



## Division of Newborn Screening and Genetics Destruction of the Dried Blood Spot Filter Paper

**What is newborn screening?** Every baby born in Pennsylvania is required to have a Dried Blood Spot (DBS) screening unless it is against religious beliefs or practices. This screening helps detect harmful disorders that may cause serious medical conditions. These conditions can cause death or severe disability.

**How does your baby get screened?** A few drops of blood from your baby’s heel are put on a DBS filter paper. That filter paper is then sent to the state contracted laboratory to be tested for harmful disorders that you cannot see when your baby is born.

**What happens after the blood is tested?** DBS filter papers are kept by the state contracted laboratory for one year. The lab will perform quality control testing before destruction. DBS filter papers are also available for additional testing, forensic purposes or release with parent/guardian consent. DBS filter papers are never permitted to be used for research unless a parent/guardian consents to release.

**Can a DBS filter paper be destroyed before one year?** Destruction of a DBS filter paper can occur any time after screening, even before the child turns 1, if requested by the parent/guardian.

### Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment of Directive to Destroy DBS Filter Paper(s):

**I acknowledge that I have read this document, or it has been read to me. I understand that my signature means that I am requesting the Pennsylvania Newborn Screening Program destroy the DBS filter paper(s) listed below. I understand that the DBS filter paper will not be available for any future needs after destruction.**

Parent/Guardian Signature		Printed Name	
Relationship to Baby	Date	Telephone Number	
Name of Baby (First, Middle, Last)			Date of Birth
Parent/Guardian Mailing Address	City	State	ZIP Code
Birth Facility			
DBS Filter Paper Number(s)			

Please return the completed form by fax to 717-724-6995 or mail to:  
Pennsylvania Department of Health  
Division of Newborn Screening and Genetics, 7th Floor East  
625 Forster Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120