

## Appendix (2)

### The Law for the Promotion of Breastfeeding and Protection of Mothers During the Nursing Period

Article 1- <sup>The</sup> Import of any type of infant formula and supplementary foods shall be carried out in conformity with the "State Export & Import Regulation Act" and infant formula shall be solely distributed through the pharmacies.\*

Note 1- The "Ministry of Health and Medical Education" shall prepare and announce the regulations regarding importation of the allowable types and the required quantities of breastmilk substitutes (infant formula and supplementary foods). The Ministry of Commerce shall be required to comply with the said regulations.

Note 2- Prescribed medical exigencies as well as the manner of supply and sale in the consumer market and direct and indirect supply of various types of infant formula and breastmilk substitutes in the Primary Health Care Network of the country, shall be in accordance with the rules set forth and announced by the Ministry of Health and Medical Education.

Article 2- Publication of any pamphlet, book, brochure or the like on feeding of infants with infant formula and various breastmilk substitutes shall in every case be subject to compliance with rules and criteria which will be set forth by the "Ministry of Health and Medical Education".

Article 3- Maternity leave for nursing mothers up to three children shall be four months in government or non-government sectors.

Note 1- Nursing mothers may, after returning to work and if they continue to breast-feed their child, have one hour leave per day (without being deducted from their annual leave) up to the time the child is 20 months old.

Note 2- Mothers shall have job security following their maternity leave and during the nursing period.

Article 4- Government organizations and subsidiaries including the organizations whose falling under the coverage of the Law, requires reference to their names, as well as other organizations who do not fall under the coverage of the Labor Act due to special regulations, shall provide adequate facilities for breastfeeding, adjacent to the working place of women employees.

**Article 5-** For the purpose of policy-making, supervision and deciding the manner of supervising the implementation of this Law, a committee shall be formed in the "Ministry of Health and Medical Education" under the title of "The Committee for Policy-Making and Supervision of Breastfeeding Promotion". Members of the said committee who shall be appointed through administrative instructions by the Minister of Health and Medical Education are:

- a) Deputy for Public Health Affairs to the Ministry of Health and Medical Education.
- b) Deputy for Drugs and Medical Affairs to the Ministry of Health and Medical Education.
- c) Head of the Medical Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- d) Two members of the National Committee for Promotion of Breastfeeding.
- e) One obstetrician and gynecologist
- f) One pediatrician
- g) One nutrition expert
- h) One Holy man acquainted with principles of Islam who has completed at least six years of courses outside "Religious Jurisprudence and Principles".
- j) One individual as representative of the Women's Socio-Cultural Assembly of the High Council of Cultural Revolution.

Services rendered by the "Committee for Policy-Making and Supervision of Breastfeeding Promotion shall be honorary.

**Article 6-** The Minister of Health and Medical Education, may act to establish "Committees for the Promotion of Breastfeeding and Protection of Mothers During the Nursing Period" in various provinces. Committees subject of this Article shall report the results of their activities to the "Committee for Policy-Making and Supervision of Breastfeeding Promotion" in the Ministry of Health and Medical Education.

**Article 7-** Functions and powers of the committees subject of the present Law, shall be within the scope of their jurisdiction and the conditions of implementing the decisions. And the manner of election as well as composition of provincial committees shall be under the by-law which will be approved by the Council of Ministers upon proposal by the "Minister of Health and Medical Education". However, the decisions adopted by the committees subject of Articles 5 and 6 hereof may, if approved by the Minister of Health and Medical Education or and authorized authority, be officially communicated on the part thereof.

**Article 8-** Members of the committees subject of this Law and the officials of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, are authorized to inspect the

centers rendering health and medical services, pharmacies and other institutions which are active in connection with production and distribution of breastmilk substitutes. Such institutions are bound to cooperate.

**Article 9-** Those who violate the execution of this Law, shall, with respect to the degree and repeated number of violations, be sentenced by the competent courts to punishments such as the display of "violator of Law" posters at the pharmacy entrance, temporary closure, temporary cutting of certain urban services or cash penalties up to Rials 100,000,000 , or in case of repetition of violation, shall be sentenced to maximum punishment plus cash penalty.

**Article 10-** The code of practice of this Law will be ratified by the Council of Ministers within a period of two months under a proposal by the "Ministry of Health and Medical Education".

**Article 11-** All Laws contradicting the present Law shall be repealed.

Above Law, including eleven Articles and four Notes was ratified by the open session of the Islamic Republic of Iran Consultative Assembly on Tuesday 22nd Azar 1374 (13th Dec. 1995) and was approved by the Council of Guardians on 27.12.1374 (17.3.1996)

*Signed: Ali Akbar Nategh Noori  
Speaker of the Islamic  
Consultative Assembly*