

Storage and Use of Newborn Screening Blood Spots

Newborn screening blood spots that remain after testing have important uses for both the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and public health research.

What happens to the blood spot card after testing?

DSHS securely stores the blood spot cards for up to two years per Texas law (Health & Safety Code Sec. 33.018(b)-(c)) and can use them during that time.

Uses include:

- Ensuring DSHS newborn screen tests, equipment, and supplies are working.
- Developing new tests for newborn screening.
- Studying diseases that affect public health as allowed by law.

Please read the following statements. What do you want DSHS to do with your baby's blood spot cards after newborn screen testing is complete?

- **If you check the 'OK' box AND sign this form:**
 - DSHS will keep your baby's blood spot cards safe and secure for up to 25 years.
 - Researchers can use the blood spot cards to study public health problems like cancer, birth defects, or other diseases. The research may take place outside of DSHS.
 - You can change your mind at any time. Call DSHS 1(888) 963-7111, ext. 7333 for details.
- **If you check the 'NO' box OR do not sign OR do not fill out OR do not return this form:**
 - Texas law still requires the newborn screening sample to be collected and tested.
 - DSHS will keep your baby's blood spot cards safe and secure and destroy them within two years.
 - DSHS will not allow the use of the blood spot cards for public health research outside of DSHS.

Can DSHS release information about me or my child without permission?

If you choose any option on this form, we cannot release any information that identifies you or your child to anyone outside of DSHS without your written permission. There are a few exceptions, as provided by law.

I have already sent this storage and use form. Do I need to send it again?

NO. One form applies to all your baby's newborn screening blood spot cards. DSHS will act upon the latest valid Storage and Use of Newborn Screening Blood Spot Form received.

More Information: Call 1(888) 963-7111, ext. 7333 or visit the website: www.dshs.texas.gov/lab/nbsFAQ

Parent: Please read this form. Select an option. Sign and Return.

1. **FILL OUT** the form below.

Specimen Form Serial Number (if available): _____ Baby's Date of Birth _____

Baby's First and Last Name: _____

Mother's First and Last Name: _____

Parent Phone Number: _____

2. **CHECK** one box only and **SIGN** below.

OK

By choosing 'OK', DSHS **can** keep my baby's blood spot cards after newborn screen testing is complete. Public health researchers outside of DSHS can use the de-identified blood spots.

NO

By choosing 'NO', I do not want my baby's blood spot cards to be used for any research outside of DSHS. I understand the blood spot cards will be destroyed within two years.

(Parent Signature)

(Date)

3. **RETURN** this form to hospital or doctor's office staff. They will send it with the blood spot cards. Or you may **MAIL** it to:

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

Newborn Screening Laboratory, MC 1947

P.O. Box 149341

Austin, Texas 78714-9341