# FEDERAL WAGE AND LABOR LAW INSTITUTE

## **Your Rights under the** Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993

FMLA requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to "eligible" employees for certain family and medical reasons. Employees are eligible if they have worked for their employer for at least one year, and for 1,250 hours reduced schedule under certain circumstances.

### **Reasons for Taking Leave:**

- Unpaid leave must be granted for any of the following reasons
- to care for the employee's child after birth, or placement for adoption or foster care;
- to care for the employee's spouse, son or daughter, or parent who has a serious
- health condition; or • for a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the
- employee's job.
- At the employee's or employer's option, certain kinds of paid leave may be substituted for unpaid leave.

#### **Advance Notice and Medical Certification:**

The employee may be required to provide advance leave notice and medical certification. Taking of leave may be denied if requirements are not met.

- The employee ordinarily must provide 30 days advance notice when the leave is "foreseeable."
- An employer may require medical certification to support a request for leave because of a serious health condition, and may require second or third opinions (at the employer's expense) and a fitness for duty report to return to work.

#### Job Benefits and Protection:

• For the duration of FMLA leave, the employer must maintain the employee's health coverage under any "group health plan."

• Upon return from FMLA leave, most employees must be restored to their original or equivalent positions with equivalent pay, benefits, and other employment terms. • The use of FMLA leave cannot result in the loss of any employment benefit that accrued prior to the start of an employee's leave.

over the previous 12 months, and if there are at least 50 employees within 75 miles. The FMLA permits employees to take leave on an intermittent basis or to work a

## **Unlawful Acts by Employers:**

FMLA makes it unlawful for any employer to: • interfere with, restrain, or deny the exercise of any right provided under FMLA: • discharge or discriminate against any person for opposing any practice made unlawful by FMLA or

for involvement in any proceeding under or relating to FMLA.

#### **Enforcement:**

### • The U.S. Department of Labor is authorized to investigate and resolve complaints of

• An eligible employee may bring a civil action against an employer for violations.

FMLA does not affect any Federal or State law prohibiting discrimination, or super-

sede any State or local law or collective bargaining agreement which provides greater

#### family or medical leave rights.

### **For Additional Information:**

If you have access to the Internet visit our FMLA website http://www.dol.gov/esa/whd/fmla. To locate your nearest Wage-Hour Office, telephone our Wage-Hour toll-free information and help line at 1-866-4USWAGE (1-866-487-9243): a customer service representative is available to assist you with referral information from 8am to 5pm in your time zone; or log onto our Home Page at http://www.wagehour.dol.gov.

U.S. Department of Labor Employment Standards Administration Wage and Hour Division Washington, D.C. 20210

#### FOR USE BY PRIVATE SECTOR AND STATE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYERS

## **RIGHTS UNDER LISERRA** 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**

#### **HEALTH INSURANCE PROTECTION**

- 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:
- while with that particular employer;
- after conclusion of service: and
- discharge or under other than honorable conditions.

- 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

WWW.WAGEHOUR.DOL.GOV

ment of Labor | Employment Standards Administration | Wage and Hour Division | WHD Publication 1088 (Revised June 2007)

(VETS) is authorized to investigate and resolve complaints of USERRA

## Equal Employment Opportunity is THE LAW

#### **Employers Holding Federal Contracts or Subcontracts**

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

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

#### INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, prohibits job discrimination because of disability and requires affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with dis-

abilities who, with reasonable accommodation, can perform the essential functions of a job. VIETNAM ERA, SPECIAL DISABLED, RECENTLY

SEPARATED, AND OTHER PROTECTED VETERANS 38 U.S.C. 4212 of the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, as amended, prohibits job discrimina tion and requires affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified Vietnam era veterans, qualified special disabled veterans, recently separated veterans, and other protected veterans.

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

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS ADMINISTRATION Wage and Hour Division Washington, D.C. 20210

#### 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

WH Publication 1420

Revised August 2001

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

aw does not apply to tests given by the Federal Government to certain pri vate individuals engaged in national security-related activities

The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP), Employment Standards Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210 or call (202) 693-0101, or an OFCCP regional or district office, listed in most telephone directories under U.S. Government, Department of Labor

#### **Private Employment, State** and Local Governments, **Educational Institutions**

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

RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, NATIONAL ORIGIN Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, prohibits discrimination in hiring, promotion, discharge, pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

DISABILITY The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, protects qualified applicants and employees with disabilities from discrimination in hiring, promotion, discharge, pay, job training, fringe benefits, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment on the basis of disability. The law also requires that covered entities provide qualified applicants and employees with disabilities with reasonable accommodations that do not impose undue hardship.

EXAMINEE RIGHTS

ENFORCEMENT

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

SEX (WAGES) In addition to sex discrimination prohibited by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (see above), the Equal Pay Act of 1963, as amended, prohibits sex discrimination in payment of wages to women and men performing substantially equal work in the same establishment.

Retaliation against a person who files a charge of discrimination, participates in an investigation, or opposes an unlawful employment practice is prohibited by all of these Federal laws.

If you believe that you have been discriminated against under any of the above laws, you should contact immediately:

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), 1801 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20507 or an EEOC field office by calling toll free (800) 669-4000. For individuals with hearing impairments, EEOC's toll free TDD number is (800) 669-6820.

**Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial** Assistance

RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX In addition to the protection of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance. Employment discrimination is covered by Title VI if the primary objective of the financial assistance is provision of employ ment, or where employment discrimination causes or may cause discrimination in providing services under such programs. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities which receive Federal assistance.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES Sections 501, 504 and 505 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 assisance in the federal government Discrimination is prohibited in all aspects of employment against persons with disabilities who, with reasonable accommodation, can perform the essential functions of a job.

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

Publication OFCCP 1420 (Revised 2004)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

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

EXAMINER 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 test-ing, the right to refuse or discontinue a test, and the right not to have test results disclosed to unauthorized persons. \*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

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS ADMINISTRATION Wage and Hour Division Washington, D.C. 20210

WH Publication 1462 June 2003



FOR INFORMATION OR TO REORDER

**AN ALL-IN-ONE® POSTER CALL** 



**Occupational Safety** and Health Administration **U.S. Department of Labor** 

### NOTICE

#### EXEMPTIONS

The Secretary of Labor may bring court actions to restrain violations and assess civil penalties up to \$10,000 against violators. Employees or job applicants may also bring their own court actions. ederal, State and local governments are not affected by the law. Also, the

The Act permits *polygraph* (a kind of lie detector) tests to be administered

n 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.

**7001 W. 43RD STREET** 

**HOUSTON, TEXAS 77092**