



**PROVIDER: Give this form to the parent, managing conservator, or legal guardian for review.**

## Use and Storage of Newborn Screening Blood Spot Cards

### **PARENT/MANAGING CONSERVATOR/LEGAL GUARDIAN – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:**

**What is newborn screening?** The Texas Newborn Screening Program checks Texas babies for a list of serious medical conditions. These conditions can cause death or severe disability. Finding a medical problem during newborn screening can help prevent problems and may save your baby’s life.

**How does your baby get screened?** A small amount of your baby’s blood is placed on a special blood spot card. The blood spot card is sent to the state laboratory and tested.

**What happens after the blood is tested?** After testing, blood spot cards are safely stored by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) because they still have important public health uses. The main uses are: 1) quality assurance/quality control, such as making sure that testing equipment continues to produce accurate newborn screening test results for Texas babies; and 2) medical research [see *Texas Health and Safety Code Sec. 33.017(b)-(c)* for a complete list of uses allowed by law]. Specific information that could identify your child and connect him/her to a particular blood spot card is not allowed outside of DSHS without permission from the child’s parent, managing conservator, or legal guardian unless otherwise provided by law.

You can have your baby’s blood sample destroyed if you do not want it to be used after the newborn screening tests are completed. If you are okay with the sample being stored and used, as described above, then there are no further steps for you to take.

If you want your baby’s blood sample to be destroyed, YOU must fill out ALL of the information on this form and send it back to DSHS at the address given below (DSHS will also accept the form from your healthcare provider, once you have completed and signed the form). If the newborn screening blood spot card is destroyed, the blood sample will not be available for any future needs you may have for the sample.

## Directive to Destroy Newborn Screening Blood Spot Card Following Testing

**To request to have your child’s blood spot(s) destroyed:**

- Fill out the form below ONLY if you want your baby’s blood sample destroyed after newborn testing is complete**
- Fill out the entire attached form. Do not leave any fields blank.
- Mail original to: Texas Department of State Health Services  
Newborn Screening Laboratory, MC 1947  
PO Box 149347  
Austin, Texas 78714-9347
- For additional information, call 1(888) 963-7111 ext. 7333 or visit web site: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lab/newbornscreening.shtm>**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (please print full name) hereby certify that I am the (check one)  parent,  managing conservator, or  legal guardian of the child named below, and I further certify that there is no court order in effect which restricts my legal ability to make this request.

As parent, managing conservator, or legal guardian, I am telling DSHS to destroy my child’s blood spot card(s) after the newborn screen testing is finished.

Full Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_

Child’s Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name of Mother: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Telephone number, e-mail address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Mailing address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City, State, Zip)

Check here  to instruct DSHS to destroy NBS specimens from the child named above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

I hereby certify under penalty of law that all the information I have provided herein is true and accurate. I understand that providing false information on this form constitutes a crime in Texas under Penal Code Sec. 37.10.