

Parental Leave Act

- Know Your Rights in the District of Columbia -



Work Leave for Parenting Purposes

The District of Columbia Parental Leave Act allows employees who are parents or guardians to take 24 hours of leave (paid or unpaid) during a 12 month period to attend school-related activities. School events include but are not limited to: parent-teacher conferences, concerts, plays, rehearsals, sporting events, and other activities where the child is a participant or the subject of the event, not a spectator.

The employee must notify the employer 10 days before the requested leave unless the school-related activity was not reasonably foreseeable. The leave can be unpaid or paid family, vacation, personal, compensatory or leave bank leave.

The employer may deny the leave if granting the leave would disrupt the employer's business and make the achievement of production or service unusually difficult.

Definition of Parent or Guardian

An employee is considered a parent or guardian for purposes of this Act if he or she is:

- biological mother or father of a child;
- person who has legal custody of a child;
- person who acts as a guardian of a child;
- aunt, uncle, or grandparent of a child; or is
- a person married or in a domestic partnership to a person listed above.

Employer Posting Requirements

The employer must post and maintain this notice in a conspicuous place. An employer that willfully fails to post this notice may be ordered to pay a fine of up to \$100 for each day the employer fails to post the notice.

Filing a Complaint of a Violation

If you believe an employer has wrongfully denied you parental leave under this statute, you can file a complaint within one year of the incident with the Office of Human Rights (OHR). To file a complaint, visit:

- **Online** at ohr.dc.gov; or
- **In-Person** at 441 4th Street NW, Suite 570N, Washington, DC 20001.

Questions about the OHR process can also be answered by phone at (202) 727-4559.