

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 that would repeal informed written consent and genetic privacy rights for newborn citizens (HF1341/SF1478). Here are two short stories we've received:

Grandmother: My daughter signed a paper stating she did not want the PKU test done because of the DNA stealing (I was there when she did that). The nurse huffed out of the room saying that stuff doesn't happen. After my grandchild was born, a different nurse took the baby. My daughter her my granddaughter start crying. She found out her heel was getting pricked. My daughter became furious stating that she signed off on not getting the test. The nurse said there was nothing in her chart saying that. My daughter demanded the blood sample back. The nurse said they'd destroy it, but my daughter demanded it back and got it. – Saint Paul, MN

Parent: We knew we could decline but when we got to the hospital they'd never heard of such a thing. Once they figured out that we could they didn't have the forms. We were on our way out of the hospital, and the whole thing was frustrating. Everyone was exhausted. I'd had gestational diabetes, so they'd already pricked my baby's heel for blood sugar. They really made us feel guilty for causing all this trouble but we declined anyway. I'm glad we did. We got the form online to have her blood destroyed, and had the testing at our pediatrician's office. That was 9 months ago, but we haven't heard yet that they destroyed it. – Minneapolis, MN