

Florida Breastfeeding Coalition

Breastfeeding —the gold standard.

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October 3, 2009

Gordon A. Bass, Commissioner
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Dept. of Corrections
500 E. Adams
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Dear Mr. Bass:

I'm writing this letter on behalf of Angel Willoughby and her 5-month old son who were visiting an inmate at the Jacksonville Jail on September 23rd. During the visit with the infant's father, the infant became hungry and his mother discreetly breastfed him as he is an exclusively breastfed infant. The Sergeant called Ms. Willoughby out into the hallway and told her she could not breastfeed her child. She attempted to inform him Florida law protects her right to breastfeed her child in any public or private place and was told it was against Jail policy.

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) 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.*

The rights of both the mother and the baby to breastfeed are protected under Florida law.

Sincerely,



Pat Lindsey, IBCLC, RLC
President of Florida Breastfeeding Coalition, Inc.

cc: Sheriff John Rutherford
Chief Tara Wilves