

All eligible employees of this district may take leave as provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). The FMLA entitles eligible employees to take up to twelve (12) weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave during a twelve-month (12-month) period for specified family and medical reasons.

DEFINITIONS

“Child” includes biological, adopted, or foster child, stepchild, legal ward, or a child of a person standing *in loco parentis* (in place of parent). The child must be either under 18 years of age or, if over 18, incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability, or be a covered servicemember.

“Continued treatment” includes:

1. Any consecutive three (3)-day period of incapacity that involves: (a) at least two (2) visits to a health care provider, or (b) a regimen of continued treatment under a health care provider’s supervision;
2. Any period of incapacity due to pregnancy (including severe morning sickness), even if no treatment is obtained for prenatal care;
3. Any period of incapacity due to a chronic medical condition, such as asthma, diabetes, or epilepsy, even if no treatment is obtained;
4. Any period of absence to receive multiple treatments for restorative surgery or a serious illness such as cancer, severe arthritis, or kidney disease; or
5. Any permanent or long-term incapacity (e.g., Alzheimer’s or severe stroke), even if no treatment is being provided.

“Covered active duty” means:

1. For members of the regular Armed Forces, duty during deployment of the member with the Armed Forces to a foreign country; or
2. For members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces (members of the National Guard and Reserves), duty during deployment of the member with the Armed Forces to a foreign country under a call or order to active duty in support of a contingency operation.

“Covered service-member” means either:

1. A current member of the Armed Forces (including a member of the National Guard or Reserves) who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, is in outpatient status, or is on the temporary disability retired list, for a serious injury or illness.

2. A veteran of the Armed Forces (including the National Guard or Reserves) discharged within the five-year period before the family member first takes military caregiver leave to care for the veteran and who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy for a qualifying serious injury or illness. A veteran who was dishonorably discharged does not meet the FMLA definition of a covered servicemember.

“In loco parentis” means a person who provides day-to-day care or financial support for a child. Employees with no biological or legal relationship to a child can stand in loco parentis to that child, and are entitled to FMLA leave; e.g., an uncle who cares for his sister’s children while she serves on active military duty.

“Next of kin” is the nearest blood relative, other than the current service-member’s spouse, parent, son, or daughter, in the following order of priority: (1) a blood relative who has been designated in writing by the service-member as the next of kin for FMLA purposes, (2) a blood relative who has been granted legal custody of the service-member, (3) brothers and sisters, (4) grandparents, (5) aunts and uncles, and (6) first cousins.

“Parent” includes a biological parent (not parent-in-law) or someone who stood *in loco parentis* when the employee was a child.

“Spouse” is a husband or wife, including a common-law or same-sex husband or wife, but does not include a “significant other” or “domestic partner.”

“Serious health condition” is a condition that involves either an overnight stay in a medical care facility or “continued treatment” by a health care provider for a condition that either prevents the employee from performing the functions of the employee’s job.

“Teacher (or instructional employee)”, for the purposes of this policy, means an employee employed principally in an instructional capacity by the district whose primary function is to teach and instruct students in a class, a small group, or an individual setting, and includes athletic coaches, driving instructors, and special education assistants such as signers for the hearing impaired. The term does not include teacher assistants or aides who do not have as their principal function actually teaching or instructing, nor auxiliary personnel such as counselors, psychologists, curriculum specialists, cafeteria workers, maintenance workers, bus drivers, or other primarily non-instructional employees.

ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEE

An eligible employee is defined as an individual who:

1. Has been employed by the district for at least twelve (12) months (need not be consecutive months of employment); and
2. Has been employed for at least one thousand two hundred fifty (1,250) hours of service during the twelve-month (12-month) period immediately preceding the commencement

of the leave*; and

3. Is employed at a worksite where fifty (50) or more employees are employed by the district within seventy-five (75) miles of the worksite.

Full-time teachers are presumed to be eligible for FMLA leave, unless the district can clearly demonstrate that the teacher did not work 1,250 hours during the previous twelve (12) months.

For the purpose of determining continuing eligibility for FMLA, this district will calculate the “twelve-month (12-month) period immediately preceding the commencement of the leave” as the 12-month period measured forward from the date an employee first takes FMLA leave.

LEAVE ENTITLEMENT

Eligible employees are entitled to up to twelve (12) workweeks of unpaid, job-protected leave in a twelve-month (12-month) period for one (1) or more of the following reasons:

1. The birth of a child and to care for the newborn child within one (1) year of birth;
2. The placement with the employee of a child for adoption or foster care and to care for the newly placed child within one (1) year of placement*;
3. To provide care for the employee’s spouse, child, or parent, who has a serious health condition; or
4. For a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the employee’s job.
5. For any qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the employee’s spouse, son, daughter, or parent is a military member on covered active duty or has been notified of an impending call or order to covered active duty.

If the district employs both spouses to whom this provision applies, the husband and wife are limited to a total of twelve (12) workweeks during the twelve-month (12-month) period, which can be divided any way they choose and can be overlapping. Both parents are eligible to take their remaining weeks of FMLA leave for another FMLA-qualifying purpose, including but not limited to, a serious health condition of the child, or to recover from a C-section or other birth complications.

MILITARY CAREGIVER LEAVE

An eligible employee who is the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of a covered servicemember is entitled to a total of twenty-six (26) workweeks of leave during a twelve-month (12-month) period to care for the servicemember who is recovering from a serious illness or injury sustained in or aggravated by service in the line of duty while on active duty in the

Armed Forces. The servicemember must either be currently in the Armed Forces and unable to perform regular duties, or was in the Armed Forces and was discharged under other than dishonorable conditions within five (5) years of receiving the medical treatment, recuperation or therapy prompting the employee's leave request. Such leave shall only be available during a single twelve-month (12-month) period.

During the single twelve-month (12-month) period, an eligible employee shall be entitled to a combined total of twenty-six (26) workweeks of leave, including the twelve (12) weeks for a “qualified exigency.” However, there is no limitation on the availability of leave during any other twelve-month (12-month) period. If the district employs both spouses to whom this section applies, the husband and wife are limited to a total of twenty-six (26) workweeks during the twelve-month (12-month) period for all types of FMLA leave.

REQUESTING LEAVE

Employees must comply with the district’s usual and customary requirements for requesting leave and provide enough information for the district to reasonably determine whether the FMLA may apply to the leave request. Employees generally must request leave thirty (30) days in advance when the need for leave is foreseeable. When the need for leave is foreseeable less than thirty (30) days in advance or is unforeseeable, employees must provide notice as soon as possible and practicable under the circumstances.

When an employee seeks leave for a FMLA-qualifying reason for the first time, the employee need not expressly assert FMLA rights or even mention the FMLA. If an employee later requests additional leave for the same qualifying condition, the employee must specifically reference either the qualifying reason for leave or the need for FMLA leave.

USE OF ACCRUED PAID LEAVE

Once it has been determined that the leave is for an FMLA-qualifying reason, any accrued paid leave, such as sick or vacation leave, used by an employee for absences which qualify for FMLA coverage will be counted as FMLA leave, unless the district determines otherwise.

INTERMITTENT OR REDUCED LEAVE SCHEDULE

The district will comply with the mandates of FMLA, including any special rules which may apply regarding the taking of intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule, or leave near the end of an academic term by instructional employees.

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

The district will continue group health insurance coverage for an employee on FMLA leave under the same terms and conditions as if the employee had not taken leave and will provide any necessary notice of termination of such insurance coverage due to the employee’s failure to pay his/her portion of the premium or the employee’s request for termination of coverage. Such notice will be provided at least fifteen (15) days prior to the termination of coverage.

CERTIFICATION

When an employee requests FMLA leave due to his or her own serious health condition or a covered family member’s serious health condition the district may require certification in support of the leave from a health care provider. The district may also require periodic recertification of a serious health condition.

JOB RESTORATION

Upon return from FMLA leave, the employee will be restored to his or her original job or to an equivalent job with equivalent pay, benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment. An employee’s use of FMLA leave will not be counted against the employee under a “no-fault” attendance policy.

NOTICE

This district will post a notice approved by the Secretary of Labor explaining the rights and responsibilities under the FMLA at the district offices.



LEGAL REFERENCE:

Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993
29 USC 2654
29 CFR 825
Idaho Code Section 33-1216 – Sick and Other Leave

ADOPTED: March 18, 2015

AMENDED:

ATTACHMENTS:

Employee Rights and Responsibilities under the Family and Medical Leave Act

EMPLOYEE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

Basic Leave Entitlement

FMLA requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to eligible employees for the following reasons:

- for incapacity due to pregnancy, prenatal medical care or child birth;
- to care for the employee's child after birth, or placement for adoption or foster care;
- to care for the employee's spouse, son, daughter or parent, who has a serious health condition; or
- for a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the employee's job.

Military Family Leave Entitlements

Eligible employees whose spouse, son, daughter or parent is on covered active duty or call to covered active duty status may use their 12-week leave entitlement to address certain qualifying exigencies. Qualifying exigencies may include attending certain military events, arranging for alternative childcare, addressing certain financial and legal arrangements, attending certain counseling sessions, and attending post-deployment reintegration briefings.

FMLA also includes a special leave entitlement that permits eligible employees to take up to 26 weeks of leave to care for a covered servicemember during a single 12-month period. A covered servicemember is: (1) a current member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation or therapy, is otherwise in outpatient status, or is otherwise on the temporary disability retired list, for a serious injury or illness*; or (2) a veteran who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable at any time during the five-year period prior to the first date the eligible employee takes FMLA leave to care for the covered veteran, and who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy for a serious injury or illness.*

***The FMLA definitions of "serious injury or illness" for current servicemembers and veterans are distinct from the FMLA definition of "serious health condition".**

Benefits and Protections

During FMLA leave, the employer must maintain the employee's health coverage under any "group health plan" on the same terms as if the employee had continued to work. Upon return from FMLA leave, most employees must be restored to their original or equivalent positions with equivalent pay, benefits, and other employment terms.

Use of FMLA leave cannot result in the loss of any employment benefit that accrued prior to the start of an employee's leave.

Eligibility Requirements

Employees are eligible if they have worked for a covered employer for at least 12 months, have 1,250 hours of service in the previous 12 months*, and if at least 50 employees are employed by the employer within 75 miles.

***Special hours of service eligibility requirements apply to airline flight crew employees.**

Definition of Serious Health Condition

A serious health condition is an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves either an overnight stay in a medical care facility, or continuing treatment by a health care provider for a condition that either prevents the employee from performing the functions of the employee's job, or prevents the qualified family member from participating in school or other daily activities.

Subject to certain conditions, the continuing treatment requirement may be met by a period of incapacity of more than 3 consecutive calendar days combined with at least two visits to a health care provider or one visit and

a regimen of continuing treatment, or incapacity due to pregnancy, or incapacity due to a chronic condition. Other conditions may meet the definition of continuing treatment.

Use of Leave

An employee does not need to use this leave entitlement in one block. Leave can be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule when medically necessary. Employees must make reasonable efforts to schedule leave for planned medical treatment so as not to unduly disrupt the employer's operations. Leave due to qualifying exigencies may also be taken on an intermittent basis.

Substitution of Paid Leave for Unpaid Leave

Employees may choose or employers may require use of accrued paid leave while taking FMLA leave. In order to use paid leave for FMLA leave, employees must comply with the employer's normal paid leave policies.

Employee Responsibilities

Employees must provide 30 days advance notice of the need to take FMLA leave when the need is foreseeable. When 30 days notice is not possible, the employee must provide notice as soon as practicable and generally must comply with an employer's normal call-in procedures.

Employees must provide sufficient information for the employer to determine if the leave may qualify for FMLA protection and the anticipated timing and duration of the leave. Sufficient information may include that the employee is unable to perform job functions, the family member is unable to perform daily activities, the need for hospitalization or continuing treatment by a health care provider, or circumstances supporting the need for military family leave. Employees also must inform the employer if the requested leave is for a reason for which FMLA leave was previously taken or certified. Employees also may be required to provide a certification and periodic recertification supporting the need for leave.

Employer Responsibilities

Covered employers must inform employees requesting leave whether they are eligible under FMLA. If they are, the notice must specify any additional information required as well as the employees' rights and responsibilities. If they are not eligible, the employer must provide a reason for the ineligibility.

Covered employers must inform employees if leave will be designated as FMLA-protected and the amount of leave counted against the employee's leave entitlement. If the employer determines that the leave is not FMLA-protected, the employer must notify the employee.

Unlawful Acts by Employers

FMLA makes it unlawful for any employer to:

- interfere with, restrain, or deny the exercise of any right provided under FMLA; and
- discharge or discriminate against any person for opposing any practice made unlawful by FMLA or for involvement in any proceeding under or relating to FMLA.

Enforcement

An employee may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Labor or may bring a private lawsuit against an employer.

FMLA does not affect any Federal or State law prohibiting discrimination, or supersede any State or local law or collective bargaining agreement which provides greater family or medical leave rights.

FMLA section 109 (29 U.S.C. § 2619) requires FMLA covered employers to post the text of this notice. Regulation 29 C.F.R. § 825.300(a) may require additional disclosures.



For additional information:
1-866-4US-WAGE (1-866-487-9243) TTY: 1-877-889-5627
WWW.WAGEHOUR.DOL.GOV

U.S. Department of Labor | Wage and Hour Division



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