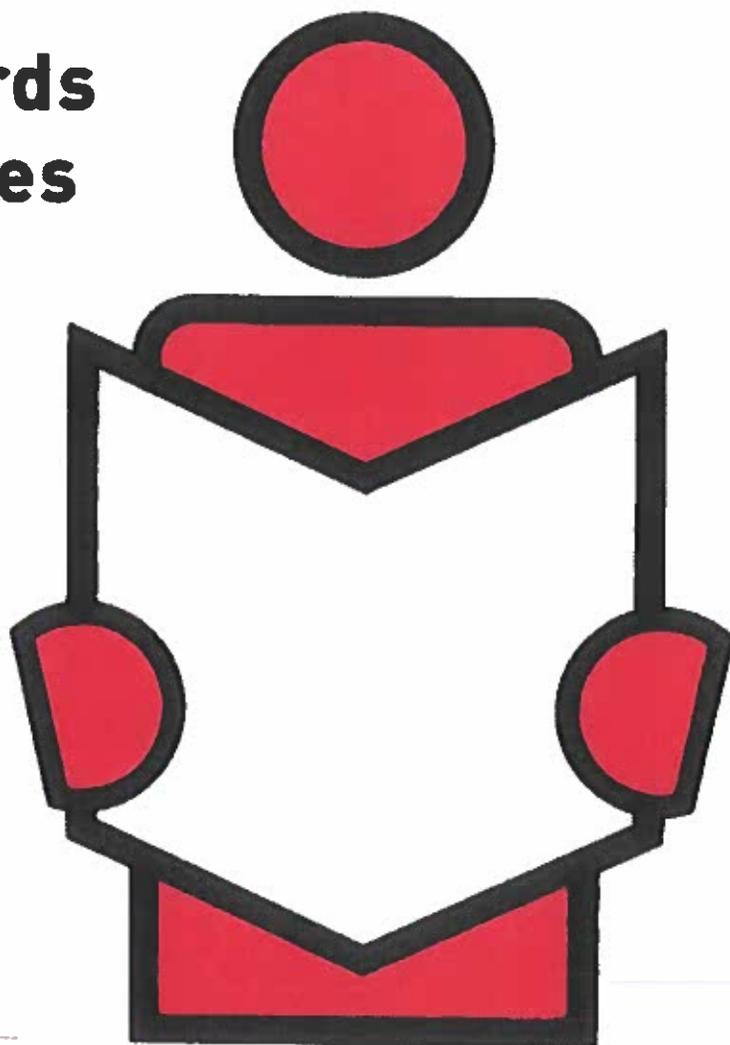


# YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW!

**Your employer must inform  
you of the health  
effects and hazards  
of toxic substances  
at your  
worksite.**

**Learn all  
you can  
about toxic  
substances  
on your job.**

**For more  
information,  
contact:**



**Doreen Holbrook, Safety Officer**  
Name

**56 Main Street Room 103, Owego NY 13827 (607) 687-8238 Cell: (607) 761-8019**  
Location & Phone Number

**THE RIGHT TO KNOW LAW WORKS FOR YOU.**  
NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



# YOUR RIGHTS UNDER USERRA THE UNIFORMED SERVICES EMPLOYMENT AND REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ACT

USERRA protects the job rights of individuals who voluntarily or involuntarily leave employment positions to undertake military service or certain types of service in the National Disaster Medical System. USERRA also prohibits employers from discriminating against past and present members of the uniformed services, and applicants to the uniformed services.

## REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

You have the right to be reemployed in your civilian job if you leave that job to perform service in the uniformed service and:

- ☆ you ensure that your employer receives advance written or verbal notice of your service;
- ☆ you have five years or less of cumulative service in the uniformed services while with that particular employer;
- ☆ you return to work or apply for reemployment in a timely manner after conclusion of service; and
- ☆ you have not been separated from service with a disqualifying discharge or under other than honorable conditions

If you are eligible to be reemployed, you must be restored to the job and benefits you would have attained if you had not been absent due to military service or, in some cases, a comparable job

## RIGHT TO BE FREE FROM DISCRIMINATION AND RETALIATION

If you:

- ☆ are a past or present member of the uniformed service;
- ☆ have applied for membership in the uniformed service; or
- ☆ are obligated to serve in the uniformed service;

then an employer may not deny you:

- ☆ initial employment;
- ☆ reemployment;
- ☆ retention in employment;
- ☆ promotion; or
- ☆ any benefit of employment

because of this status.

In addition, an employer may not retaliate against anyone assisting in the enforcement of USERRA rights, including testifying or making a statement in connection with a proceeding under USERRA, even if that person has no service connection.

## HEALTH INSURANCE PROTECTION

- ☆ If you leave your job to perform military service, you have the right to elect to continue your existing employer-based health plan coverage for you and your dependents for up to 24 months while in the military.
- ☆ Even if you don't elect to continue coverage during your military service, you have the right to be reinstated in your employer's health plan when you are reemployed, generally without any waiting periods or exclusions (e.g., pre-existing condition exclusions) except for service-connected illnesses or injuries.

## ENFORCEMENT

- ☆ The U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) is authorized to investigate and resolve complaints of USERRA violations.
- ☆ For assistance in filing a complaint, or for any other information on USERRA, contact VETS at 1-866-4-USA-DOJ or visit its website at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/>. An interactive online USERRA Advisor can be viewed at <https://webapps.dol.gov/elaws/vets/userra>
- ☆ If you file a complaint with VETS and VETS is unable to resolve it, you may request that your case be referred to the Department of Justice or the Office of Special Counsel, as applicable, for representation.
- ☆ You may also bypass the VETS process and bring a civil action against an employer for violations of USERRA.

The rights listed here may vary depending on the circumstances. The text of this notice was prepared by VETS, and may be viewed on the internet at this address: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/programs/userra/poster> Federal law requires employers to notify employees of their rights under USERRA, and employers may meet this requirement by displaying the text of this notice where they customarily place notices for employees.



U.S. Department of Labor  
1-866-487-2365



U.S. Department of Justice



Office of Special Counsel



1-800-336-4590

Publication Date — May 2022

# DISCRIMINATION



Division of  
Human Rights

1-888-392-3644  
WWW.DHR.NY.GOV

THIS ESTABLISHMENT IS SUBJECT TO THE NEW YORK STATE HUMAN RIGHTS LAW (EXECUTIVE LAW, ARTICLE 15)

DISCRIMINATION BASED UPON AGE, RACE, CREED, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, MILITARY STATUS, SEX, PREGNANCY, GENDER IDENTITY OR EXPRESSION, DISABILITY OR MARITAL STATUS IS PROHIBITED BY THE NEW YORK STATE HUMAN RIGHTS LAW. SEXUAL HARASSMENT OR HARASSMENT BASED UPON ANY OF THESE PROTECTED CLASSES ALSO IS PROHIBITED.

## **ALL EMPLOYERS (until February 8, 2020, only employers with 4 or more employees are covered), EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES, LABOR ORGANIZATIONS AND APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROGRAMS**

Also prohibited: discrimination in employment on the basis of Sabbath observance or religious practices; hairstyles associated with race (also applies to all areas listed below); prior arrest or conviction record; predisposing genetic characteristics; familial status; pregnancy-related conditions; domestic violence victim status.

Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities and pregnancy-related conditions including lactation may be required. A reasonable accommodation is an adjustment to a job or work environment that enables a person with a disability to perform the essential functions of a job in a reasonable manner.

Also covered: domestic workers are protected from harassment and retaliation; interns and nonemployees working in the workplace (for example temp or contract workers) are protected from all discrimination described above.

## **RENTAL, LEASE OR SALE OF HOUSING, LAND AND COMMERCIAL SPACE, INCLUDING ACTIVITIES OF REAL ESTATE BROKERS AND SALES PEOPLE**

Also prohibited: discrimination on the basis of lawful source of income (for example housing vouchers, disability benefits, child support); familial status (families with children or being pregnant); prior arrest or sealed conviction; commercial boycotts or blockbusting. Reasonable accommodations and modifications for persons with disabilities may also be required. Does not apply to:

- (1) rental of an apartment in an owner-occupied two-family house
- (2) restrictions of all rooms in a housing accommodation to individuals of the same sex
- (3) rental of a room by the occupant of a house or apartment
- (4) sale, rental, or lease of accommodations of housing exclusively to persons 55 years of age or older, and the spouse of such persons

## **ALL CREDIT TRANSACTIONS INCLUDING FINANCING FOR PURCHASE, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF HOUSING PLACES OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION SUCH AS RESTAURANTS, HOTELS, HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL OFFICES, CLUBS, PARKS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES**

Exception: Age is not a covered classification relative to public accommodations. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities may also be required.

## **EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

All public schools and private nonprofit schools, at all education levels, excluding those run by religious organizations.

## **ADVERTISING AND APPLICATIONS RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT, REAL ESTATE, PLACES OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION AND CREDIT TRANSACTIONS MAY NOT EXPRESS ANY DISCRIMINATION**

If you wish to file a formal complaint with the Division of Human Rights, you must do so within one year after the discrimination occurred. The Division's services are provided free of charge.

If you wish to file a complaint in State Court, you may do so within three years of the discrimination. You may not file both with the Division and the State Court.

**Retaliation for filing a complaint or opposing discriminatory practices is prohibited. You may file a complaint with the Division if you have been retaliated against.**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, WRITE OR CALL THE DIVISION'S NEAREST OFFICE. HEADQUARTERS: ONE FORDHAM PLAZA, 4TH FLOOR, BRONX, NY 10458

PRINT

# EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

## 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.

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

**EXAMINEE RIGHTS** Where polygraph tests are permitted, they are subject to numerous strict standards concerning the conduct and length of the test. Examinees have a number of specific rights, including the right to a written notice before testing, the right to refuse or discontinue a test, and the right not to have test results disclosed to unauthorized persons.

**ENFORCEMENT** The Secretary of Labor may bring court actions to restrain violations and assess civil penalties against violators. Employees or job applicants may also bring their own court actions.

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



WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

1-866-487-9243  
[www.dol.gov/agencies/whd](http://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd)



VH1462 REV 05-22



The New York State Public Employee Safety and Health Act of 1980 provides job safety and health protection for workers through the promotion of safe and healthful working conditions throughout the State. Requirements of the Act include the following:

### **Employers**

Employers must provide employees with a workplace that is:

- free from recognized hazards,
- in compliance with the safety and health standards that apply to the workplace, and
- in compliance with any other regulations issued under the PESH Act by the Commissioner of Labor.

### **Employees**

Employees must comply with all safety and health standards that apply to their actions on the job. Employees must also comply with any regulations issued under the PESH Act that apply to their job.

### **ENFORCEMENT**

The New York State Department of Labor administers and enforces the PESH Act. The Commissioner of Labor issues safety and health standards. The Department's Division of Safety and Health (DOSHS) has Inspectors and Hygienists who inspect workplaces to make sure they are following the PESH Act.

### **Inspection**

When DOSHS staff inspect a workplace, a representative of the employer and a representative approved by the employees must be allowed to help with the inspection. When there is no employee-approved representative, DOSHS staff must speak with a fair number of employees about the safety and health conditions in the workplace.

### **Order to Comply**

If the Department believes an employer has violated the PESH Act, we will issue an order to comply notice to the employer. The order will list dates by which each violation must be fixed. If violations are not fixed by those dates, the employer may be fined. The order to comply must be posted at or near the place of violation, where it can be easily seen. This is to warn employees that a danger may exist.

### **Complaint**

Any interested person may file a complaint if they believe there are unsafe or unhealthful conditions in a public workplace. This includes:

- An employee
- A representative of an employee
- Groups of employees
- A representative of a group of employees

Make this complaint in writing to the nearest DOSHS office or by email to: [Ask.SHNYPESH@labor.ny.gov](mailto:Ask.SHNYPESH@labor.ny.gov)

On request, DOSHS will not release the names of any employees who file a complaint. The Department of Labor will evaluate each complaint. The Department will notify the person who made the complaint of the results of the investigation.

These complaints may also be made to the United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration online at: [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov).

## **Discrimination**

Employees may not be fired or discriminated against in any way for filing safety and health complaints or otherwise exercising their rights under the Act.

If an employee believes that they have been discriminated against, he or she may file a complaint with the nearest DOSH office. File this complaint within 30 days of the discrimination incident.

## **Voluntary Activity**

The Department of Labor encourages employers and employees to voluntarily:

- reduce workplace hazards, and
- develop and improve safety and health programs in all workplaces.

The Division of Safety and Health can provide free help with identifying and correcting job site hazards. Employers may request this assistance on a voluntary basis by emailing: [Ask.SHNYPESH@labor.ny.gov](mailto:Ask.SHNYPESH@labor.ny.gov).

## **Additional information may be obtained from the nearest DOSH District Office below:**

### **Albany District**

State Office Campus  
Bldg. 12, Rm. 158  
Albany, NY 12240  
Telephone: (518) 457-5508

### **Binghamton District**

44 Hawley St., Rm. 901  
Binghamton, NY 13901  
Telephone: (607) 721-8211

### **Buffalo District**

295 Main Street, Suite 905  
Buffalo, New York 14203-2412

### **Garden City District**

400 Oak Street  
Garden City, NY 11550  
Telephone: (516) 228-3970

### **New York City District**

Shirley A. Chisholm State  
Office Building  
55 Hanson Place, 12th Floor  
Brooklyn, New York 11217-1523  
Telephone: (212) 775-3554

### **Rochester District**

109 S. Union St., Rm. 402  
Rochester, NY 14607  
Telephone: (585) 258-8806

### **Syracuse District**

450 South Salina Street  
Syracuse, NY 13202  
Telephone: (315) 479-3212

### **Utica District**

207 Genesee Street  
Utica, NY 13501  
Telephone: (315) 793-2258

### **White Plains District**

120 Bloomingdale Road  
White Plains, NY 10605  
Telephone: (914) 997-9514

## **POST CONSPICUOUSLY**



# VETERAN BENEFITS AND SERVICES

The following resources and hotlines are available at no-cost to help veterans understand their rights, protections, benefits, and accommodations:

[dol.ny.gov/veteran-benefits-and-services](http://dol.ny.gov/veteran-benefits-and-services)

## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE RESOURCES

*All calls and texts are free and confidential*

**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Crisis Line:** [www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net)

Call: 988, press 1      Text: 838255

**Suicide and Crisis Lifeline:** [www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net)

Call: 988      Text: 988

**Crisis Textline:**

Text: 741741      Chat: [crisistextline.org](http://crisistextline.org)

**NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH):**  
[www.omh.ny.gov](http://www.omh.ny.gov)

**NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS):** [www.oasas.ny.gov/hopeline](http://www.oasas.ny.gov/hopeline)

Call: 1-877-8-HOPENY (467469)

Text: HOPENY (467369)

## TAX BENEFITS

**NYS Department of Tax and Finance**

- Information for military personnel and veterans: [tax.ny.gov/pit/file/military\\_page.htm](http://tax.ny.gov/pit/file/military_page.htm)
- Property tax exemptions: [tax.ny.gov/pit/property/exemption/vetexempt.htm](http://tax.ny.gov/pit/property/exemption/vetexempt.htm)

## EDUCATION, WORKFORCE, AND TRAINING RESOURCES

**Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) Program:** [www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab](http://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab)

**New York State Civil Service Credits for Veterans Program:** [www.cs.ny.gov](http://www.cs.ny.gov)

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**NYS Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline:**

Call: 800-942-6906 Text: 844-997-2121

**NYS Workplace Sexual Harassment Hotline:**

Call: 1-800-HARASS-3

**NYS Department of Motor Vehicles:**

- Veteran Status Designation Photo Document: [dmv.ny.gov/more-info/veteran-status-designation-photo-document](http://dmv.ny.gov/more-info/veteran-status-designation-photo-document)
- Veteran License Plate: [dmv.ny.gov/plates/military-and-veterans](http://dmv.ny.gov/plates/military-and-veterans)

## LEGAL SERVICES

**Veterans Treatment Courts (VTC):** [ww2.nycourts.gov/courts/problem\\_solving/vet/courts.shtml](http://ww2.nycourts.gov/courts/problem_solving/vet/courts.shtml)

Email: [ProblemSolving@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:ProblemSolving@courts.state.ny.us)

**NYS Defenders Association Veteran Defense Program:**  
<https://www.nysda.org/page/VDP>

## NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES

Website: [veterans.ny.gov](http://veterans.ny.gov)  
Help Line: 1-888-838-7697  
Email: [DVSInfo@veterans.ny.gov](mailto:DVSInfo@veterans.ny.gov)

**Services:** Legal, education, employment and volunteer, financial, health care, and more.

## NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR VETERANS' PROGRAM

Website: [dol.ny.gov/services-veterans](http://dol.ny.gov/services-veterans)  
Help Line: 1-888-469-7365  
Email: [Ask.Vets@labor.ny.gov](mailto:Ask.Vets@labor.ny.gov)

**Services:** Workforce and training resources, unemployment insurance, the Experience Counts program, and more.



Department of  
Veterans' Services

WE ARE YOUR DOL



Department  
of Labor



# Job Safety and Health IT'S THE LAW!

## All workers have the right to:

- A safe workplace.
- Raise a safety or health concern with your employer or OSHA, or report a work-related injury or illness, without being retaliated against.
- Receive information and training on job hazards, including all hazardous substances in your workplace.
- Request a confidential OSHA inspection of your workplace if you believe there are unsafe or unhealthy conditions. You have the right to have a representative contact OSHA on your behalf.
- Participate (or have your representative participate) in an OSHA inspection and speak in private to the inspector.
- File a complaint with OSHA within 30 days (by phone, online or by mail) if you have been retaliated against for using your rights.
- See any OSHA citations issued to your employer.
- Request copies of your medical records, tests that measure hazards in the workplace, and the workplace injury and illness log.

*This poster is available free from OSHA.*

**Contact OSHA. We can help.**

## Employers must:

- Provide employees a workplace free from recognized hazards. It is illegal to retaliate against an employee for using any of their rights under the law, including raising a health and safety concern with you or with OSHA, or reporting a work-related injury or illness.
- Comply with all applicable OSHA standards.
- Notify OSHA within 8 hours of a workplace fatality or within 24 hours of any work-related inpatient hospitalization, amputation, or loss of an eye.
- Provide required training to all workers in a language and vocabulary they can understand.
- Prominently display this poster in the workplace.
- Post OSHA citations at or near the place of the alleged violations.

On-Site Consultation services are available to small and medium-sized employers, without citation or penalty, through OSHA-supported consultation programs in every state.



1-800-321-OSHA (6742) • TTY 1-877-889-5627 • [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)

# Your Employee Rights Under the Family and Medical Leave Act

## What is FMLA leave?

The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) is a federal law that provides eligible employees with **job-protected leave** for qualifying family and medical reasons. The U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division (WHD) enforces the FMLA for most employees.

Eligible employees can take **up to 12 workweeks** of FMLA leave in a 12-month period for:

- The birth, adoption or foster placement of a child with you,
- Your serious mental or physical health condition that makes you unable to work,
- To care for your spouse, child or parent with a serious mental or physical health condition, and
- Certain qualifying reasons related to the foreign deployment of your spouse, child or parent who is a military servicemember.

An eligible employee who is the spouse, child, parent or next of kin of a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness **may take up to 26 workweeks** of FMLA leave in a single 12-month period to care for the servicemember.

You have the right to use FMLA leave in **one block of time**. When it is medically necessary or otherwise permitted, you may take FMLA leave **intermittently in separate blocks of time, or on a reduced schedule** by working less hours each day or week. Read Fact Sheet #28M(c) for more information.

FMLA leave is **not paid leave**, but you may choose, or be required by your employer, to use any employer-provided paid leave if your employer's paid leave policy covers the reason for which you need FMLA leave.

## Am I eligible to take FMLA leave?

You are an **eligible employee** if **all** of the following apply:

- You work for a covered employer,
- You have worked for your employer at least 12 months,
- You have at least 1,250 hours of service for your employer during the 12 months before your leave, and
- Your employer has at least 50 employees within 75 miles of your work location.

Airline flight crew employees have different "hours of service" requirements.

You work for a **covered employer** if **one** of the following applies:

- You work for a private employer that had at least 50 employees during at least 20 workweeks in the current or previous calendar year,
- You work for an elementary or public or private secondary school, or
- You work for a public agency, such as a local, state or federal government agency. Most federal employees are covered by Title II of the FMLA, administered by the Office of Personnel Management.

## How do I request FMLA leave?

Generally, to request FMLA leave you **must**:

- Follow your employer's normal policies for requesting leave,
- Give notice at least 30 days before your need for FMLA leave, or
- If advance notice is not possible, give notice as soon as possible.

You do **not** have to share a medical diagnosis but must provide enough information to your employer so they can determine whether the leave qualifies for FMLA protection. You **must also inform your employer if FMLA leave was previously taken** or approved for the same reason when requesting additional leave.

Your employer **may** request certification from a health care provider to verify medical leave and may request certification of a qualifying exigency.

The FMLA does not affect any federal or state law prohibiting discrimination or supersede any state or local law or collective bargaining agreement that provides greater family or medical leave rights.

State employees may be subject to certain limitations in pursuit of direct lawsuits regarding leave for their own serious health conditions. Most federal and certain congressional employees are also covered by the law but are subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management or Congress.

## What does my employer need to do?

If you are eligible for FMLA leave, your employer **must**:

- Allow you to take job-protected time off work for a qualifying reason,
- Continue your group health plan coverage while you are on leave on the same basis as if you had not taken leave, and
- Allow you to return to the same job, or a virtually identical job with the same pay, benefits and other working conditions, including shift and location, at the end of your leave.

Your employer **cannot** interfere with your FMLA rights or threaten or punish you for exercising your rights under the law. For example, your employer cannot retaliate against you for requesting FMLA leave or cooperating with a WHD investigation.

After becoming aware that your need for leave is for a reason that may qualify under the FMLA, your employer **must confirm whether you are eligible** or not eligible for FMLA leave. If your employer determines that you are eligible, your employer **must notify you in writing**:

- About your FMLA rights and responsibilities, and
- How much of your requested leave, if any, will be FMLA-protected leave.

## Where can I find more information?

Call 1-866-487-9243 or visit [dol.gov/fmla](https://dol.gov/fmla) to learn more.

If you believe your rights under the FMLA have been violated, you may file a complaint with WHD or file a private lawsuit against your employer in court. **Scan the QR code to learn about our WHD complaint process.**



WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR



# EMPLOYEE RIGHTS UNDER THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

## FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE

# \$7.25

 PER HOUR

BEGINNING JULY 24, 2009

The law requires employers to display this poster where employees can readily see it.

**OVERTIME PAY** At least 1½ times the regular rate of pay for all hours worked over 40 in a workweek.

**CHILD LABOR** An employee must be at least 16 years old to work in most non-farm jobs and at least 18 to work in non-farm jobs declared hazardous by the Secretary of Labor. Youths 14 and 15 years old may work outside school hours in various non-manufacturing, non-mining, non-hazardous jobs with certain work hours restrictions. Different rules apply in agricultural employment.

**TIP CREDIT** Employers of “tipped employees” who meet certain conditions may claim a partial wage credit based on tips received by their employees. Employers must pay tipped employees a cash wage of at least \$2.13 per hour if they claim a tip credit against their minimum wage obligation. If an employee’s tips combined with the employer’s cash wage of at least \$2.13 per hour do not equal the minimum hourly wage, the employer must make up the difference.

**PUMP AT WORK** The FLSA requires employers to provide reasonable break time for a nursing employee to express breast milk for their nursing child for one year after the child’s birth each time the employee needs to express breast milk. Employers must provide a place, other than a bathroom, that is shielded from view and free from intrusion from coworkers and the public, which may be used by the employee to express breast milk.

**ENFORCEMENT** The Department has authority to recover back wages and an equal amount in liquidated damages in instances of minimum wage, overtime, and other violations. The Department may litigate and/or recommend criminal prosecution. Employers may be assessed civil money penalties for each willful or repeated violation of the minimum wage or overtime pay provisions of the law. Civil money penalties may also be assessed for violations of the FLSA’s child labor provisions. Heightened civil money penalties may be assessed for each child labor violation that results in the death or serious injury of any minor employee, and such assessments may be doubled when the violations are determined to be willful or repeated. The law also prohibits retaliating against or discharging workers who file a complaint or participate in any proceeding under the FLSA.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- Certain occupations and establishments are exempt from the minimum wage, and/or overtime pay provisions.
- Special provisions apply to workers in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.
- Some state laws provide greater employee protections; employers must comply with both.
- Some employers incorrectly classify workers as “independent contractors” when they are actually employees under the FLSA. It is important to know the difference between the two because employees (unless exempt) are entitled to the FLSA’s minimum wage and overtime pay protections and correctly classified independent contractors are not.
- Certain full-time students, student learners, apprentices, and workers with disabilities may be paid less than the minimum wage under special certificates issued by the Department of Labor.



WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

1-866-487-9243  
[www.dol.gov/agencies/whd](http://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd)



WH088 4/15/09

# EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

## FOR WORKERS WITH DISABILITIES PAID AT SUBMINIMUM WAGES

This establishment has a certificate authorizing the payment of subminimum wages to workers who are disabled for the work they are performing. Authority to pay subminimum wages to workers with disabilities generally applies to work covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), McNamara-O'Hara Service Contract Act (SCA), and/or Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act (PCA). Such subminimum wages are referred to as "commensurate wage rates" and are less than the basic hourly rates stated in an SCA wage determination and/or less than the FLSA minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour. A "commensurate wage rate" is based on the worker's individual productivity, no matter how limited, in proportion to the wage and productivity of experienced workers who do not have disabilities that impact their productivity when performing essentially the same type, quality, and quantity of work in the geographic area from which the labor force of the community is drawn.

*Employers shall make this poster available and display it where employees and the parents and guardians of workers with disabilities can readily see it.*

### WORKERS WITH DISABILITIES

Subminimum wages under section 14(c) are not applicable unless a worker's disability actually impairs the worker's earning or productive capacity for the work being performed. The fact that a worker may have a disability is not in and of itself sufficient to warrant the payment of a subminimum wage.

For purposes of payment of commensurate wage rates under a certificate, a worker with a disability is defined as: An individual whose earnings or productive capacity is impaired by a physical or mental disability, including those related to age or injury, for the work to be performed.

Disabilities which may affect productive capacity include an intellectual or developmental disability, psychiatric disability, a hearing or visual impairment, and certain other impairments. The following do not ordinarily affect productive capacity for purposes of paying commensurate wage rates: educational disabilities; chronic unemployment; receipt of welfare benefits; nonattendance at school; juvenile delinquency; and correctional parole or probation.

### WORKER NOTIFICATION

Each worker with a disability and, where appropriate, the parent or guardian of such worker, shall be informed orally and in writing by the employer of the terms of the certificate under which such worker is employed.

### KEY ELEMENTS OF COMMENSURATE WAGE RATES

- **Nondisabled worker standard**—The objective gauge (usually a time study of the production of workers who do not have disabilities that impair their productivity for the job) against which the productivity of a worker with a disability is measured.
- **Prevailing wage rate**—The wage paid to experienced workers who do not have disabilities that impair their productivity for the same or similar work and who are performing such work in the area. Most SCA contracts include a wage determination specifying the prevailing wage rates to be paid for SCA-covered work.
- **Evaluation of the productivity of the worker with a disability**—Documented measurement of the production of the worker with a disability (in terms of quantity and quality).

The wages of all workers paid commensurate wages must be reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at periodic intervals. At a minimum, the productivity of hourly-paid workers must be reevaluated at least every six months and a new prevailing wage survey must be conducted at least once every twelve months. In addition, prevailing wages must be reviewed, and adjusted as appropriate, whenever there is a change in the job or a change in the prevailing wage rate, such as when the applicable state or federal minimum wage is increased.

### WIOA

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA) amended the Rehabilitation Act by adding section 511, which places limitations on the payment of subminimum wages to individuals with disabilities by mandating the completion of certain requirements prior to and during the payment of a subminimum wage.

### EXECUTIVE ORDER 13658

Executive Order 13658, Establishing a Minimum Wage for Contractors, established a minimum wage that generally must be paid to workers performing on or in connection with a covered contract with the Federal Government. Workers covered by this Executive Order and due the full Executive Order minimum wage include workers with disabilities whose wages are calculated pursuant to certificates issued under section 14(c) of the FLSA.

### FRINGE BENEFITS

Neither the FLSA nor the PCA have provisions requiring vacation, holiday, or sick pay nor other fringe benefits such as health insurance or pension plans. SCA wage determinations may require such fringe benefit payments (or a cash equivalent). Workers paid under a certificate authorizing commensurate wage rates must receive the full fringe benefits listed on the SCA wage determination.

### OVERTIME

Generally, if a worker is performing work subject to the FLSA, SCA, and/or PCA, that worker must be paid at least 1 1/2 times their regular rate of pay for all hours worked over 40 in a workweek.

### CHILD LABOR

Minors younger than 18 years of age must be employed in accordance with the child labor provisions of the FLSA. No persons under 18 years of age may be employed in manufacturing or on a PCA contract.

### PETITION PROCESS

Workers with disabilities paid at subminimum wages may petition the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor for a review of their wage rates by an Administrative Law Judge. No particular form of petition is required, except that it must be signed by the worker with a disability or his or her parent or guardian and should contain the name and address of the employer. Petitions should be mailed to: Administrator, Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor, Room S-3502, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20210.



WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

1-866-487-9243  
[www.dol.gov/wld](http://www.dol.gov/wld)





# Know Your Rights: Workplace Discrimination is Illegal

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) enforces Federal laws that protect you from discrimination in employment. If you believe you've been discriminated against at work or in applying for a job, the EEOC may be able to help.

## Who is Protected?

- Employees (current and former), including managers and temporary employees
- Job applicants
- Union members and applicants for membership in a union

## What Types of Employment Discrimination are Illegal?

Under the EEOC's laws, an employer may not discriminate against you, regardless of your immigration status, on the bases of:

- Race
- Color
- Religion
- National origin
- Sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, and related medical conditions, sexual orientation, or gender identity)
- Age (40 and older)
- Disability
- Genetic information (including employer requests for, or purchase, use, or disclosure of genetic tests, genetic services, or family medical history)
- Retaliation for filing a charge, reasonably opposing discrimination, or participating in a discrimination lawsuit, investigation, or proceeding
- Interference, coercion, or threats related to exercising rights regarding disability discrimination or pregnancy accommodation

## What Organizations are Covered?

- Most private employers
- State and local governments (as employers)
- Educational institutions (as employers)
- Unions
- Staffing agencies

## What Employment Practices can be Challenged as Discriminatory?

All aspects of employment, including:

- Discharge, firing, or lay-off
- Harassment (including unwelcome verbal or physical conduct)
- Hiring or promotion
- Assignment
- Pay (unequal wages or compensation)
- Failure to provide reasonable accommodation for a disability; pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical condition; or a sincerely-held religious belief, observance or practice
- Benefits
- Job training
- Classification
- Referral
- Obtaining or disclosing genetic information of employees
- Requesting or disclosing medical information of employees
- Conduct that might reasonably discourage someone from opposing discrimination, filing a charge, or participating in an investigation or proceeding
- Conduct that coerces, intimidates, threatens, or interferes with someone exercising their rights, or someone assisting or encouraging someone else to exercise rights, regarding disability discrimination (including accommodation) or pregnancy accommodation

## What can You Do if You Believe Discrimination has Occurred?

Contact the EEOC promptly if you suspect discrimination. Do not delay, because there are strict time limits for filing a charge of discrimination (180 or 300 days, depending on where you live/work). You can reach the EEOC in any of the following ways:

**Submit** an inquiry through the [EEOC's public portal](https://publicportal.eeoc.gov/Portal/Login.aspx)  
(<https://publicportal.eeoc.gov/Portal/Login.aspx>)

**Visit** an [EEOC field office](http://www.eeoc.gov/field-office)  
([www.eeoc.gov/field-office](http://www.eeoc.gov/field-office))

**Call** 1-800-669-4000 (toll free)  
1-800-669-6820 (TTY)  
1-844-234-5122 (ASL video phone)

**E-Mail** [info@eeoc.gov](mailto:info@eeoc.gov)

Additional information about the EEOC, including information about filing a charge of discrimination, is available at [www.eeoc.gov](http://www.eeoc.gov).



## EMPLOYERS HOLDING FEDERAL CONTRACTS OR SUBCONTRACTS

The Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) enforces the nondiscrimination and affirmative action commitments of companies doing business with the Federal Government. If you are applying for a job with, or are an employee of, a company with a Federal contract or subcontract, you are protected under Federal law from discrimination on the following bases:

### Race, Color, Religion, Sex, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, National Origin

Executive Order 11246, as amended, prohibits employment discrimination by Federal contractors based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin, and requires affirmative action to ensure equality of opportunity in all aspects of employment.

### Asking About, Disclosing, or Discussing Pay

Executive Order 11246, as amended, protects applicants and employees of Federal contractors from discrimination based on inquiring about, disclosing, or discussing their compensation or the compensation of other applicants or employees.

### Disability

Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, protects qualified individuals with disabilities from discrimination in hiring, promotion, discharge, pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment by Federal contractors. Disability discrimination includes not making reasonable accommodation to the known physical or mental limitations of an otherwise qualified individual with a disability who is an applicant or employee, barring undue hardship to the employer. Section 503 also requires that Federal contractors take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities at all levels of employment, including the executive level.

### Protected Veteran Status

The Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, as amended, 38 U.S.C. 4212, prohibits employment discrimination against, and requires affirmative action to recruit, employ, and advance in employment, disabled veterans, recently separated veterans (i.e., within three years of discharge or release from active duty), active duty wartime or campaign badge veterans, or Armed Forces service medal veterans.

### Retaliation

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

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

The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP)  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20210  
1-800-397-6251 (toll-free)

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services. OFCCP may also be contacted by submitting a question online to [OFCCP's Help Desk](https://ofccphelpdesk.dol.gov/s/) (<https://ofccphelpdesk.dol.gov/s/>), or by calling an OFCCP regional or district office, listed in most telephone directories under U.S. Government, Department of Labor and on [OFCCP's "Contact Us"](https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ofccp/contact) webpage (<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ofccp/contact>).

## PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES RECEIVING FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### Race, Color, National Origin, Sex

In addition to the protections of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 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 financial 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. Discrimination is prohibited in all aspects of employment against persons with disabilities who, with or without reasonable accommodation, can perform the essential functions of the job.

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



## AS A WORKER, WHAT IS MY MINIMUM WAGE?

From 01/01/2026 to 12/31/2026, the New York State basic minimum wage is:

- \$17.00 per hour in New York City
- \$17.00 per hour in Long Island and Westchester County
- \$16.00 per hour in the Remainder of New York State

And, the minimum wage for fast food workers\* is:

- \$17.00 per hour in all of New York City, Long Island and Westchester County
- \$16.00 per hour in the rest of New York State

Private sector employees in the state, including domestic workers (in most cases), must receive the basic minimum wage.

## SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The basic rate may change under rules known as “wage orders” that set minimum pay for jobs in:

- The hospitality, building service and farming industries
- All other industries and occupations

The wage orders set:

- Hourly rates
- Overtime rates
- Credits for meals and lodging, if supplied by the employer

The Hospitality wage order sets lower hourly minimum pay rates if workers regularly receive tips. Wage orders are published on the Department of Labor website at [www.labor.ny.gov/minimumwage](http://www.labor.ny.gov/minimumwage).

When workers take care of their own required uniforms, they must be paid an added amount over minimum wage.

Employees who do piecework should be paid at a rate that brings them to at least the basic minimum wage.

A standard work week is 40 hours. If employees work any hours beyond that, then the employer must pay them at 1½ times the regular wage.

## AS AN EMPLOYER, HOW DO I COMPLY WITH THE MINIMUM WAGE LAW?

To comply with minimum wage laws, employers should:

- Determine who must be paid the minimum wage, as some occupations and categories of employees are specifically exempt.
- Consider tips as part of the minimum wage for tipped employees.
- Regularly review pay rates and working hours to ensure compliance.
- Calculate wages based on hours worked and applicable minimum wage rates.
- Ensure the NYS minimum wage poster is visible to all employees in the workplace.

## WHAT PENALTIES MAY EMPLOYERS FACE WHEN THEY VIOLATE MINIMUM WAGE LAWS?

The Labor Department helps collect back wages for workers who have not received the minimum wage. Employers that break the Minimum Wage Law may be subject to orders to pay:

- Back wages
- Interest
- Liquidated damages
- Fines

They may also be subject to criminal prosecution and penalties. The fines for violations can total up to 200 percent of the missing wages. They may also have to pay 16 percent interest on the unpaid wages.

Employers with questions or concerns about obeying the Minimum Wage Law can contact the Labor Department at **888-469-7365** for help, between 8 am and 5 pm, Monday through Friday.

\*A fast food worker is any person employed or permitted to work at, or for, a fast food establishment by any employer where such person's job duties include at least one of the following: customer service, cooking, food or drink preparation, delivery, security, stocking supplies or equipment, cleaning, or routine maintenance.



# Attention Miscellaneous Industry Employees

Minimum Wage hourly rates effective 1/1/2026 – 12/31/2026

New York City	
Large Employers (11 or more employees)	Small Employers (10 or less employees)
<b>Minimum Wage \$17.00</b> Overtime after 40 hours \$25.50	<b>Minimum Wage \$17.00</b> Overtime after 40 hours \$25.50
<b>Tipped workers \$17.00</b> Overtime after 40 hours \$25.50	<b>Tipped workers \$17.00</b> Overtime after 40 hours \$25.50

Long Island and Westchester County	Remainder of New York State
<b>Minimum Wage \$17.00</b> Overtime after 40 hours \$25.50	<b>Minimum Wage \$16.00</b> Overtime after 40 hours \$24.00
<b>Tipped workers \$17.00</b> Overtime after 40 hours \$25.50	<b>Tipped workers \$16.00</b> Overtime after 40 hours \$24.00

If you have questions, need more information or want to file a complaint, please visit [www.labor.ny.gov/minimumwage](http://www.labor.ny.gov/minimumwage) or call: **1-888-469-7365**.

**Credits and Allowances** that may reduce your pay below the minimum wage rates shown above:

- **Tips** – Beginning December 31, 2020, your employer must pay the full applicable minimum wage rate, and cannot take any tip credit.
- **Meals and lodging** – Your employer may claim a limited amount of your wages for meals and lodging that they provide to you, as long as they do not charge you anything else. The rates and requirements are set forth in wage orders and summaries, which are available online.

**Extra Pay** you may be owed in addition to the minimum wage rates shown above:

- **Overtime** – You must be paid 1½ times your regular rate of pay (no less than amounts shown above) for weekly hours over 40 (or 44 for residential employees).  
*Exceptions:* Overtime is not required for salaried professionals, or for executives and administrative staff whose weekly salary is more than 75 times the minimum wage rate.
- **Call-in pay** – If you go to work as scheduled and your employer sends you home early, you may be entitled to extra hours of pay at the minimum wage rate for that day.
- **Spread of hours** – If your workday lasts longer than ten hours, you may be entitled to extra daily pay. The daily rate is equal to one hour of pay at the minimum wage rate.
- **Uniform maintenance** – If you clean your own uniform, you may be entitled to additional weekly pay. The weekly rates are available online.

**WE ARE YOUR DOL**



Department  
of Labor

# **POLICY ON THE RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEES TO EXPRESS BREAST MILK**

in the Workplace

## **INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE**

New York State Labor Law Section 206-c gives all employees in New York the right to express breast milk in the workplace. This law applies to all public and private employers in New York State, regardless of size or the nature of their business.

The New York State Department of Labor has developed the official policy on breast milk expression in the workplace as required by the law, ensuring that all employees know their rights and all employers understand their responsibilities. This policy is the minimum required standard, but employers are encouraged to include additional accommodations tailored to their workplace.

With the information provided below, employees will learn how much time they are allowed for breast milk expression, the kind of space employers are required to provide for breast milk expression, how to notify employers about the need to express breast milk in the workplace, and how to notify the Department of Labor if these rights are not honored.

Employers are required to provide this policy in writing to all employees when they are hired and again every year after. Employers are also required to provide the policy to employees as soon as they return to work following the birth of a child.

## **USING BREAK TIME FOR BREAST MILK EXPRESSION**

Employers must provide thirty (30) minutes of paid break time for their employees to express breast milk when the employee has a reasonable need to express breast milk. Employees must be permitted to use existing paid break or meal time if they need additional time for breast milk expression beyond the paid 30 minutes. This time must be provided for up to three years following childbirth. Employers must provide paid break time as often as an employee reasonably needs to express breast milk. The number of paid breaks an employee will need to express breast milk is unique to each employee and employers must provide reasonable break times based on the individual. Employers are prohibited from discriminating in any way against an employee who chooses to express breast milk in the workplace.

An employer is prohibited from requiring an employee to work before or after their normal shift to make up for any time used as paid break time to express breast milk.

All employers must continue to follow existing federal and state laws, regulations, and guidance regarding mealtimes and paid break time regardless of whether the employee uses such time to express breast milk. For additional information regarding what constitutes a meal period or a break period under state and federal law, please see the following resources:

- NY Department of Labor Website on Day of Rest, Break Time, and Meal Periods:  
[dol.ny.gov/day-rest-and-meal-periods](https://dol.ny.gov/day-rest-and-meal-periods)
- NY Department of Labor FAQs on Meal and Rest Periods:  
[dol.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/03/meal-and-rest-periods-frequently-asked-questions.pdf](https://dol.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/03/meal-and-rest-periods-frequently-asked-questions.pdf)
- U.S. Department of Labor FLSA FAQ on Meal and Rest Periods:  
[dol.gov/agencies/whd/fact-sheets/22-flsa-hours-worked](https://dol.gov/agencies/whd/fact-sheets/22-flsa-hours-worked)
- U.S. Department of Labor FLSA Fact Sheet on Compensation for Break Time to Pump Breast Milk:  
[dol.gov/agencies/whd/fact-sheets/73-flsa-break-time-nursing-mothers](https://dol.gov/agencies/whd/fact-sheets/73-flsa-break-time-nursing-mothers)

While an employer cannot require that an employee works while expressing breast milk, Labor Law 206-c does not otherwise prevent an employee from voluntarily choosing to do so if they want to.

Paid breaks provided for the expression of breast milk must be 30 minutes. An employee must be allowed to use regular break or meal time to take a longer paid break if needed. Employees may also opt to take shorter paid breaks.

Employees who work remotely have the same rights to paid time off for the purpose of expressing breast milk, as all other employees who perform their work in-person.

## **MAKING A REQUEST TO EXPRESS BREAST MILK AT WORK**

If an employee wants to express breast milk at work, they must give the employer reasonable advance notice, generally before returning to the workplace if the employee is on leave. This advance notice is to allow the employer time to find an appropriate location and adjust schedules if needed.

Employees wishing to request a room or other location to express breast milk in the workplace should do so by submitting a written request to their direct supervisor or individual designated by their employer for processing requests. Employers must respond to this request for a room or other location to express breast milk in writing within five days.

Employers must notify all employees in writing through email or printed memo when a room or other location has been designated for breast milk expression.

## **LACTATION ROOM REQUIREMENTS**

In addition to providing the necessary time during the workday, employers must provide a private room or alternative location for the purpose of breast milk expression. The space provided for breast milk expression cannot be a restroom or toilet stall.

The room or other location must:

- Be close to an employee's work area
- Provide good natural or artificial light
- Be private – both shielded from view and free from intrusion
- Have accessible, clean running water nearby
- Have an electrical outlet (if the workplace is supplied with electricity)
- Include a chair
- Provide a desk, small table, desk, counter or other flat surface

There does not need to be a separate space for every nursing employee. An employer may dedicate a single room or other location for breast milk expression. Should there be more than one employee at a time needing access to a lactation room, an employer may dedicate a centralized location to be used by all employees.

Any space provided for breast milk expression must be close to the work area of the employee(s) using the space. The space must be in walking distance, and the distance to the location should not significantly extend an employee's needed break time.

Employers located in shared work areas, such as office buildings, malls and similar spaces may work together to establish and maintain a dedicated lactation room, as long as such space(s) are a reasonable distance from the employees using the room. Each employer utilizing this common space is individually responsible for making sure the room meets the needs of their employees.

If there is not a separate room or space available for lactation, an employer may use a vacant office or other available room on a temporary basis. This room must not be accessible to the public or other employees while an employee is using it for breast milk expression.

As a last resort, an available cubicle may be used for breast milk expression. A cubicle can only be used if it is fully enclosed with a partition and is not otherwise accessible to the public or other employees while being used for breast milk expression. The cubicle walls must be at least seven feet tall to insure the employee's privacy.

To ensure privacy, if the lactation room has a window, it must be covered with a curtain, blind or other covering.

In addition, the lactation space should have a door equipped with a functional lock. If this is not possible (such as in the case of a fully enclosed cubicle), as a last resort, an employer must utilize a sign advising the space is in use and not accessible to other employees or the public.

If the workplace has a refrigerator, employers must allow employees to use it to store breast milk. However, employers are not responsible for ensuring the safekeeping of expressed milk stored in any refrigerator in the workplace.

Employees are required to store all expressed milk in closed containers and bring milk home each evening.

The space designated for expressing breast milk must be maintained and clean at all times.

If an employer can demonstrate undue hardship in providing a space with the above requirements, the employer must still provide a room or other location - other than a restroom or toilet stall - that is in close proximity to the work area where an employee can express breast milk in privacy, that meets as many of the requirements as possible.

Undue hardship is defined in the statute as "causing significant difficulty or expense when considered in relation to the size, financial resources, nature, or structure of the employer's business." However, an employer may not deny an employee the right to express breast milk in the workplace due to difficulty in finding a location.

## **NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RESOURCES**

If an employee believes that they are experiencing retaliation for expressing breast milk in the workplace, or that their employer is in violation of this policy, they should contact the New York State Department of Labor's Division of Labor Standards. Call us at **1-888-52-LABOR**, email us at [LSAsk@labor.ny.gov](mailto:LSAsk@labor.ny.gov), or visit our website at [dol.ny.gov/breast-milk-expression-workplace](https://dol.ny.gov/breast-milk-expression-workplace) to file a complaint.

A list of our offices is available at [dol.ny.gov/location/contact-division-labor-standards](https://dol.ny.gov/location/contact-division-labor-standards).

*Complaints are confidential.*

## **FEDERAL RESOURCES**

The federal PUMP Act went into effect in 2023, expanding protections for almost all employees expressing breast milk at work. Under the PUMP Act, any covered workers not provided with breaks and adequate space for up to a year after the birth of a child are able to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Labor or file a lawsuit against their employers. For more information, please visit [dol.gov/agencies/whd/pump-at-work](https://dol.gov/agencies/whd/pump-at-work).



THIS ESTABLISHMENT IS SUBJECT TO THE NEW YORK STATE HUMAN RIGHTS LAW (EXECUTIVE LAW, ARTICLE 15)

ESTE ESTABLECIMIENTO ESTÁ SUJETO A LA LEY DE DERECHOS HUMANOS DEL ESTADO DE NUEVA YORK (LEY EJECUTIVA, SECCIÓN 15)

Discrimination based upon age, race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, military status, sex, pregnancy, gender identity or expression, citizenship or immigration status, disability, domestic violence victim status, familial status, or marital status is prohibited by the New York State Human Rights Law. Sexual harassment or harassment based upon any of these protected classes also is prohibited.

La ley de derechos humanos del estado de nueva york prohíbe la discriminación por edad, raza, credo, color, origen nacional, orientación sexual, estatus militar, sexo, embarazo, identidad o expresión de género, ciudadanía o estatus migratorio, discapacidad, estado como víctima de violencia doméstica, estado familiar, o estado civil. También está prohibido el acoso sexual o el acoso por cualquiera de estas clases protegidas.

ALL EMPLOYERS, EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES, LABOR ORGANIZATIONS AND APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROGRAMS

Also prohibited: discrimination in employment on the basis of Sabbath observance or religious practices; hairstyles associated with race (also applies to all areas listed below); prior arrest or conviction record; predisposing genetic characteristics; pregnancy-related conditions.

Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities and pregnancy-related conditions including lactation may be required. A reasonable accommodation is an adjustment to a job or work environment that enables a person with a disability to perform the essential functions of a job in a reasonable manner.

Also covered: domestic workers; interns and nonemployees working in the workplace (for example temp or contract workers) are protected from all discrimination described above.

RENTAL, LEASE OR SALE OF HOUSING, LAND AND COMMERCIAL SPACE, INCLUDING ACTIVITIES OF REAL ESTATE BROKERS AND SALES PEOPLE

Also prohibited: discrimination on the basis of lawful source of income (for example housing vouchers, disability benefits, child support); familial status (families with children or being pregnant); prior arrest or sealed conviction; commercial boycotts or blockbusting.

Reasonable accommodations and modifications for persons with disabilities may also be required.

Does not apply to:

- (1) rental of an apartment in an owner-occupied two-family house
(2) restrictions of all rooms in a housing accommodation to individuals of the same sex
(3) rental of a room by the occupant of a house or apartment
(4) sale, rental, or lease of accommodations of housing exclusively to persons 55 years of age or older, and the spouse of such persons

ALL CREDIT TRANSACTIONS INCLUDING FINANCING FOR PURCHASE, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF HOUSING

PLACES OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION SUCH AS RESTAURANTS, HOTELS, HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL OFFICES, CLUBS, PARKS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES

Exception:

Age is not a covered classification relative to public accommodations. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities may also be required.

EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

All public schools and private nonprofit schools, at all education levels, excluding those run by religious organizations; also for-profit colleges, universities, licensed private career schools or certified English as a second language schools.

ADVERTISING AND APPLICATIONS RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT, REAL ESTATE, PLACES OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION AND CREDIT TRANSACTIONS MAY NOT EXPRESS ANY DISCRIMINATION

A complaint must be filed with the Division within one year for alleged acts of discrimination that occurred on or before 2/14/2024. Complaints for acts of discrimination that occur on or after 2/15/2024 may be filed within three years of the alleged act. A complaint alleging sexual harassment in employment that occurred on or after 08/12/2020 may be filed with three years of the alleged act. The Division's services are provided free of charge.

If you wish to file a complaint in State Court, you may do so within three years of the discrimination. You may not file both with the Division and the State Court.

Retaliation for filing a complaint or opposing discriminatory practices is prohibited. You may file a complaint with the Division if you have been retaliated against.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, WRITE OR CALL THE DIVISION'S NEAREST OFFICE. HEADQUARTERS: ONE FORDHAM PLAZA, 4TH FLOOR, BRONX, NY 10458

TODOS LOS EMPLEADORES, AGENCIAS DE EMPLEO, ORGANIZACIONES DE TRABAJO Y PROGRAMAS DE CAPACITACIÓN DE APRENDICES

Asimismo, está prohibida la discriminación en el empleo sobre la base de la observancia del Shabat o prácticas religiosas; peinados asociados con la raza (también se aplica a las áreas enumeradas a continuación) arresto previo o antecedentes penales; las características genéticas predisponentes; las condiciones relacionadas con el embarazo.

Es posible que sea necesario hacer acomodos razonables para personas con discapacidades y condiciones relacionadas con el embarazo incluyendo lactación. Un arreglo razonable es una adaptación a un trabajo o entorno laboral que permita que una persona con discapacidad realice las tareas esenciales de un trabajo de manera razonable.

También están cubiertos: trabajadores domésticos; internos y no empleados cuales trabajan en el lugar de trabajo (por ejemplo trabajadores temporarios o contratantes) están protegidos de toda discriminación descrita arriba.

ALQUILER, ARRENDAMIENTO O VENTA DE VIVIENDA, TERRENO O ESPACIO COMERCIAL INCLUYENDO ACTIVIDADES DE AGENTE DE BIENES RAICES Y VENDEDORES

También esta prohibido: la discriminación a base de fuente de ingreso legal (por ejemplo vales, beneficios de discapacidad, manutención de niños); estado familiar (familias con niños o en estado de embarazo); arresto previo o condena sellada; boicot comercial o acoso inmobiliario.

También es posible que sea necesario realizar modificaciones y arreglos razonables para personas con discapacidades.

Excepciones:

- (1) alquiler de un apartamento en una casa para dos familias ocupada por el dueño
(2) restricciones de todas las habitaciones en una vivienda para individuos del mismo sexo
(3) alquiler de una habitación por parte del ocupante de una casa o apartamento
(4) venta, alquiler o arrendamiento de alojamiento en una casa exclusivamente a personas mayores de 55 años y al cónyuge de dichas personas

TODAS TRANSACCIONES CREDITICIAS INCLUYENDO FINANCIAMIENTO PARA LA COMPRA, MANTENIMIENTO Y REPARACION DE VIVIENDAS

LUGARES DE ALOJAMIENTO PÚBLICO, COMO RESTAURANTES, HOTELES, HOSPITALES Y CONSULTORIOS MÉDICOS, CLUBS, PARQUES Y OFFICINAS DEL GOBIERNO.

Excepción:

La edad no es una clasificación cubierta respecto a los alojamientos públicos. Es posible que sea necesario realizar arreglos razonables para personas con discapacidades.

INSTITUCIONES EDUCATIVAS

Todas las escuelas publicas y escuelas privadas sin ánimo de lucro, en todos los niveles, excluyendo escuelas dirigidas por organizaciones religiosas; también están cubiertos: escuelas profesionales autorizadas o escuelas certificadas de inglés como segundo idioma.

PUBLICIDAD Y SOLICITUDES RELACIONADAS CON EL EMPLEO, LOS INMUEBLES, LOS LUGARES DE ALOJAMIENTO PÚBLICO Y LAS TRANSACCIONES CREDITICIAS NO DEBEN EXPRESAR NINGUN ACTO DISCRIMINATORIO

Para actos que ocurran el 14/02/2024 o antes, debe presentar su querrela en un plazo de un año a partir del acto más reciente de presunta discriminación. Para actos realizados a partir del 15/02/2024, debe presentar su querrela en un plazo de tres años posterior al acto más reciente de presunta discriminación. Una denuncia que alega acoso sexual en el empleo que ocurrió a partir del 12/08/2020 puede presentarse con tres años del presunto acto. Los servicios de la División se ofrecen sin cargo.

Si desea presentar una demanda ante el Tribunal Estatal, puede hacerlo dentro de los tres años desde que ocurriera la discriminación. No puede presentar una demanda ante la División y ante el Tribunal Estatal.

Se prohíben las represalias por presentar una demanda u oponerse a prácticas discriminatorias. Puede presentar una demanda ante la División si sufre represalias.

PARA OBTENER MÁS INFORMACIÓN, ESCRIBA O LLAME A LA OFICINA MÁS CERCANA DE LA DIVISIÓN. OFICINA CENTRAL: ONE FORDHAM PLAZA, 4TH FLOOR, BRONX, NY 10458

## **Notice of Employee Rights, Protections, and Obligations Under Labor Law Section 740**

### **Prohibited Retaliatory Personnel Action by Employers Effective January 26, 2022**

§ 740. Retaliatory action by employers; prohibition.

1. Definitions. For purposes of this section, unless the context specifically indicates otherwise:

- (a) "Employee" means an individual who performs services for and under the control and direction of an employer for wages or other remuneration, including former employees, or natural persons employed as independent contractors to carry out work in furtherance of an employer's business enterprise who are not themselves employers.
- (b) "Employer" means any person, firm, partnership, institution, corporation, or association that employs one or more employees.
- (c) "Law, rule or regulation" includes: (i) any duly enacted federal, state or local statute or ordinance or executive order; (ii) any rule or regulation promulgated pursuant to such statute or ordinance or executive order; or (iii) any judicial or administrative decision, ruling or order.
- (d) "Public body" includes the following:
  - (i) the United States Congress, any state legislature, or any elected local governmental body, or any member or employee thereof;
  - (ii) any federal, state, or local court, or any member or employee thereof, or any grand or petit jury;
  - (iii) any federal, state, or local regulatory, administrative, or public agency or authority, or instrumentality thereof;
  - (iv) any federal, state, or local law enforcement agency, prosecutorial office, or police or peace officer;
  - (v) any federal, state or local department of an executive branch of government; or
  - (vi) any division, board, bureau, office, committee, or commission of any of the public bodies described in subparagraphs (i) through (v) of this paragraph.
- (e) "Retaliatory action" means an adverse action taken by an employer or his or her agent to discharge, threaten, penalize, or in any other manner discriminate against any employee or former employee exercising his or her rights under this section, including (i) adverse employment actions or threats to take such adverse employment actions against an employee in the terms of conditions of employment including but not limited to discharge, suspension, or demotion; (ii) actions or threats to take such actions that would adversely impact a former employee's current or future employment; or (iii) threatening to contact or contacting United States immigration authorities or otherwise reporting or threatening to report an employee's suspected citizenship or immigration status or the suspected citizenship or immigration status of an employee's family or household member, as defined in subdivision two of section four hundred fifty-nine-a of the social services law, to a federal, state, or local agency.

- (f) "Supervisor" means any individual within an employer's organization who has the authority to direct and control the work performance of the affected employee; or who has managerial authority to take corrective action regarding the violation of the law, rule or regulation of which the employee complains.
2. Prohibitions. An employer shall not take any retaliatory action against an employee, whether or not within the scope of the employee's job duties, because such employee does any of the following:
- (a) discloses, or threatens to disclose to a supervisor or to a public body an activity, policy or practice of the employer that the employee reasonably believes is in violation of law, rule or regulation or that the employee reasonably believes poses a substantial and specific danger to the public health or safety;
  - (b) provides information to, or testifies before, any public body conducting an investigation, hearing or inquiry into any such activity, policy or practice by such employer; or
  - (c) objects to, or refuses to participate in any such activity, policy or practice.
3. Application. The protection against retaliatory action provided by paragraph (a) of subdivision two of this section pertaining to disclosure to a public body shall not apply to an employee who makes such disclosure to a public body unless the employee has made a good faith effort to notify his or her employer by bringing the activity, policy or practice to the attention of a supervisor of the employer and has afforded such employer a reasonable opportunity to correct such activity, policy or practice. Such employer notification shall not be required where:
- (a) there is an imminent and serious danger to the public health or safety;
  - (b) the employee reasonably believes that reporting to the supervisor would result in a destruction of evidence or other concealment of the activity, policy or practice;
  - (c) such activity, policy or practice could reasonably be expected to lead to endangering the welfare of a minor;
  - (d) the employee reasonably believes that reporting to the supervisor would result in physical harm to the employee or any other person; or
  - (e) the employee reasonably believes that the supervisor is already aware of the activity, policy or practice and will not correct such activity, policy or practice.
4. Violation; remedy.
- (a) An employee who has been the subject of a retaliatory action in violation of this section may institute a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction for relief as set forth in subdivision five of this section within two years after the alleged retaliatory action was taken.
  - (b) Any action authorized by this section may be brought in the county in which the alleged retaliatory action occurred, in the county in which the complainant resides, or in the county in which the employer has its principal place of business. In any such action, the parties shall be entitled to a jury trial.
  - (c) It shall be a defense to any action brought pursuant to this section that the retaliatory action was predicated upon grounds other than the employee's exercise of any rights protected by this section.
5. Relief. In any action brought pursuant to subdivision four of this section, the court may order relief as follows:
- (a) an injunction to restrain continued violation of this section;
  - (b) the reinstatement of the employee to the same position held before the retaliatory action, or to an equivalent position, or front pay in lieu thereof;
  - (c) the reinstatement of full fringe benefits and seniority rights;

- (d) the compensation for lost wages, benefits and other remuneration;
  - (e) the payment by the employer of reasonable costs, disbursements, and attorney's fees;
  - (f) a civil penalty of an amount not to exceed ten thousand dollars; and/or
  - (g) the payment by the employer of punitive damages, if the violation was willful, malicious or wanton.
6. **Employer relief.** A court, in its discretion, may also order that reasonable attorneys' fees and court costs and disbursements be awarded to an employer if the court determines that an action brought by an employee under this section was without basis in law or in fact.
  7. **Existing rights.** Nothing in this section shall be deemed to diminish the rights, privileges, or remedies of any employee under any other law or regulation or under any collective bargaining agreement or employment contract.
  8. **Publication.** Every employer shall inform employees of their protections, rights and obligations under this section, by posting a notice thereof. Such notices shall be posted conspicuously in easily accessible and well-lighted places customarily frequented by employees and applicants for employment.

# NEW YORK CORRECTION LAW ARTICLE 23-A

## NEW YORK CORRECTION LAW ARTICLE 23-A LICENSURE AND EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS PREVIOUSLY CONVICTED OF ONE OR MORE CRIMINAL OFFENSES

**Section 750. Definitions.** **751. Applicability.** **752. Unfair discrimination against persons previously convicted of one or more criminal offenses prohibited.** **753. Factors to be considered concerning a previous criminal conviction: presumption.** **754. Written statement upon denial of license or employment.** **755. Enforcement.** **§750. Definitions.** For the purposes of this article, the following terms shall have the following meanings: (1) "Public agency" means the state or any local subdivision thereof, or any state or local department, agency, board or commission. (2) "Private employer" means any person, company, corporation, labor organization or association which employs ten or more persons. (3) "Direct relationship" means that the nature of criminal conduct for which the person was convicted has a direct bearing on his fitness or ability to perform one or more of the duties or responsibilities necessarily related to the license, opportunity, or job in question. (4) "License" means any certificate, license, permit or grant of permission required by the laws of this state, its political subdivisions or instrumentalities as a condition for the lawful practice of any occupation, employment, trade, vocation, business, or profession. Provided, however, that "license" shall not, for the purposes of this article, include any license or permit to own, possess, carry, or fire any explosive, pistol, handgun, rifle, shotgun, or other firearm. (5) "Employment" means any occupation, vocation or employment, or any form of vocational or educational training. Provided, however, that "employment" shall not, for the purposes of this article, include membership in any law enforcement agency. **§751. Applicability.** The provisions of this article shall apply to any application by any person for a license or employment at any public or private employer, who has previously been convicted of one or more criminal offenses in this state or in any other jurisdiction, and to any license or employment held by any person whose conviction of one or more criminal offenses in this state or in any other jurisdiction preceded such employment or granting of a license, except where a mandatory forfeiture, disability or bar to employment is imposed by law, and has not been removed by an executive pardon, certificate of relief from disabilities or certificate of good conduct. Nothing in this article shall be construed to affect any right an employer may have with respect to an intentional misrepresentation in connection with an application for employment made by a prospective employee or previously made by a current employee. **§752. Unfair discrimination against persons previously convicted of one or more criminal offenses prohibited.** No application for any license or employment, and no employment or license held by an individual, to which the provisions of this article are applicable, shall be denied or acted upon adversely by reason of the individual's having been previously convicted of one or more criminal offenses, or by reason of a finding of lack of "good moral character" when such finding is based upon the fact that the individual has previously been convicted of one or more criminal offenses, unless: (1) There is a direct relationship between one or more of the previous criminal offenses and the specific license or employment sought or held by the individual; or (2) the issuance or continuation of the license or the granting or continuation of the employment would involve an unreasonable risk to property or to the safety or welfare of specific individuals or the general public. **§753. Factors to be considered concerning a previous criminal conviction: presumption.** 1. In making a determination pursuant to section seven hundred fifty-two of this chapter, the public agency or private employer shall consider the following factors: (a) The public policy of this state, as expressed in this act, to encourage the licensure and employment of persons previously convicted of one or more criminal offenses. (b) The specific duties and responsibilities necessarily related to the license or employment sought or held by the person. (c) The bearing, if any, the criminal offense or offenses for which the person was previously convicted will have on his fitness or ability to perform one or more such duties or responsibilities. (d) The time which has elapsed since the occurrence of the criminal offense or offenses. (e) The age of the person at the time of occurrence of the criminal offense or offenses. (f) The seriousness of the offense or offenses. (g) Any information produced by the person, or produced on his behalf, in regard to his rehabilitation and good conduct. (h) The legitimate interest of the public agency or private employer in protecting property, and the safety and welfare of specific individuals or the general public. 2. In making a determination pursuant to section seven hundred fifty-two of this chapter, the public agency or private employer shall also give consideration to a certificate of relief from disabilities or a certificate of good conduct issued to the applicant, which certificate shall create a presumption of rehabilitation in regard to the offense or offenses specified therein. **§754. Written statement upon denial of license or employment.** At the request of any person previously convicted of one or more criminal offenses who has been denied a license or employment, a public agency or private employer shall provide, within thirty days of a request, a written statement setting forth the reasons for such denial. **§755. Enforcement.** 1. In relation to actions by public agencies, the provisions of this article shall be enforceable by a proceeding brought pursuant to article seventy-eight of the civil practice law and rules. 2. In relation to actions by private employers, the provisions of this article shall be enforceable by the division of human rights pursuant to the powers and procedures set forth in article fifteen of the executive law, and, concurrently, by the New York city commission on human rights.

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# DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CERTAIN ACTIVITIES

## New York Labor Law

### § 201-d. Discrimination against the engagement in certain activities.

#### 1. Definitions. As used in this section:

- a. "Political activities" shall mean (i) running for public office, (ii) campaigning for a candidate for public office, or (iii) participating in fund-raising activities for the benefit of a candidate, political party or political advocacy group;
- b. "Recreational activities" shall mean any lawful, leisure-time activity, for which the employee receives no compensation and which is generally engaged in for recreational purposes, including but not limited to sports, games, hobbies, exercise, reading and the viewing of television, movies and similar material;
- c. "Work hours" shall mean, for purposes of this section, all time, including paid and unpaid breaks and meal periods, that the employee is suffered, permitted or expected to be engaged in work, and all time the employee is actually engaged in work. This definition shall not be referred to in determining hours worked for which an employee is entitled to compensation under any law including article nineteen of this chapter;
- d. "Political matters" shall mean matters relating to elections for political office, political parties, legislation, regulation and the decision to join or support any political party or political, civic, community, fraternal or labor organization;
- e. "Religious matters" shall mean matters relating to religious affiliation and practice and the decision to join or support any religious organization or association.

#### 2. Unless otherwise provided by law, it shall be unlawful for any employer or employment agency to refuse to hire, employ or license, or to discharge from employment or otherwise discriminate against an individual in compensation, promotion or terms, conditions or privileges of employment because of:

- a. an individual's political activities outside of working hours, off of the employer's premises and without use of the employer's equipment or other property, if such activities are legal, provided, however, that this paragraph shall not apply to persons whose employment is defined in paragraph six of subdivision (a) of section seventy-nine-h of the civil rights law, and provided further that this paragraph shall not apply to persons who would otherwise be prohibited from engaging in political activity pursuant to chapter 15 of title 5 and subchapter III of chapter 73 of title 5 of the USCA;
- b. an individual's legal use of consumable products, including cannabis in accordance with state law, prior to the beginning or after the conclusion of the employee's work hours, and off of the employer's premises and without use of the employer's equipment or other property;
- c. an individual's legal recreational activities, including cannabis in accordance with state law, outside work hours, off of the employer's premises and without use of the employer's equipment or other property;
- d. an individual's membership in a union or any exercise of rights granted under Title 29, USCA, Chapter 7 or under article fourteen of the civil service law; or
- e. an individual's refusal to: (i) attend an employer-sponsored meeting with the employer or its agent, representative or designee, the primary purpose of which is to communicate the employer's opinion concerning religious or political matters; or (ii) listen to speech or view communications, the primary purpose of which is to communicate the employer's opinion concerning religious or political matters.

#### 3. The provisions of subdivision two of this section shall not be deemed to protect activity which:

- a. creates a material conflict of interest related to the employer's trade secrets, proprietary information or other proprietary or business interest;
- b. with respect to employees of a state agency as defined in sections seventy-three and seventy-four of the public officers law respectively, is in knowing violation of subdivision two, three, four, five, seven, eight or twelve of section seventy-three or of section seventy-four of the public officers law, or of any executive order, policy, directive, or other rule which has been issued by the attorney general regulating outside employment or activities that could conflict with employees' performance of their official duties;
- c. with respect to employees of any employer as defined in section twenty-seven-a of this chapter, is in knowing violation of a provision of a collective bargaining agreement concerning ethics, conflicts of interest, potential conflicts of interest, or the proper discharge of official duties;
- d. with respect to employees of any employer as defined in section twenty-seven-a of this chapter who are not subject to section seventy-three or seventy-four of the public officers law, is in knowing violation of article eighteen of the general municipal law or any local law, administrative code provision, charter provision or rule or directive of the mayor or any agency head of a city having a population of one million or more, where such law, code provision, charter provision, rule or directive concerns ethics, conflicts of interest, potential conflicts of interest, or the proper discharge of official duties and otherwise covers such employees; and
- e. with respect to employees other than those of any employer as defined in section twenty-seven-a of this chapter, violates a collective bargaining agreement or a certified or licensed professional's contractual obligation to

devote his or her entire compensated working hours to a single employer, provided however that the provisions of this paragraph shall apply only to professionals whose compensation is at least fifty thousand dollars for the year nineteen hundred ninety-two and in subsequent years is an equivalent amount adjusted by the same percentage as the annual increase or decrease in the consumer price index.

#### 4. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision three of this section, an employer shall not be in violation of this section where the employer takes action based on the belief either that: (i) the employer's actions were required by statute, regulation, ordinance or other governmental mandate, (ii) the employer's actions were permissible pursuant to an established substance abuse or alcohol program or workplace policy, professional contract or collective bargaining agreement, or (iii) the individual's actions were deemed by an employer or previous employer to be illegal or to constitute habitually poor performance, incompetency or misconduct.

#### 4-a. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision three or four of this section, an employer shall not be in violation of this section where the employer takes action related to the use of cannabis based on the following:

- (i) the employer's actions were required by state or federal statute, regulation, ordinance, or other state or federal governmental mandate;
- (ii) the employee is impaired by the use of cannabis, meaning the employee manifests specific articulable symptoms while working that decrease or lessen the employee's performance of the duties or tasks of the employee's job position, or such specific articulable symptoms interfere with an employer's obligation to provide a safe and healthy work place, free from recognized hazards, as required by state and federal occupational safety and health law; or
- (iii) the employer's actions would require such employer to commit any act that would cause the employer to be in violation of federal law or would result in the loss of a federal contract or federal funding.

#### 5. Nothing in this section shall apply to persons who, on an individual basis, have a professional service contract with an employer and the unique nature of the services provided is such that the employer shall be permitted, as part of such professional service contract, to limit the off-duty activities which may be engaged in by such individual.

#### 6. Nothing in this section shall prohibit an organization or employer from offering, imposing or having in effect a health, disability or life insurance policy that makes distinctions between employees for the type of coverage or the price of coverage based upon the employees' recreational activities or use of consumable products, provided that differential premium rates charged employees reflect a differential cost to the employer and that employers provide employees with a statement delineating the differential rates used by the carriers providing insurance for the employer, and provided further that such distinctions in type or price of coverage shall not be utilized to expand, limit or curtail the rights or liabilities of any party with regard to a civil cause of action.

#### 7. a. Where a violation of this section is alleged to have occurred, the attorney general may apply in the name of the people of the state of New York for an order enjoining or restraining the commission or continuance of the alleged unlawful acts. In any such proceeding, the court may impose a civil penalty in the amount of three hundred dollars for the first violation and five hundred dollars for each subsequent violation.

#### b. In addition to any other penalties or actions otherwise applicable pursuant to this chapter, where a violation of this section is alleged to have occurred, an aggrieved individual may commence an action for equitable relief and damages.

#### 8. Nothing in this section shall prohibit: (i) an employer or its agent, representative or designee from communicating to its employees any information that the employer is required by law to communicate, but only to the extent of such legal requirement; (ii) an employer or its agent, representative or designee from communicating to its employees any information that is necessary for such employees to perform their job duties; (iii) an institution of higher education, or any agent, representative or designee of such institution, from meeting with or participating in any communications with its employees that are part of coursework, any symposia or an academic program at such institution; (iv) casual conversations between employees or between an employee and an agent, representative or designee of an employer, provided participation in such conversations is not required; or (v) a requirement limited to the employer's managerial and supervisory employees.

#### 9. The provisions of this section shall not apply to a religious corporation, entity, association, educational institution or society that is exempt from the requirements of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 pursuant to 42 USC 2000e-1(a) with respect to speech on religious matters to employees who perform work connected with the activities undertaken by such religious corporation, entity, association, educational institution or society.

#### 10. Every employer shall post a sign in every workplace at the location or locations where notices to employees are normally posted, to inform employees of their rights pursuant to this section.