



NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES

Effective February 2016: The City of Tacoma Paid Sick Leave Ordinance (TMC 18.10) ensures that all eligible persons working in the City earn Paid Sick Leave to use when they or a family member are sick, injured, need preventative care or need to seek help for domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or other safety related issues. The Ordinance is intended to allow employees to care for themselves and family members, making Tacoma a healthier, more secure, and more productive community. Employers may, at their option, have a Paid Sick Leave policy that exceeds the minimum requirements set by the Ordinance. The Ordinance was updated effective January 2018 to align with State law.

WHO QUALIFIES?

EMPLOYEES RECEIVING PAID SICK LEAVE

The Paid Sick Leave Ordinance applies to all Employees who work within the geographical boundaries of the City of Tacoma (the “City” or “Tacoma”) for 80 hours or more in a benefit year, regardless of whether their Employer is physically located in the City or not.

HOW MUCH?

ACCRUAL OF PAID SICK LEAVE

Employers shall provide Employees with a minimum of one (1) hour of Paid Sick Leave for every forty (40) hours worked within the City. Employees shall be eligible to use accrued Paid Sick Leave beginning on the 90th calendar day after start of their employment.

CARRYOVER

CARRYOVER OF UNUSED PAID SICK LEAVE

The Ordinance requires Employers to carry over up to 40 hours of accrued but unused Paid Sick Leave into the following benefit year for each Employee. An Employee can then use carried over time in addition to accrued time, for absences related to health, safety, and some kinds of family care as outlined below.

USE

USES OF PAID SICK LEAVE

Employees may use Paid Sick Leave time for any of the following reasons:

- Mental or physical illness, injury or preventative health care (for either the Employee or for specified family members);
- When an Employee’s place of employment has been closed by order of a public official for any health-related reason or to care for a child whose school has been closed by order of a public official;
- To seek law enforcement or legal help for domestic violence or sexual assault (either for the Employee or for specified family members);
- To seek safety from domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, (either for the Employee or for specified family members); and
- For bereavement of specified family members.

OPTIONS

SHIFT SWAP & DONATIONS OF PAID SICK LEAVE

Employers and Employees may mutually agree to allow an Employee to work additional hours or shifts in lieu of using Paid Sick Leave. Employers may establish policies allowing Employees to exchange or trade shifts. Employers may establish a policy allowing Employees to donate Paid Sick Leave time to another Employee.

PTO

USE OF UNIVERSAL PAID TIME OFF (PTO) TO COMPLY WITH THE ORDINANCE

Employers may use a combined or universal paid time off program (PTO) to comply with the Ordinance. An Employer using PTO to comply with the Ordinance must have a written policy readily available for employees.

DOCUMENTATION

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

For absences exceeding three days, an Employer may take reasonable measures to verify or document that an Employee’s use of Paid Sick Leave is lawful. Employer-required verification may not result in an unreasonable burden or expense to the Employee. If the Employer chooses to require written documentation or other verification that creates an unreasonable cost or burden, the Employee may notify the Employer as outlined in State law (RCW 296-128-660). The Employer must have a written policy regarding the requirement of written documentation or other verification and said policy must be readily available to all Employees.

ENFORCEMENT

FILING A COMPLAINT

If an Employee believes that he/she has been subject to a violation of the Paid Sick Leave Ordinance, they may file a complaint in writing with the City of Tacoma. Employers are prohibited from taking adverse action against Employees who exercise any right under this Ordinance. An employee filing a complaint may request confidentiality and no information about an employee’s immigration status will be required for an investigation.