear Mr. Cathy:

I'm writing you regarding the Winter Park, Florida mother who was ask by a Chick-fil-A manager to cover while breastfeeding her baby. There are forty-three states in the United States, which have laws with language specifically allowing women to breastfeed in any public or private location. Florida Law, House Bill 231 (Fl. ALS 4; 1993 Fla. Laws Ch. 4; 1993 Fla. HB 231 Fla. Stat. § 383.015, § 800.02 - 800.04, § 847.001 - later: § 827.071) that states in Section 1. The breastfeeding of a baby is an important and basic act of nurture, which must be encouraged in the interests of maternal and child health and family values. A mother may breastfeed her baby in any location, public or private, where the mother is otherwise authorized to be, irrespective of whether or not the nipple of the mother's breast is covered during or incidental to the breastfeeding.

Included with this letter you will find a 2003 news article where Burger King made corporate policy regarding breastfeeding. Under the new policy, employees are told: "If a customer complains about a mother who is breastfeeding, kindly explain that breast-feeding is permitted in the restaurant and suggest to that customer that he or she relocate to another section of the restaurant." Chick-fil-A might do well to have such a policy or at the very least inform your employees of the laws regarding the protection of a mother's right to breastfeed her baby in public places.

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the US Surgeon General recommend all infants be exclusively breastfeeding for 6 months and breastfeeding be continued for at least one year or as long as the mother and baby mutually desire. The many positive benefits of breastfeeding have been well documented in the medical literature and have been supported by the Department of Health and Human Services' *Blueprint for Action on Breastfeeding* and the United States Breastfeeding Committee's *Breastfeeding in the United States: A National Agenda*.

Every citizen should encourage breastfeeding. The benefits of breastfeeding affect every part of our society. Breastfeeding reduces infant mortality and morbidity more than any other intervention, which translates into healthier children who have a greater chance to grow up as healthier adults. Breastfeeding is the most cost-effective way to decrease disease and save healthcare dollars.

Sincerely,



Patricia Lindsey, IBCLC, RLC

President Florida Breastfeeding Coalition, Inc.

Breastfeeding battle at Chick-fil-A

Updated: Friday, 14 Aug 2009, 10:54 PM EDT
Published : Thursday, 13 Aug 2009, 11:27 PM EDT

- By SHAY HARRIS | FOX 35 News

ORANGE COUNTY, Fla. (WOFL FOX 35) - It was a trip to Chick-fil-A Chylain Krivensky will not forget. While breastfeeding her 6-month-old baby inside the restaurant a manager told her to cover up.

"The manager came up and introduced herself and asked told me she believed in what I was doing but asked me if I could cover up cause there were children around," she said.

Krivensky says it caught her off guard; so, she told the manager no.

"I didn't know what else to say," she explained. "There's a law we have the right to breastfeed anywhere you're not doing anything wrong or sexual you're feeding your child were made to do that."

Krivensky says she felt humiliated.

"They handed me a kitchen towel and my thought was you myself no one would put a towel over their head to eat it's the same thing with a blanket I don't put a blanket over her head to eat, covering somebody up to eat is ludicrous," said Krivensky.

She says even asked the people sitting around her table if they felt uncomfortable with the feeding.

"Is there a problem with you guys and they said oh my gosh no you're feeding her, we had no idea I talked to another manager she said she was there she didn't even know we were nursing that's how little was showing," Krivensky said.

So she left. She went home and told her online friends. They organized what they're calling a nurse-in in quiet protest.

"Just a bunch of moms nursing their children to do a protest to point out there is a law that protects us and were doing nothing but feeding our children," Krivensky said.

A Chick-fil-A manager told FOX 35's Shay Harris that even the manager in question learned a lesson in political correctness in this case. She said they didn't know about the law but they do plan to honor it now. They've agreed to post the international breastfeeding symbol welcoming nursing mothers.

The nurse-in will be held Friday August 14th at noon at the Chick-fil-A at Forsythe and University.

http://www.myfoxorlando.com/dpp/news/orange_news/081309_breastfeeding

Breastfeeding protest at Chick-fil-A

Florida moms stage 'nurse-in' protest

Updated: Friday, 14 Aug 2009, 11:30 PM EDT
Published : Friday, 14 Aug 2009, 11:20 PM EDT

WINTER PARK, Fla. (AP) - The manager of a central Florida fast food restaurant says she made a "doozy" of a mistake when she suggested a breast-feeding mother cover herself earlier this week.

To protest Chick-fil-A manager Virginia Piter's request, a group of breast-feeding mothers staged a "nurse-in" in the Winter Park restaurant on Friday.

Piter said she was sorry for asking Chylain Krivensky to cover herself while she breast-fed her daughter at the restaurant. Krivensky says she was "so embarrassed" by the suggestion.

Michelle LeRiche, who attended Friday's event, says the event would help other Florida mothers know that they had "a right to feed your baby wherever and whenever they need to be fed."

http://www.myfoxorlando.com/dpp/news/local/081409_breastfeeding

SALT LAKE CITY, Nov. 22, 2003

Burger King: Breast-Feeding Fine

New Corporate Policy Allows Women To Nurse Babies In Eating Areas

(AP) Burger King adopted a corporate policy Friday allowing women to breast-feed their babies in restaurants, a day before a threatened “nurse-in” at the fast-food chain's facilities.

The new policy says Burger King welcomes mothers who wish to breast-feed their children.

“We want to be a family friendly place,” said Rob Doughty, vice president for strategic communications for Miami-based Burger King. “We want to be responsive to our customers, and didn't know this was a big issue. Unfortunately in Utah, it went directly to the press, and we didn't have a chance to take a look at it.”

He said 20 states, including Utah, allow breast-feeding in public.

A furor erupted Nov. 8, when a customer at a suburban Salt Lake City franchise complained about a woman breast-feeding her baby. An employee then allegedly asked the nursing mother, Catherine Geary, to either go to the bathroom to breast-feed or leave.

Under the new policy, employees are told: “If a customer complains about a mother who is breast-feeding, kindly explain that breast-feeding is permitted in the restaurant and suggest to that customer that he or she relocate to another section of the restaurant.”

“That's all we asked them for,” Geary said Friday. “At least employees will be aware of how to handle a situation more discreetly.”

Plans for a nurse-in at Burger Kings on Saturday have been circulated in an unsigned e-mail sent to members of La Leche League, an international group that promotes breast-feeding.

Doughty said Burger King's new policy had been in the works and wasn't timed to defuse the threatened protest.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/11/22/national/main585110.shtml>