



Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination

NOTICE: PARENTAL LEAVE IN MASSACHUSETTS

Issued: May 17, 2023

PURSUANT TO M.G.L. C. 151B, § 4(11A) AND C. 149, § 105D EVERY EMPLOYEE AND DOMESTIC WORKER IS ENTITLED AS A MATTER OF LAW TO AT LEAST EIGHT WEEKS PARENTAL LEAVE FOR THE PURPOSE OF GIVING BIRTH OR ADOPTION OF A CHILD.

EMPLOYEES ARE ELIGIBLE IF THEY COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

1. THE EMPLOYEE IS EMPLOYED ON A FULL-TIME BASIS;
2. THE EMPLOYEE HAS COMPLETED AN INITIAL PROBATIONARY PERIOD SET BY THE EMPLOYER WHICH DOES NOT EXCEED THREE MONTHS OR, IN THE EVENT THE EMPLOYER DOES NOT UTILIZE A PROBATIONARY PERIOD FOR THE POSITION IN QUESTION, HAS BEEN EMPLOYED FULL TIME FOR AT LEAST THREE CONSECUTIVE MONTHS; AND,
3. GIVES TWO WEEKS' NOTICE OF THE ANTICIPATED DEPARTURE DATE AND NOTICE THAT THEY INTEND TO RETURN TO THE JOB, OR PROVIDE NOTICE AS SOON AS IS PRACTICABLE IF THE DELAY IS FOR REASONS BEYOND THE INDIVIDUAL'S CONTROL.

DOMESTIC WORKERS MUST PROVIDE TWO WEEKS' NOTICE BUT ARE NOT REQUIRED TO BE FULL TIME OR COMPLETE AN INITIAL PROBATIONARY PERIOD.

BOTH EMPLOYEES AND DOMESTIC WORKERS ARE ENTITLED TO RETURN TO THE SAME OR A SIMILAR POSITION WITHOUT LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR WHICH THEY WERE ELIGIBLE ON THE DATE THE LEAVE COMMENCED, IF THEY TERMINATE PARENTAL LEAVE WITHIN EIGHT WEEKS. THE GUARANTEE OF A SAME OR SIMILAR POSITION IS SUBJECT TO CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS SPECIFIED IN M.G.L. C. 149, § 105D.

ACCRUED SICK LEAVE BENEFITS SHALL BE PROVIDED FOR PARENTAL LEAVE PURPOSES UNDER THE SAME TERMS AND CONDITIONS WHICH APPLY TO OTHER TEMPORARY MEDICAL DISABILITIES. ANY EMPLOYER POLICY OR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WHICH PROVIDES FOR GREATER OR ADDITIONAL BENEFITS THAN THOSE OUTLINED IN THIS NOTICE SHALL CONTINUE TO APPLY.

IF THE EMPLOYER PROVIDES PARENTAL LEAVE FOR LONGER THAN EIGHT WEEKS, THE EMPLOYER SHALL NOT DENY THE EMPLOYEE OR DOMESTIC WORKER THE RIGHT TO RETURN TO WORK UNLESS THE EMPLOYER CLEARLY INFORMS THE EMPLOYEE OR DOMESTIC WORKER, IN WRITING, PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF LEAVE AND PRIOR TO ANY SUBSEQUENT EXTENSION OF LEAVE THAT TAKING LONGER THAN EIGHT WEEKS OF LEAVE SHALL RESULT IN THE DENIAL OF REINSTATEMENT OR THE LOSS OF OTHER RIGHTS AND BENEFITS.