

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS ADMINISTRATION

Wage and Hour Division
Washington, D.C. 20210

NOTICE

EMPLOYEE POLYGRAPH
PROTECTION ACT

The Employee Polygraph Protection Act prohibits most private employers from using lie detector tests either for pre-employment screening or during the course of employment.

PROHIBITIONS

Employers are generally prohibited from requiring or requesting any employee or job applicant to take a lie detector test, and from discharging, disciplining, or discriminating against an employee or prospective employee for refusing to take a test or for exercising other rights under the Act.

EXEMPTIONS*

Federal, State and local governments are not affected by the law. Also, the law does not apply to tests given by the Federal Government to certain private individuals engaged in national security related activities.

The Act permits *polygraph* (a kind of lie detector) tests to be administered in the private sector, subject to restrictions, to certain prospective employees of security service firms (armored car, alarm, and guard), and of pharmaceutical manufacturers, distributors and dispensers.

The Act also permits polygraph testing, subject to restrictions, of certain employees of private firms who are reasonably suspected of involvement in a workplace incident (theft, embezzlement, etc.) that resulted in economic loss to the employer.

ENFORCEMENT

The Secretary of Labor may bring court actions to restrain violations and assess civil penalties up to \$10,000 against violators. Employees or job applicants may also bring their own court actions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information may be obtained, and complaints of violations may be filed, at local offices of the Wage and Hour Division. To locate your nearest Wage-Hour office, telephone our toll-free information and help line at 1-866-4USWAGE (1-866-487-9243). A customer service representative is available to assist you with referral information from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in your time zone; or if you have access to the internet, you may log onto our Home page at www.wagehour.dol.gov

THE LAW REQUIRES EMPLOYERS TO DISPLAY THIS POSTER WHERE EMPLOYEES AND JOB APPLICANTS CAN READILY SEE IT.

*The law does not preempt any provision of any State and local law or any collective bargaining agreement which is more restrictive with respect to lie detector tests.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
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WH Publication 1462
June 2003

Equal Employment Opportunity is

THE LAW

Employers Holding Federal Contracts or Subcontracts

Applicants to and employees of companies with a Federal government contract or subcontract are protected under the following Federal authorities:

RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, NATIONAL ORIGIN

Executive Order 11246, as amended, prohibits job discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin, and requires affirmative action to ensure equality of opportunity in all aspects of employment.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, prohibits job discrimination because of disability and requires affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities who, with reasonable accommodation, can perform the essential functions of a job.

VIETNAM ERA, SPECIAL DISABLED, RECENTLY SEPARATED, AND OTHER PROTECTED VETERANS

The Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, as amended, 38 U.S.C., 4212, prohibits job discrimination and requires affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified Vietnam era veterans, qualified special disabled veterans, recently separated veterans, and other protected veterans. A recently separated veteran is any veteran during the three-year period beginning on the date of such veteran's discharge or release from active duty in the U.S. military, ground, naval or air service.

RETALIATION

Retaliation is prohibited against a person who files a charge of discrimination, participates in an OFCCP proceeding, or otherwise opposes discrimination under these Federal laws.

Any person who believes a contractor has violated its nondiscrimination or affirmative action obligations under the authorities above should contact immediately:

The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP), Employment Standards Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20210, (202) 693-0101 or call an OFCCP regional or district office listed in most telephone directories under U.S. Government, Department of Labor. For individuals with hearing impairment, OFCCP's TTY number is (202) 693-1337.

Private Employment, State and Local Governments, Educational Institutions, Employment Agencies and Labor Organizations

Applicants to and employees of most private employers, state and local governments, educational institutions, employment agencies and labor organizations are protected under the following Federal laws:

RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, NATIONAL ORIGIN

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, prohibits discrimination in hiring, promotion, discharge, pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy and sexual harassment) or national origin. Religious discrimination includes failing to reasonably accommodate an employee's religious practices where the accommodation does not impose undue hardship.

DISABILITY

Title I and Title V of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as amended, protect qualified applicants and employees with disabilities from discrimination in hiring, promotion, discharge, pay, job training, fringe benefits, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment on the basis of disability.

The law also requires that covered entities provide qualified applicants and employees with disabilities with reasonable accommodations, unless such accommodations would impose an undue hardship on the employer.

AGE

The Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, as amended, protects applicants and employees 40 years of age or older from discrimination on the basis of age in hiring, promotion, discharge, compensation, terms, conditions or privileges of employment.

SEX (WAGES)

In addition to sex discrimination prohibited by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, the Equal Pay Act of 1963, as amended, prohibits sex discrimination in payment of wages to women and men

performing substantially equal work, in jobs that require equal skill, effort and responsibility under similar working conditions, in the same establishment.

RETALIATION

Retaliation is prohibited against a person who files a charge of discrimination, participates in a discrimination proceeding, or otherwise opposes discrimination under these Federal laws.

If you believe that you have been discriminated against under any of the above laws, and to ensure that you meet strict procedural timelines to preserve the ability of EEOC to investigate your complaint and to protect your right to file a private lawsuit, you should immediately contact:

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), Washington, DC 20507 or an EEOC field office by calling toll free (1-800) 669-4000. For individuals with hearing impairments, EEOC's toll free TTY number is 1-800 669-6820.

Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance

RACE, COLOR, SEX, NATIONAL ORIGIN

In addition to the protection of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance. Employment discrimination is covered by Title VI if the primary objective of the financial assistance is provision of employment, or where employment discrimination causes or may cause discrimination in providing services under such programs.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities which receive Federal assistance.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Section, 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of disability in any program or activity which receives Federal financial assistance in the federal government, public or private agency. Discrimination is prohibited in all aspects of employment against persons with disabilities who, with or without reasonable accommodation, can perform the essential functions of a job.

If you believe you have been discriminated against in a program of any institution which receives Federal assistance, you should contact immediately the Federal agency providing such assistance.

Publication OFCCP 1420
Revised August 2008

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 or 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 with a spouse, son, daughter, or parent on active duty or call to active duty status in the National Guard or Reserves in support of a contingency operation 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 a current member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who has a serious injury or illness incurred in the line of duty on active duty that may render the servicemember medically unfit to perform his or her duties for which the servicemember is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy; or is in outpatient status; or is on the temporary disability retired list.

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 one year, for 1,250 hours over the previous 12 months, and if at least 50 employees are employed by the employer within 75 miles.

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;
- 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. Regulations 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





PARENTAL LEAVE, FAMILY LEAVE, AND SHORT-TERM FAMILY LEAVE

Vermont's Parental Leave Law covers employers with 10 or more employees who work an average of 30 hours per week over the course of a year.

Vermont's Family Leave Law, which includes Short-Term Family Leave, covers employers with 15 or more employees who work an average of 30 hours per week over the course of a year.

An employee who has worked for a covered employer for an average of 30 hours a week for a year is entitled to leave under these laws. During any 12 month period, the employee is entitled to up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave:

- **Parental Leave:** during the pregnancy and/or after childbirth; or, within a year following the initial placement of a child 16 years of age or younger with the employee for the purpose of adoption;
- **Family Leave:** for the serious illness of the employee, employee's child, stepchild, ward, foster child, party to a civil union, parent, spouse, or parent of the employee's spouse;

and, in addition to the leave provided in 21 V.S.A. Sec. 472, an employee is entitled to short-term family leave of up to 4 hours in any 30 day period (but not more than 24 hours in any 12 month period) of unpaid leave:

Short-Term Family Leave: to participate in preschool or school activities directly related to the academic advancement of the employee's child, stepchild, foster child or ward who lives with the employee; to attend or to accompany the employee's child, stepchild, foster child or ward who lives with the employee or the employee's parent, spouse or parent-in-law to routine medical or dental appointments; to accompany the employee's parent, spouse, or parent-in-law to other appointments for professional services related to their care and well-being; to respond to a medical emergency involving the employee's child, stepchild, foster child or ward who lives with the employee or the employee's parent, spouse or parent-in-law.

The employee must give reasonable written notice of intent to take family or parental leave, including the anticipated dates the leave will start and end. The employer may not require notice more than 6 weeks prior to birth or adoption. If serious illness is claimed, the employer may require certification from a physician. For short-term family leave, an employee must give notice as early as possible, at least seven days before the leave is to be taken unless waiting seven days could have a significant adverse impact on the employee's family member.

An employee may choose to use sick leave, or vacation leave, or any other accrued paid leave time during the leave, up to six weeks. The employer may not require the employee to do so. Use of paid leave does not extend the overall leave time to which the employee is entitled.

The employer must continue to provide all employee benefits unchanged during the leave period, but may require the employee to contribute to the cost at the existing rate of employee contribution.

Upon return from leave, an employee must be offered the job held previously or a comparable one at equal pay, benefits, seniority, and other terms and conditions.

Exceptions: An employee is not entitled to leave under the Parental and Family Leave Act if the employer can prove by clear and convincing evidence that:

- **Layoff:** during the period of leave the employee's job would have been terminated or the employee would have been laid off for reasons unrelated to the leave; or
- **Unique Services:** the employee performed unique services and hiring a permanent replacement during the leave, after giving the employee notice of intent to do so, was the employer's only available alternative to prevent substantial and grievous economic injury.

This law sets a minimum standard for parental and family leave rights. It does not prevent an employer from offering a more generous leave policy and does not reduce an employer's obligation under a collective bargaining agreement or existing program that provides greater leave rights than the law requires.

EMPLOYEES ARE PROTECTED FROM RETALIATION OF ANY KIND IN CONNECTION WITH THE ENFORCEMENT OF THIS LAW.

An employee aggrieved by a violation of this law may:

- bring a private lawsuit for injunctive relief, economic damages including prospective lost wages for a period not to exceed one year, attorney fees and court costs;
- (if you are not a state employee) lodge a complaint with the Office of the Attorney General at 828-3657, or (if you are a state employee) lodge a complaint with the Vermont Human Rights Commission at 828-2480. These agencies may investigate your complaint and bring action in court to enforce this law.

To obtain copies of this poster, call the Vermont Department of Labor at 828-2157 or visit our website at:
<http://www.labor.vermont.gov/sections/uiwages/wage/posters/fleave.pdf>

Equal Opportunity is the Law

The State of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. Applications from women, individuals with disabilities, and people from diverse cultural backgrounds are encouraged. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. 711 (TTY/Relay Service) or 802-828-4203 TDD (Vermont Department of Labor).