

## CHAPTER 10

### Leave

#### 10.1 Leave Defined

Leave is any authorized absence during regularly scheduled work hours that has been approved by proper authority. Leave may be authorized with or without pay. Absence without approval is considered unauthorized absence.

#### 10.2 Leave Policy

All merit employees are encouraged to take annual leave for vacation purposes of two consecutive weeks each year. During the year, careful consideration shall be given to the desire and needs of employees in the granting of shorter periods of annual leave. Department heads or designees shall grant leave in accordance with these rules on the basis of the work requirements in the department, and whenever possible, the personal wishes of the employee.

#### 10.3 Maintenance of Leave Records

The Department head or his/her designee shall be responsible for the maintenance of accurate leave records. Such records shall be kept on a form prescribed by the Human Resources Director, who may periodically inspect them to ensure that departments are adhering to the provisions of these rules.

#### 10.4 Procedures for Requesting Leave

- 1 For all leave, with the exception of official holiday, unscheduled sick and administrative emergency leave, a request indicating the kind of leave, duration and dates of departure and return must be approved prior to the taking of the leave. The request for leave should be submitted to the department head or designee the same number of days prior to beginning the leave as the number of days leave requested. In the case of unscheduled sick leave, the request shall be completed and submitted for approval immediately upon the employee's return to duty.
- 2 Unless an absence is approved by the department head or his/her designee, an employee shall not be paid for any absences from scheduled work hours.

#### 10.5 Unauthorized Absence

- 1 An employee who is absent from duty without approval shall:
  - a. Receive no pay for the duration of the absence;
  - b. Be subject to disciplinary action, which may include dismissal.

- 2 It is recognized there may be extenuating circumstances for unauthorized absence and due consideration shall be given each case.
- 3 Failure of an employee to report for work at the expiration of an authorized leave or to request an extension of such leave shall be considered an absence without leave.

#### 10.6 Types of Leave

The following types of leave, and no other, are officially established:

- 1 Annual leave (Section 10.7 - 10.12);
- 2 Sick leave (Section 10.13 - 10.21);
- 3 Extraordinary sick leave (Section 10.16);
- 4 Paid family leave (Section 10.23)
- 5 Leave for injury in line of duty (Section 10.24);
- 6 Bereavement leave (Section 10.25);
- 7 Compensatory leave (Section 10.26 - 10.28);
- 8 Military leave (Section 10.29);
- 9 Civil leave (Section 10.30);
- 10 Volunteer activity leave (Section 10.31);
- 11 Leave without pay (Section 10.32);
- 12 Education leave (Section 10.33);
- 13 Holiday leave (Section 10.34 - 10.35);
- 14 Administrative leave (Section 10.36);
- 15 Leave for inclement weather or other emergencies (Section 10.37).

#### 10.7 Granting Annual Leave

Department heads or designees shall grant annual leave with pay in accordance with the

following provisions:

- 1 Annual leave shall normally be granted unless a department head or designee specifically defers an employee's absence because of work requirements.
- 2 Annual leave shall not exceed the total amount credited to an employee at the beginning of the pay period in which the absence occurs.

#### 10.8 Crediting of Annual Leave

Annual leave shall be credited as follows for merit employees and senior managers as designated in Chapter 4.

- 1 During pay periods in which a merit employee is in paid status for at least one hour, annual leave shall be credited according to scheduled hours. Incumbents in positions with 80 scheduled work hours per pay period will receive the following annual leave credits, based on length of service:
  - a. Less than three years of service receive four (4) hours;
  - b. Three (3) years but less than fifteen (15) years receive six (6) hours;
  - c. Fifteen (15) and greater years of service receive eight (8) hours.
- 2 Merit employees with scheduled hours other than 80 hours per pay period shall receive leave prorated according to total scheduled hours. Employees working in more than one merit position will accrue annual leave in all positions.
- 3 Employees who are participants in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) will be considered as merit employees for purposes of crediting annual leave.
- 4 Employees reemployed or reinstated within one calendar year of their separation in good standing should have their annual leave computed on the basis of total years of service. Revised leave computation dates shall be rounded to the nearest day.
- 5 Employees with less than ten (10) years of service may accumulate annual leave up to 240 hours. Employees with ten (10) or more years of service may accumulate annual leave up to 320 hours.
- 6 Annual leave in excess of the limits imposed by this section existing at the end of each calendar year shall be converted to sick leave.
- 7 Employees shall not receive dual compensation from the County for annual leave.
- 8 Employees designated as senior managers shall receive 208 hours (26 days) of annual leave at the beginning of each calendar year. Senior managers appointed after the start of a calendar year shall receive annual leave credit on a prorated basis for that year.

### 10.9 Debiting Annual Leave

Annual leave shall be debited as follows:

- 1 The amount of annual leave to be debited shall be computed on the basis of the exact number of days or hours an employee is scheduled to work in the period when leave is taken.
- 2 Annual leave shall be debited in no less than one-tenth hour units.
- 3 Overdrawn annual leave shall be debited in the following order: compensatory leave, leave without pay.

### 10.10 Transfer of Annual and Sick Leave

Annual or sick leave may be transferred from one employee to another employee in the following situations:

- 1 Annual or sick leave may be transferred from one employee to another when the employee-in-need has exhausted his/her sick leave and is facing an absence without pay due to his/her extended illness or that of an immediate family or household member as defined in Chapter 2, with the following provisions:
  - a. Annual or sick leave may be transferred to any County employee eligible to receive sick leave.
  - b. Employees transferring sick leave may not transfer more than 80 hours in any calendar year.
  - c. The employee transferring annual or sick leave relinquishes all rights to that leave. Annual or sick leave transferred under this policy cannot be recovered at a later date.
  - d. An employee may not transfer leave to his/her immediate supervisor or reviewing authority for performance evaluations.
  - e. Unused transferred leave may be transferred to another leave recipient or returned to the donor.
  - f. Transferred leave may be granted only to employees who have exhausted their sick leave balance and whose combined annual and compensatory leave balance does not exceed 80 hours (120 hours for 24-hour shift employees).
  - g. This policy does not preclude or in any way limit the right of an employee to apply for advanced or extraordinary sick leave under existing procedures.

- h. Final approval of leave transfer requests rests with the department head or designee.
  - i. An employee who returns to work before using all received transferred leave may use the balance for subsequent treatment or recuperation from the ailment for which the leave was granted. This balance may be used for up to one year from the date transferred leave was approved.
- 2 Annual leave may be transferred from one employee to another when the employee-in-need is a member of the National Guard or an organized military reserve of the United States who has volunteered or been ordered to active duty pursuant to an order by the President of the United States or a competent State authority. The transfer of annual leave under this Section is subject to the following conditions:
- a. Annual leave may be transferred to any merit County employee who is a member of the National Guard or an organized military reserve of the United States.
  - b. The employee transferring annual leave relinquishes all rights to that leave. Annual leave transferred under this policy cannot be recovered at a later date. Once the leave has been used by the employee, it cannot be recovered.
  - c. An employee may not transfer leave to his/her immediate supervisor or reviewing authority for performance evaluations.
  - d. Transferred annual leave may only be used when the employee called to active military duty has reduced his/her accrued annual and compensatory leave to a combined balance no greater than 80 (120 hours for 24-hour shift employees) hours.
  - e. Final approval of leave transfer requests rests with the department head or designee.

10.11 *Effect of Transfers on Annual Leave Credits*

A merit employee who transfers from one department to another shall have his/her total annual leave credits transferred to the new department.

10.12 *Effect of Separation on Annual Leave Credits*

Upon separation, an employee shall be paid for the unused portion of his/her accrued annual leave, except as modified by the rules governing resignation without sufficient notice.

10.13 *Sick Leave Policy*

Sick leave shall be used when an employee is incapacitated by sickness or injury; for childbirth, placement of a child for adoption or foster care; for medical, dental, or optical diagnosis or

treatment; for necessary care and attendance or death of a member of the employee's immediate family or household member, as defined in Chapter 2; exposure to a contagious disease when the attendance at duty jeopardizes the health of others. Sick leave for childbirth and adoption/foster care placement shall comply with the provisions in Section 10.22 of these Regulations.

10.14 Granting Ordinary Sick Leave

Department heads or designees shall grant sick leave with pay to merit employees in accordance with the following provisions:

- 1 Ordinary sick leave shall not exceed the total amount credited to an employee at the beginning of the pay period in which the absence occurs;
- 2 Leave without pay may be granted for sickness extending beyond the earned credit;
- 3 For merit employees' annual or compensatory leave credits may be used for sick leave.

10.15 Granting Advance Sick Leave

- 1 Advance sick leave, not to exceed 192 hours (288 hours for 24-hour shift employees), may be granted to merit employees qualified to earn ordinary sick leave in cases of serious disability or ailments of the employee, the spouse, minor or disabled child, parent or parent-in-law of an employee when it is to the advantage of the County to do so.
- 2 Advance sick leave may be granted to employees whose combined annual and compensatory leave balance does not exceed 80 hours.
- 3 Advance sick leave shall not normally be advanced to a merit employee qualified to earn ordinary sick leave during his/her first year of service with the County.
- 4 Advance sick leave shall not be approved retroactively to restore hours previously charged to the employee's annual or compensatory leave balance for an ailment or disability.
- 5 When a department head or designee believes that a request for advance sick leave is justified, a personnel action form shall be prepared with the following supporting documentation:
  - a. The circumstances and the need for such leave verified by a physician's statement;
  - b. The time and date when accrued sick leave will be exhausted;
  - c. The number of hours of advance sick leave requested and date to which such leave will extend;

- d. Probable return to duty and prospect for continued employment;
  - e. Recommendation of the department head or designee;
  - f. Statement notifying employee of the repayment requirement if advance sick leave is approved.
- 6 The Human Resources Director shall consider the information provided and make a recommendation to the County Executive.
  - 7 Advance sick leave shall be approved by the County Executive or his/her designee.
  - 8 Advance sick leave shall be charged to future accruals of sick leave. An employee may not use regular sick leave until the approved advance sick leave is repaid.
  - 9 An employee who returns to work before using all approved advance sick leave may use the balance for subsequent treatment or recuperation from the ailment for which the leave was granted. This balance may be used for up to one year from the date advance sick leave was first used.
  - 10 An employee returning to work before using all approved advance sick leave may request an adjustment to his/her leave record to eliminate or reduce the remaining approved advance sick leave.
  - 11 When an employee who receives advance sick leave leaves County service for any reason and the advance sick leave has not been repaid, the County will be financially reimbursed for the balance of sick leave remaining, except in the case of full disability or death.

#### 10.16 Granting Extraordinary Sick Leave

- 1 When the above provisions do not adequately allow for the illness or injury of a merit employee qualified to earn sick leave, and when the department head or designee believes that it is to the advantage of the County to do so, he/she may request of the County Executive, through the Human Resources Director, that the employee be granted an extraordinary sick leave not to exceed 4 hours (6.0 hours for 24-hour shift employees) for each month of service.
- 2 Extraordinary sick leave shall be recorded on the employee's leave record but shall not be charged to future accrued leave of any kind.

#### 10.17 Crediting Sick Leave

Sick leave shall be credited as follows for merit employees and senior managers as designated in Chapter 4.

- 1 During pay periods in which a merit employee is in paid status for at least one hour, sick leave shall be credit based on scheduled hours. Incumbents in positions with 80 scheduled work hours per pay period will receive a four (4) hour sick leave credit.
- 2 Merit employees with scheduled hours other than 80 shall receive sick leave prorated accordingly. Employees holding multiple merit positions are eligible to accrue sick leave on scheduled hours in all positions.
- 3 Unused sick leave may be accumulated without limit.
- 4 Employees, when separated in good standing and reemployed or reinstated within one calendar year of separation, shall have their unused sick leave reinstated.
- 5 Senior managers shall receive 104 hours (13 days) of sick leave at the beginning of each calendar year. Sick leave balances granted senior managers appointed after the start of a calendar year shall be prorated accordingly.
- 6 Employees who are participants in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) will be considered as merit employees for purposes of crediting sick leave.

10.18 Debiting Sick Leave

Sick leave shall be debited as follows:

- 1 The amount of sick leave to be debited shall be computed on the basis of the exact number of days or hours an employee is scheduled to work in the period when leave is taken.
- 2 Sick leave shall be debited in no less than one-tenth hour units.
- 3 Overdrawn sick leave shall be debited in the following order: annual leave, compensatory leave, and leave without pay.

10.19 Effect of Transfer on Sick Leave Credits

A merit employee who transfers from one department to another shall have his/her total sick leave credits transferred to the new department.

10.20 Effect of Separation on Sick Leave Credits

- 1. Sick leave credits shall not be paid to an employee upon separation.



2. Upon application for retirement, an employee's sick leave credits can be applied towards membership service credit at the rate of one month of credit for each 172 hours of accrued unused sick leave and prorated for any fraction of this amount.
3. Employees who are participants in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan may apply all sick leave credits towards membership service credit for retirement or retain 40 hours as an initial sick leave balance, while the remaining sick leave credits are applied towards membership service credit for retirement.

#### 10.21 Other Factors Relative to Sick Leave

- 1 Reporting of sickness.  
Employees who are absent from duty for reasons which entitle them to sick leave shall notify their respective supervisors within the time frame established by the Department unless physically unable to do so. Upon return to work, the employee shall submit immediately to his/her supervisor an authorization for leave form.
- 2 Medical certificate.  
A department head or designee may require a medical statement for sick leave when it occurs before or after a holiday or other scheduled day off, or when it is in excess of two workdays. When an employee has a record of repetitious usage of short amounts of sick leave over an extended period a department head or designee may require a medical certificate for each day of sick leave taken. Employees shall be provided advance notice that a medical certificate will be required for future absences.
- 3 The department head or designee may require an employee returning from sick leave to take a medical examination, or, with the concurrence of the Human Resources Director, on such other occasions that he/she deems it in the best interest of the County. The medical examination shall be given by a medical doctor designated by the Human Resources Director or his designee.
- 4 Investigation of sickness. A department head or designee may investigate the alleged illness of an employee absent on sick leave.
- 5 False or fraudulent use of sick leave. False or fraudulent use of sick leave shall be cause for disciplinary action against the offending employee. Such disciplinary action may include dismissal.
- 6 An employee on annual leave who presents a medical certificate giving the dates of illness may have that portion of his/her annual leave converted to sick leave.
- 7 Conversion of sick leave. Conversion of sick leave to annual leave shall not be permitted.
- 8 State worker's compensation insurance. An employee, who is eligible to receive state

worker's compensation payments beyond the year of injury leave, may elect to use accumulated sick leave and/or annual leave. The use of such leave will be coordinated with worker's compensation payments so that the total amount received from both sources does not exceed the employee's full wage or salary until such sick and/or annual leave is depleted or until the employee returns to work.

Leave hours used will be calculated only on that portion of total compensation over the workers' compensation payment. While using sick and/or annual leave the employee will continue accruing sick and annual leave.

#### 10.22 Family and Medical Leave

Eligible employees, as defined by the implementing regulations of the Family and Medical Leave Act, may take job-protected, unpaid leave, or substitute appropriate paid leave, for up to a total of 12 workweeks in any 12 months for the birth of a child, for the placement of child for adoption or foster care, because the employee is needed to care for a family member (child, spouse, parent or parent-in-law) with a serious health condition, because the employee's own serious health condition makes the employee unable to perform the functions of his or her job, or because of any qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the employee's spouse, son, daughter, parent or parent-in-law is a covered military member on covered active duty. In addition, eligible employees may take job-protected, unpaid leave or substitute appropriate paid leave for up to a total of 26 workweeks in a single 12-month period to care for a covered service member with a covered serious injury or illness. The terms "covered military member," "covered active duty," and "covered serious injury or illness" shall be defined as set forth in the Family and Medical Leave Act as amended.

Family and medical leave consists of any combination of sick leave, annual leave, paid family leave, compensatory leave, and leave without pay. Sick leave used for the purpose of family or medical leave must conform to the requirements in Section 10.13. If paid family leave (Section 10.23) is taken for the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of a child, the leave must be applied towards the employee's Family and Medical Leave entitlement if applicable.

- 1 Family and medical leave shall be granted to any merit employee for a period of up to twelve work weeks over a twelve-month period. The twelve-month period during which family and medical leave may be taken for the birth of or placement of a child shall expire at the end of the twelve-month period beginning on the date of birth or placement. Service member caregiver leave is granted for up to 26 workweeks during a single 12-month period on a per-covered service member and per-injury/illness basis. Work week is defined as the hours an employee is regularly scheduled to work in a seven (7) consecutive day period.
- 2 The twelve-month period for family and medical leave usage shall commence with the first use of family or medical leave. The single twelve-month period for service member caregiver leave shall commence with the first day the eligible employee takes service member caregiver leave and ends 12 months after that date regardless of the 12-month

period established for prior FMLA qualifying events.

- 3 Requests for leave beyond 12/26 work weeks are subject to regular leave policies with approval determined by the department head or designee.
- 4 Requests for family and medical leave must be made in writing and submitted 30 calendar days in advance whenever the necessity for such leave is foreseeable.
- 5 The mother may take six (6) weeks of sick leave immediately following the birth of her child. Use of additional sick leave requires medical certification. The non-birthing parent may take four (4) weeks of sick immediately following the birth of the child. Use of additional sick leave requires medical certification.
- 6 Parents and guardians may take four (4) weeks of sick leave immediately following placement of a child for adoption or foster care. Use of additional sick leave requires medical certification.
- 7 Family leave to include exigency leave may be taken on an intermittent or reduced schedule basis with the approval of the department head or designee. Medical leave may be taken on an intermittent or reduced schedule basis if certified as necessary by the health provider.
- 8 At the request of the department head or designee, the employee shall provide certification from a health care provider in connection with a request for medical leave. Additionally, an employee may be required to provide medical documentation concerning the continuing necessity for medical leave and in connection with any issue concerning his/her ability to return to work at the expiration of medical leave.
- 9 At the request of the department head or designee, the employee shall provide certification of a qualifying exigency in connection with a request for exigency leave.
- 10 At the discretion of the department head or designee, an employee requesting family leave for the birth or adoption of a child may be required to use all approved paid family leave, accrued annual, or sick leave prior to use of leave without pay. Employees requesting family or medical leave for all other reasons may be required to use accrued sick, and/or annual leave prior to use of leave without pay.
- 11 During the leave period, the County will provide coverage under the health insurance plan which the employee had selected prior to going on leave at the level and under the conditions coverage would have been provided if the employee had not gone on leave.
- 12 If the employee fails to return to work for a reason other than the continuation, recurrence, or onset of a serious health condition for him or herself, children, spouse, parents, parents-in-law, or injured family service member or other circumstances beyond the control of the

employee, the County may recover the employer's contribution to the health insurance premium paid during any period of unpaid leave.

- 13 No employee shall be prevented from returning to work prior to the expiration of the 12/26 week period.
- 14 Employees shall return to the position vacated or, with the approval of the Human Resources Director, to another position in the same class.
- 15 Employees who do not plan to return to work should notify their department no later than at the expiration of the leave. Failure to return to work without giving notice at the expiration of the leave without good cause may result in an unsatisfactory service separation.
- 16 This regulation shall be construed as to ensure compliance with the minimum requirements of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

### 10.23 Paid Family Leave

Paid leave granted to eligible employees for any qualifying reason that would be covered under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) of 1993 and as set forth in section 10.22 above. Paid family leave shall only be available for the qualifying absences that would be covered under the Family Medical Leave Act on or after the effective date of this regulation.

- 1 All merit employees, including those in their initial probationary period, are eligible for paid family leave (PFL). Merit employees in their initial probationary period become eligible for paid family leave on the first day of the month following the employee's date of original appointment.
- 2 Fulltime merit employees may be eligible to take up to total of 240 hours of paid family leave (360 hours for 24-hour staff) in a twelve-month period. Merit employees scheduled to work less than 80 hours per pay period may be eligible for paid family leave pro-rated on the basis of scheduled work hours per pay period in a twelve-month period.
- 3 Paid family leave shall run concurrently with family and medical leave (Section 10.22) to the extent that family and medical leave is available to the employee.
- 4 For other than birth or placements for adoption/foster care events, the twelve-month period for paid family leave shall commence with the first use of paid family leave. For birth or placements for adoption/foster care events, the twelve-month period for paid family leave shall commence with the date of such birth or placement. Unused paid family leave hours do not carry over to another 12-month period.

- 5 Requests for paid family leave must be made in writing and submitted 30 calendar days in advance whenever the necessity for such leave is foreseeable.
- 6 Eligible employees are entitled to a total of up to 6 weeks paid family leave in a single twelve-month period.
- 7 Paid family leave can be taken on an intermittent (periodic) or consecutive (continuous) basis when certified as medically necessary by a healthcare provider. A request to use paid family leave on an intermittent basis which is not medically necessary (i.e. bonding time with a baby) must be coordinated and approved at the discretion of the department based on staffing and operational needs.
- 8 At the request of the department head or designee, the employee shall provide certification from a health care provider in connection with a request for paid family leave.
- 9 At the request of the department head or designee, the employee shall provide certification of a qualifying exigency in connection with a request for paid family leave.
- 10 Employees who are eligible for sick leave under sections 10.22-5 and 10.22-6 may utilize sick leave prior to using paid family leave.
- 11 Employees must exhaust paid family leave prior to using leave without pay, donated leave, advanced sick leave, or extraordinary sick leave.
- 12 Employees who leave County service while on paid family leave are not entitled to be paid for any unused portion of paid family leave.
- 13 Employees who do not plan to return to work should notify their department no later than at the expiration of the paid family leave. Failure to return to work without giving notice at the expiration of the leave without good cause may result in an unsatisfactory service separation.

#### 10.24 Leave for Injury in Line of Duty

- 1 A merit employee who is injured while performing the duties of his/her position, without fault or negligence on his/her part, and who is accepted as compensable under the Virginia Worker's Compensation Act, shall be granted injury leave with pay, as approved by the County Executive or his/her designee. Such eligibility for injury leave with pay begins on the first day of injury and shall expire not later than twelve calendar months from the original injury date. Reinjuries do not extend the period of eligibility for injury leave. Such leave requires a medical certificate from an approved licensed physician authorized by the County to treat worker's compensation claims. This certificate must set forth the nature

and extent of the injury and the probable period of disability.

- 2 Extensions of injury leave beyond twelve calendar months may be granted by the department head or designee. In no case shall the employee be granted injury leave in excess of 2080 (2912 for 24-hour shift fire protection employees) total hours. In evaluating such requests, the following elements shall be considered:
  - a. The circumstances in which the injury occurred to include consideration of the nature and extent of the injury;
  - b. The nature and extent of treatment providing that the employee has continued under the regular care of the authorized physician requiring an office visit at minimum intervals of at least once every three months; and providing that the medical records clearly substantiate a relationship between the current prescribed treatment and the original injury;
  - c. The likelihood of the employee's return to duty;
  - d. The employee's past injury, leave and service record;
  - e. The employee's compliance with injury leave policies and requirements.
- 3 When possible, employees who have been injured but are not totally disabled, will be placed in temporary assignments without loss of pay with duties that fall within the medical restrictions prescribed by the treating physician.
- 4 When injury leave is used other leave benefits shall not accrue.
- 5 An employee on injury leave is expected to follow medical procedures and complete necessary forms/reports so as to ensure that worker's compensation payment will be credited to the appropriate account.
- 6 An employee on injury leave is specifically prohibited from engaging in activities that may impair his/her recovery. This includes:
  - a. Engaging in strenuous recreational or other physical activities without the approval of the authorized physician.
  - b. Being employed or self-employed to perform work of any kind without the prior written approval of the authorized physician and the Human Resources Director.
- 7 An employee on injury leave is not required to remain at home, but is required to be available for contact by his/her supervisor and to notify the supervisor of any change of residence during authorized absence.

- 8 Failure of an employee on injury leave to follow prescribed procedures or to accept appropriate medical treatment, vocational rehabilitation, or medically appropriate temporary assignments, may result in disallowal of full salary continuation and reversion to straight worker's compensation wages, if eligible, for the time period of noncompliance, with the employee being liable for repayment of the monetary differential.

#### 10.25 Bereavement Leave

Bereavement leave may be used to cover an absence resulting from the death of an employee's extended family or household member, as defined in Chapter 2. Department heads or designees shall grant bereavement leave with pay to merit employees in accordance with the following provisions:

- 1 Full time merit employees shall be eligible to use up to 16 hours of bereavement leave per calendar year (24 hours for full time 24-hour shift fire protection employees). Merit employees scheduled to work less than 80 hours per pay period shall be eligible for bereavement leave on a pro-rated basis.
- 2 Bereavement leave may not be carried over from one calendar year to the next.
- 3 The amount of bereavement leave to be debited shall be computed on the basis of the exact number of hours an employee is scheduled to work in the period when the leave is taken.
- 4 Bereavement leave shall be debited in no less than one-tenth hour units.
- 5 Sick leave may be granted for absences extending beyond bereavement leave eligibility in accordance with the sick leave provisions herein.

#### 10.26 Compensatory Leave

- 1 Compensatory leave shall be credited to an employee as provided for in the rules governing overtime. Employees who are participants in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) will be considered as merit employees for purposes of crediting compensatory leave.
- 2 Compensatory time for overtime worked shall be granted at the discretion of the employee at a time convenient to and approved by the department head or designee.
- 3 Overdrawn compensatory leave shall be debited in the following order: annual leave, leave without pay.

#### 10.27 Effect of Transfers on Compensatory Leave

An employee who transfers from one department to another shall have his/her compensatory

leave transferred to the new department.

10.28 Effect of Separation on Compensatory Leave

An employee who is separated from service may only be paid for any accrued overtime for which he/she has not been granted compensatory leave in accordance with the provisions of section 4.15-4.

10.29 Military Leave

-1 A merit employee who is a member of the National Guard or an organized military reserve of the United States, or is a former member of the Armed Services and has been reactivated by a competent authority shall be allowed military leave under the following circumstances:

a. Leaves of absence with pay not to exceed fifteen workdays during any one federal fiscal year (October 1 - September 30) to attend federally funded military duty, including duty for training. For the purposes of this section, one 24-hour shift workday shall equate to two military leave workdays. The employee shall report to work in accordance with the following schedule:

1. If the period of service is less than 31 days, the employee must report back to work not later than the beginning of the next regularly scheduled workday after the military duty, including travel time and an 8-hour rest period, is completed.
2. If the period of service is more than 30 days but less than 181 days, the employee must report back to work not later than 14 calendar days after completing service.
3. If the period of service is more than 180 days, the employee must report back to work not later than 90 days after completing service.
4. If the employee is hospitalized or convalescing from an injury or illness incurred during the period of service, then the time for the employee to report back to work will be extended.

b. Leaves of absence without pay for training not covered above. The employee shall report to work the next regularly scheduled workday after the training period, including travel time and an 8-hour rest period, is completed.

-2 A merit employee who is a member of the Virginia National Guard and who is called to emergency duty by the Governor to combat floods, riots, winter storms, hurricanes, or other disasters shall be allowed military leave with pay for each day of such service. A merit employee who is a member of any National Guard organization other than the State of Virginia and who is called to emergency duty by the competent authority of that state may elect to be placed on military leave without pay for each day of such service.

-3 The employee shall notify his/her supervisor as far in advance as possible when taking



military leave. The employee's notice may be either verbal or written. A copy of military orders may be requested but cannot be required. Failure to notify the County in advance shall not deprive the employee of rights and benefits.

- 4 An employee who leaves the County service in order to join the military forces of the United States or who is inducted into such service has resigned and is not considered to be on military leave. (Section 9.2-5).
- 5 In the event of any conflict between County regulations and federal or state law, the latter shall take precedence.

#### 10.30 Civil Leave

A merit employee shall be given time off without loss of pay when performing jury duty, when subpoenaed or requested to appear before a court, public body or commission except when the employee is a party to the suit, when performing emergency civilian duty in connection with national defense, or for the purpose of voting. Leave for the purpose of voting shall only be granted when the employee's work schedule prohibits voting before or after duty hours or through absentee balloting.

#### 10.31 Volunteer Activity Leave

Volunteer activity leave may be used to participate in volunteer activities and initiatives to support the neighborhoods in which employees live and work to include educational and charitable institutions, religious/faith-based, and community service entities. Department heads or designees shall grant volunteer activity leave with pay to merit employees in accordance with the following provisions:

- 1 Full time merit employees shall be eligible to use up to 16 hours of volunteer activity leave per calendar year (24 hours for full time 24-hour shift fire protection employees). Merit employees scheduled to work less than 80 hours per pay period shall be eligible for voluntary activity leave on a pro-rated basis.
- 2 Voluntary activity leave may not be carried over from one calendar year to the next.
- 3 The amount of voluntary activity leave to be debited shall be computed on the basis of the exact number of hours an employee is scheduled to work in the period when the leave is taken.
- 4 Voluntary activity leave shall be debited in no less than one-tenth hour units.

#### 10.32 Leave Without Pay

A department head or designee may grant a merit employee a leave without pay for a period not

to exceed one year, subject to the following conditions:

- 1 Leave without pay shall be granted only when it is in the interests of the County to do so. The interests of the employee shall be considered when he/she has shown by his/her record to be of more than average value to the County and when it is desirable to return the employee even at some sacrifice.
- 2 At the expiration of a leave without pay, the employee shall be reinstated in the position he/she vacated or in any other vacant position in the same class.
- 3 The employee does not earn leave while on leave without pay.
- 4 Failure on the part of the employee to report promptly at the expiration of a leave without pay may be cause for dismissal.

#### 10.33 Education Leave

A merit employee engaged in professional or technical work may be granted a leave of absence with full or partial pay for enrollment in a special institute or course of study of direct benefit to the County service, at the discretion of the department head or designee.

Such leave may be granted on the assumption that the employee will remain with the County service for a reasonable period to be recommended by the department head or designee, upon completion of the institute or course of study.

#### 10.34 Holiday Leave

- 1 The following holidays are observed by the County and shall be granted to merit employees with pay, unless such employees are required to be on scheduled duty.
  - a. New Year's Day (January 1);
  - b. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday (Third Monday in January);
  - c. George Washington's Birthday – Presidents' Day (Third Monday in February);
  - d. Memorial Day (Last Monday in May);
  - e. Juneteenth Day (June 19)
  - f. Independence Day (July 4);
  - g. Labor Day (First Monday in September);

- h. Election Day;
- i. Veteran's Day;
- j. Thanksgiving Day (Fourth Thursday in November);
- k. Fall Holiday (Friday after Thanksgiving);
- l. Christmas Eve (One-half day on December 24);
- m. Christmas Day (December 25);
- n. Inauguration Day (January 20, every fourth year) when it falls on a business day, Monday through Friday.

-2 The County Executive may also set aside other days as holidays.

#### 10.35 Granting Holiday Leave

The granting of holidays observed by the County shall be subject to the following provisions:

- 1 Holidays on a weekend.  
When a holiday falls on Saturday, it shall be observed on the preceding Friday. When a holiday falls on Sunday, the following Monday shall be observed as the holiday.
- 2 Holiday on scheduled workday
  - a. Holiday on scheduled workday; employee works. Employees who are required to work on a holiday (actual or County observed) shall be compensated for the time worked in accordance with the rules governing hours and overtime. Holiday compensation will be provided on an hour for hour basis for an employee's regular scheduled hours not to include overtime hours. If an employee who would not normally work the holiday, is scheduled to work to meet staffing or other operational needs, the employee is entitled to receive holiday compensation for hours worked not to exceed the number of his/her regularly scheduled hours.
  - b. Holiday on scheduled workday; employee does not work. Employees who are required to work on a holiday (actual or County observed) but do not work, shall be compensated as follows. Holiday compensation will be provided on an hour for hour basis up to the number of regularly scheduled hours for that day.
- 3 Holiday on scheduled day off. Within the policy established in the section on holiday leave, whenever one of the designated holidays falls on an employee's scheduled day off, the employee shall be granted either holiday pay or holiday compensatory time in accordance with

the rules governing hours and overtime. To receive holiday compensation on an actual holiday, an employee must be directed by his/her supervisor to work due to staff shortage or other operational necessity.

- 4 Holidays for merit part-time employees. Part-time merit employees shall be granted holiday time off with pay on a pro-rated basis regardless of the number of hours scheduled on the day a holiday falls computed at the rate of one-tenth of an hour times the employees bi-weekly scheduled hours.
- 5 Holidays during paid leave. A holiday falling within a period of paid leave shall not be counted as a workday in computing the amount of leave debited.
- 6 Holiday during unpaid leave. When a holiday falls within a period of leave without pay, the employee shall be granted either holiday pay or holiday compensatory time in accordance with the rules governing hours and overtime.
- 7 Appointment on a holiday. The appointment of a merit employee shall not be affected on a holiday except when the employee works that day.

#### 10.36 Administrative Leave

- 1 Administrative leave shall be any paid leave authorized by the County Executive, which is not otherwise classified by these Regulations.
- 2 Administrative leave will normally<sup>1</sup> be granted to any full-time or part-time employee by an appointing authority or the County Executive for any of the following reasons:
  - a. Where an employee is required to appear before a public body, public agency, board or commission during normal working hours on matters relating to County business.
  - b. For the attendance in an official capacity during normal working hours as a representative of the County at meetings, symposiums, conferences, conventions or hearings.
  - c. During the investigation of an alleged improper act by an employee which may result in formal disciplinary actions and/or when the retention of the employee on an active duty status may be detrimental to the interests of the County or injurious to the employee, his/her fellow workers or the general public, Administrative Leave for this purpose will not exceed ten business days without prior approval of the County Executive. A memorandum to the Human Resources Director will be submitted by the department head or designee giving details of the Administrative Leave for all situations covered by this paragraph. In lieu of the use of Administrative Leave for

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<sup>1</sup> Exceptions to be justified and made a matter of record.

situations of this type, a department head or designee may temporarily assign the employee to other duties.

- d. For participation in the blood donor program for which purpose up to four hours may be granted, at the discretion of department head or designee, for each recuperative purpose.
  - e. For the purpose of undergoing a medical examination as may be required by the employee's department head or designee.
  - f. To recognize long term service to general county employees who earn length of service awards of 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45 years or more shall be eligible for two days of administrative leave (24 hours for 24-hour shift firefighters) in the year after they have qualified for the length of service award.
  - g. To recognize outstanding performance such as Outstanding Performance Awards or Team Excellence Awards. The number of hours received for Outstanding Performance Awards or Team Excellence Awards shall be equal to one day of administrative leave (12 hours for 24-hour shift firefighters).
  - h. For officers of the Employees Advisory Council and employee organizations, who participate in payroll dues deduction to attend conventions and training related to employee relations. Administrative Leave for this purpose shall not exceed 30 workdays (240-hours) per year per employee organization. In the accrual of hours toward the 240-hour limit, one 24-hour shift shall equate to 16 hours of administrative leave. Employees must submit such leave requests as far in advance as possible and provide written verification upon return to duty of attendance at the convention or employee relations training. Respective employee group leaders are accountable for monitoring and ensuring compliance with this policy.
  - i. When a non-Office of Elections employee volunteers to work for *Fairfax County's* Office of Elections on an election day or completes training for election volunteer workers.
- 3 In addition to the provisions of paragraph -2 above, Administrative Leave may be granted to any full-time or part-time employee by the County Executive or his/her designee for any of the following reasons:
- a. Breakdown of essential facility services such as heating, air conditioning, or water or other problems wherein facilities must be closed and employees released early from work or not required to report to work.
  - b. Breakdowns of equipment making it impossible to accomplish assigned tasks.

10.37 Leave for Inclement Weather or Other Emergency

- 1 When extreme inclement weather or other emergencies occur, the County Executive or his/her designee shall have the option to declare one of the following types of leave:
- a. Unscheduled Leave - may be declared by the County Executive or his/her designee when it is deemed advisable to provide employees flexibility regarding reporting to work due to inclement weather or other emergency. Unscheduled leave authorizes all employees, except those designated as emergency service personnel, to use their own leave to remain home from work or to leave work early without obtaining prior approval from their supervisor. Employees, however, must notify their supervisors if they opt to stay home on unscheduled leave. Employees may only use annual leave, compensatory leave, or leave without pay for this purpose. Such leave is authorized only for the period of time designated by the County Executive or his/her designee.
  - b. Emergency Administrative Leave - may be declared by the County Executive or his/her designee when it is determined necessary to close the general County government due to extreme inclement weather or other emergency. Emergency administrative leave authorizes all merit County employees, except those designated as emergency service personnel, to remain home from work or to leave work early without prior approval of the supervisor and without the use of personal leave or leave without pay. Such leave shall be limited to the time periods designated by the County Executive or his/her designee. Employees required to work during a period of such emergency administrative leave shall receive extra compensation in accordance with provisions contained in Chapter 4.
- 2 When leave for inclement weather or other emergency is declared, emergency service personnel must report to work. Emergency service personnel are those employees, designated by the department head or designee, who due to the nature of the emergency, which has occurred, must report to work to ensure that public health and safety needs or critical departmental requirements are met.