

**Infant Mortality Awareness [Month, Week, Day]
Sample Proclamation**



WHEREAS, infant mortality refers to the death of a baby less than one year of age and is an important indicator of the health of a community or state; and

WHEREAS, although there has been improvement, Oklahoma’s infant mortality rate has consistently remained above the national average for more than two decades; and

WHEREAS, each year in Oklahoma, approximately 350-400 babies die before their first birthday; and

WHEREAS, preventing infant mortality is associated with a variety of factors, such as being healthy before and between pregnancies, having a full-term pregnancy (about 40 weeks), breastfeeding, avoiding smoking and exposing baby to smoke, recognizing postpartum depression, placing baby on his or her back to sleep, and keeping your cool when baby cries; and

WHEREAS, premature birth (less than 37 completed weeks of pregnancy) remains a leading cause of infant mortality and morbidity in Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, obesity in women is a risk factor for premature birth and may contribute to diabetes and high blood pressure before and during pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, a statewide public education initiative, *Preparing for a Lifetime, It’s Everyone’s Responsibility*, aims to reduce infant mortality, adverse birth outcomes, and racial disparities for such outcomes in Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, the month of September has been designated Infant Mortality Awareness Month to raise public awareness and offer education about reducing infant mortality; and

WHEREAS, the City of [your city name here] is committed to improving the health and well-being of infants by raising awareness about the importance of infant mortality.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, [insert name of Mayor or other appropriate elected official], [insert title of official], do hereby proclaim [September 2014] as “**INFANT MORTALITY AWARENESS MONTH**” in [insert name of city], and do urge all citizens to take steps in providing a healthy start to life for every newborn child.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set the Great Seal of the City of [insert name of city] to be affixed [date].