

Real Life Stories

Taking Baby DNA

The MN Dept. of Health has refused to follow written consent requirements in the MN genetic privacy law for the taking, storage, and use of newborn blood, baby DNA, and newborn genetic testing results, and now seek to pass legislation to eliminate these consent requirements. CCHC has been contacted by parents and others concerned about the Baby DNA bill's repeal of informed written consent and genetic privacy rights (HF1341/SF1478). Here is one short story we've received:

Grandmother: My daughter had a beautiful baby girl this last Saturday at [a Minneapolis hospital]. But, she told me she was hounded almost constantly by nurses and pediatricians in the hospital to have the PKU test done on her baby.

She did bring with her the signed form and repeatedly told them she did not want it done. Thank God, she managed to get out of that hospital without them doing the test on her, but she did say they made it very uncomfortable for her and her husband by the constant hounding.

One pediatrician also kept telling her that her baby could die if she did not have them do this test. He told her she could deal with the Health Department later. She had the baby on Saturday and left on Monday.

I just wanted to let you know that the situation in this hospital and probably others in Minnesota borders on harassment. I wish there is something that be done about all of this. I feel bad for all the uninformed on this position, but at least they didn't do it to my grandchild. – Kansas