

FMLA Sample Policy - 50 or More Employees

The federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) provides up to 12 workweeks of unpaid family/medical leave within a 12-month period, under the following conditions:

- You have been employed with the Company for a total of at least 12 months prior to the commencement of leave. The 12 months of employment must have accumulated within the previous seven years (certain exceptions apply);
- You have worked at least 1,250 hours during the previous 12-month period before the need for leave*; and
- You are employed at a worksite where there are 50 or more employees within a 75-mile radius.

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

Leave may be taken for one or more of the following reasons:

- Your serious health condition that makes you unable to perform your job;
- To care for your family member who has a serious health condition. For purposes of FMLA leave, a "family member" includes your:
 - Spouse.
 - Parent.
 - Child under the age of 18, or child over the age of 18 and incapable of self-care due to mental or physical disability at the time FMLA leave is to begin.
- The birth of your child, or placement of a child with you for adoption or foster care;
- Because of a qualifying exigency related to covered active duty or a call to covered active duty of your spouse, child or parent in the Armed Forces of the United States, or to care for a covered servicemember. (See *Military Family Leave Entitlements* below.); and
- Incapacity due to pregnancy, prenatal medical care or child birth.

Depending on your reason for leave, you may also be eligible for California Family Rights Act (CFRA) leave, in which case both your FMLA leave and CFRA leave will run concurrently. (See the *CFRA Leave* policy for additional information and CFRA leave eligibility.)

For additional information about eligibility for FMLA and how it may or may not interact with CFRA leave, contact [e.g., HR manager, office manager].

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 for 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.
- Eligible employees may also take a special leave entitlement of up to 26 weeks of leave during a single 12-month period to care for a covered servicemember. A covered servicemember is either:
 - 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
 - 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 different from the FMLA definition of "serious health condition."

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Calculating the 12-Month Period

For purposes of calculating the 12-month period during which 12 weeks of family and medical leave or qualifying exigency leaves may be taken under FMLA, [Company Name] uses [e.g., rolling year, calendar year].

Under most circumstances, leave under federal and state law will run at the same time and an eligible employee will be entitled to a total of 12 weeks of family and medical leave in the designated 12-month period.

For leave to care for a covered servicemember, the 12-month period begins on the first day of the leave, regardless of how the 12-month period is calculated for other leaves. Leave to care for a covered servicemember is for a maximum of 26 workweeks during a 12-month period.

Pregnancy, Childbirth or Related Conditions and Child Bonding

Time off because of pregnancy disability, childbirth or related medical condition counts as FMLA leave, but not for CFRA leave. Employees who take time off for pregnancy disability and who are eligible for FMLA will be placed on FMLA that runs at the same time as their pregnancy disability leave (PDL).

Once the pregnant employee is no longer disabled, or once the employee has given birth and exhausted PDL, the employee may apply for leave under the CFRA, for purposes of child bonding.

Under the FMLA, leave taken for the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of a child must be taken as a continuous block of leave unless the Company grants intermittent leave. If, however, your child bonding leave is under both FMLA and CFRA (running concurrently), such leave does not have to be taken in one continuous period of time: CFRA leave taken for the birth or placement of a child will be granted in minimum amounts of two weeks. However, the Company will grant a request for a CFRA leave (for birth/placement of a child) of less than two weeks' duration on any two occasions. The Company may also grant additional requests for leave lasting less than two weeks at its discretion. Any leave taken (under either FMLA or CFRA) must be concluded within one year of the birth or placement of the child with the employee.

Leave Procedures

The following procedures shall apply to FMLA leave:

- Please contact [e.g., HR manager, office manager] as soon as you realize the need for family/medical leave. If the leave is based on the expected birth, placement for adoption or foster care, or planned medical treatment for your serious health condition or that of a family member, you must notify the Company at least 30 days before leave is to begin. You must consult with your supervisor regarding scheduling of any planned medical treatment or supervision in order to minimize disruption to the operations of the Company. Any such scheduling is subject to the approval of your health care provider or the health care provider of your child, parent, or spouse.
- If you cannot provide 30 days' notice, the Company must be informed as soon as is practical.
- If the FMLA request is made because of your own serious health condition, the Company may require, at its expense, a second opinion from a health care provider that the Company chooses. The health care provider designated to give a second opinion will not be one who is employed on a regular basis by the Company.
- If the second opinion differs from the first opinion, the Company may require you, at the Company's expense, to obtain the opinion of a third health care provider designated or approved jointly by you and the employer. The opinion of the third health care provider shall be considered final and binding on you and the Company.

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Certification

[Company Name] requires you to provide certification. You will have 15 calendar days from the Company's request for certification to provide it to the Company, unless it is not practical to do so. The Company may require recertification from the health care provider if you request additional leave upon expiration of the time period in the original certification. *(For example, if you need two weeks of family and medical leave, but following the two weeks you need intermittent leave, a new medical certification will be requested and required.)* If you do not provide medical certification in a timely manner to substantiate the need for family and medical leave, the Company may delay approval of the leave, or continuation thereof, until certification is received. If certification is never received, the leave may not be considered FMLA leave.

If the leave is needed to care for a sick family member, you must provide a certification from the health care provider stating:

- Date of commencement of the serious health condition;
- Probable duration of the condition;
- Estimated amount of time for care by the health care provider; and
- Confirmation that the serious health condition warrants your participation.

Under the FMLA, when both parents are employed by the Company, and request simultaneous leave for the birth or placement for adoption or foster care of a child, the Company will not grant more than a total of 12 workweeks of FMLA leave for this reason. However, if child bonding leave is under both FMLA and CFRA (running concurrently), each parent employed by the Company is entitled to 12 workweeks of leave for this reason.

If your serious health condition is the reason for leave, you must provide a certification from the health care provider stating:

- Date of commencement of the serious health condition;
- Probable duration of the condition; and
- Your inability to work at all or to perform any one or more of the essential functions of your position because of the serious health condition.

If you are on leave because of your own serious health condition, the Company will also require a medical release to return to work form or certification from your health care provider that you are able to resume work.

Failure to provide a release to return to work from your health care provider may result in denial of reinstatement until the certificate is obtained.

Leave Related to Military Service

A leave taken due to a "qualifying exigency" related to military service must be supported by a certification of its necessity. A leave taken due to the need to care for a servicemember must be supported by a certification by the servicemember's health care provider or other certification allowed by law. Special certification requirements apply to leaves related to military service.

Health and Benefit Plans

If you are taking FMLA leave, you will be allowed to continue participating in any health and welfare benefit plans in which you were enrolled in before the first day of the leave (for a maximum of 12 workweeks, or 26 workweeks if the leave is to care for a covered servicemember) at the level and under the conditions of coverage as if you had continued in employment for the duration of such leave. The Company will continue to make the same premium contribution as if you had continued working. The continued participation in health benefits begins on the date leave first begins. In some instances, the Company may recover premiums paid to maintain health coverage if you fail to return to work following FMLA leave.

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Employees on pregnancy disability leave will be allowed to continue to participate in group health coverage for up to a maximum of four months of pregnancy disability leave (if such insurance was provided before the leave was taken) on the same terms as if you had continued to work. The right to continued group health coverage during pregnancy disability leave is a separate and distinct entitlement from the CFRA entitlement.

Option: Payment is due when it would be made by payroll deduction.

Option: Payment is due on the same schedule as payments that are made under COBRA [e.g, at the end of each month].

Option: Payment is to be prepaid pursuant to a cafeteria plan, under which employees choose coverage that best suits them. For more information, contact [e.g., HR manager, benefits manager].

Option: Payment is to be made [List your existing rules for payment by employees for leave without pay].

Substitution of Paid Leave

Generally, FMLA leave is unpaid. The Company may require, or you may choose, to use accrued paid leave while taking FMLA leave. In order to use paid leave for FMLA leave, you must comply with the Company's normal paid leave policies. For more information on those specific circumstances requiring or allowing the substitution of paid leave contact [e.g., HR manager, benefits manager].

Reinstatement

Under most circumstances, upon return from FMLA leave, you will be reinstated to your original job or to an equivalent job with equivalent pay, benefits, and other employment terms and conditions. However, an employee has no greater right to reinstatement than if the employee had been continuously employed rather than on leave. For example, if an employee on FMLA leave would have been laid off had the employee not gone on leave, or if the employee's job is eliminated during the leave and no equivalent or comparable job is available, then the employee would not be entitled to reinstatement. In addition, an employee's use of FMLA leave will not result in the loss of any employment benefit that the employee earned before using FMLA leave.

Reinstatement after FMLA leave may be denied to certain salaried "key" employees under the following conditions (however, this exception will not apply if the FMLA leave runs concurrently with CFRA leave):

- An employee requesting reinstatement was among the highest-paid 10 percent of salaried employees employed within 75 miles of the worksite at which the employee worked at the time of the leave request;
- The refusal to reinstate is necessary because reinstatement would cause substantial and grievous economic injury to the Company's operations;
- The employee is notified of the Company's intent to refuse reinstatement at the time the Company determines the refusal is necessary; and
- If leave has already begun, the Company gives the employee a reasonable opportunity to return to work following the notice described previously.

Time Accrual

Please contact [e.g., HR manager, office manager] with any questions regarding accrual of other Company provided paid leave benefits (such as vacation, PTO or sick leave) during unpaid FMLA leave.

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Carryover

Leave granted under any of the reasons provided by FMLA and/or CFRA will be counted as family/medical leave and will be considered as part of the 12-workweek entitlement (26-workweek entitlement if leave is to care for a servicemember) in any 12-month period. No carryover of unused leave from one 12-month period to the next 12-month period is permitted.

Intermittent Leave

You may take FMLA leave intermittently (in blocks of time, or by reducing your normal weekly or daily work schedule) if the leave is for your serious health condition or that of a qualifying family member and the reduced leave schedule is medically necessary as determined by the health care provider of the person with the serious health condition. The smallest increment of time that can be used for such leave is [e.g. 30 minutes, one hour (*cannot be more than one hour*)].

See also the discussion of *Pregnancy, Childbirth or Related Conditions and Child Bonding* above.