

Jacksonville Sheriff's Office



# Legal Bulletin



John H. Rutherford, Sheriff

09-9

## **BREASTFEEDING – PERMITTED IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PLACES**

This is a reminder that Florida Law specifically protects the right of a mother to breastfeed her baby in any public or private location where the mother has a right to be. There are no requirements that the mother cover her breast while the breastfeeding is taking place.

Florida Statute 383.015(1) relating to breastfeeding provides:

**383.015 Breastfeeding.** --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, and in furtherance of this goal:

- (1) A mother may breastfeed her baby in any location, public or private, where the mother is otherwise authorized to be, irrespective of whether the nipple of the mother's breast is uncovered during or incidental to the breastfeeding.

## **SERVICE ANIMALS**

It is important to remember that state and federal law provide that individuals and their service animals have a right of access to places that are open to the public. Officers should also recall that a service animal can be any guide dog, signal dog or other animal trained to provide assistance to a person with a disability, and neither the animal nor its owner are required to have in their possession a license or identification of the animal as a service animal. If you encounter a situation involving a complaint or question about service animals you can refer to Article IV of General Order 67 or to JSO Legal Bulletins 08-2 and 06-2, which provide a detailed account of the rights of individuals who utilize service animals and further information on this subject.

## **DWLS HABITUAL OFFENDERS – H.O. STATUS APPLIES UNTIL LICENSE REINSTATED**

When a person is designated by the DHSMV as a Habitual Traffic Offender, DHSMV is required by F.S. 322.27(5) to suspend the person's driver's license for a minimum of 60 months. A Habitual Traffic Offender who is driving a motor vehicle after the expiration

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of the 60 month revocation, but before they have had their driver's license reinstated, is still considered a Habitual Traffic Offender and should be charged with a third degree felony under F.S. 322.34(5).

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