



UNITED STATES BREASTFEEDING COMMITTEE

STATEMENT ON THE SAFE USE OF DONOR HUMAN MILK

The USBC affirms the crucial role of breastfeeding and mother's milk in infant feeding. In situations where a mother's own milk is not available to meet her baby's needs, pasteurized donor human milk is the ideal replacement. The use of donor human milk has saved infant lives and positively impacted the health outcomes of countless premature and sick infants through therapy and prevention of disease.

The Guidelines of the Human Milk Banking Association of North America (HMBANA) and individual state donor milk bank licensing regulations provide protection for human milk recipients as well as donor mothers. The informal sharing or purchasing of human milk presents a potential risk to the recipient as well as placing the donor/seller at risk. The safety of the milk obtained outside the recognized milk banking system is not easily verifiable and the potential for revenue may leave the donor feeling economically pressured.

It is only through the careful practices of HMBANA member milk banks that the consumer can be assured that donor human milk is safely obtained and properly handled. Parents and health care providers seeking donor human milk for an infant or child may contact HMBANA, a member organization of the United States Breastfeeding Committee, at www.hmbana.org for further information.

The USBC is an organization of organizations. Opinions expressed by the USBC are not necessarily the position of all member organizations and opinions expressed by USBC representatives are not necessarily the position of the USBC.

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