

Policy and Procedure for Breastfeeding-Related Requests During the Bar Exam

Although breastfeeding is not a disability and is not to be considered one for the purpose of granting accommodations, the Minnesota Board of Law Examiners (Board) will afford breastfeeding examinees accommodations in a manner consistent with public policy and law (Minn. Stat. SS 145.905) and will publicly post this policy on the Board's website.

The Board does not require that examinees submit requests for breastfeeding accommodations by using the test accommodation forms that accompany the Minnesota Bar application. It is sufficient for examinees to submit a letter to the Director stating the type of accommodations requested. A doctor's statement need not be submitted with the request but may be asked for at a later date.

Individual accommodations may vary depending upon each requestor's circumstances.

The typical types of accommodations that have been and may be granted by the Board include the following:

- Permission to bring to the exam and store at the testing site necessary medical equipment and supplies, including a breast pump, storage supplies and a cooler.
- A clean, quiet, private or semi-private location (not a restroom) with electrical outlets if requested, to express breast milk; a semi-private location is defined as one that is located away from other examinees, except other examinees who are also expressing milk.

Occasionally, additional accommodations may be granted when the request is submitted along with a statement by the examinee's or infant's treating physician describing the specific accommodations requested and how such accommodations are medically necessary for the health of the mother and/or the infant.

All requests are reviewed by the Director who shall make a determination in accordance with this policy and notify the examinee in writing. An examinee who is not satisfied with the accommodation granted may appeal by directing a letter to the President of the Board. The President shall conduct an expedited review of the documentation supporting the request and the decision made by the Director and shall issue a written decision prior to the bar examination for which the examinee has applied.