

**44-1132. Discrimination, retaliation prohibited; time off for certain purposes; documentation required; confidentiality of information; limitations on time off.** (a) An employer may not discharge or in any manner discriminate or retaliate against an employee who is a victim of domestic violence or a victim of sexual assault for taking time off from work to:

(1) Obtain or attempt to obtain any relief, including, but not limited to, a temporary restraining order, restraining order or other injunctive relief to help ensure the health, safety or welfare of the victim or the victim's child or children;

(2) seek medical attention for injuries caused by domestic violence or sexual assault;

(3) obtain services from a domestic violence shelter, domestic violence program or rape crisis center as a result of domestic violence or sexual assault; or

(4) make court appearances in the aftermath of domestic violence or sexual assault.

(b) (1) As a condition of taking time off for a purpose set forth in subsection (a), the employee shall give the employer reasonable advance notice of the employee's intention to take time off, unless such advance notice is not feasible. Within 48 hours after returning from the requested time off, the employee shall provide documentation which may include, but is not limited to, that described in subsection (b) (2) to support taking time off for a purpose set forth in subsection (a).

(2) When an unscheduled absence occurs, the employer shall not take any action against the employee if the employee, within 48 hours after the beginning of the unscheduled absence, provides a certification to the employer in the form of any of the following:

(A) A police report indicating that the employee was a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault;

(B) a court order protecting or separating the employee from the perpetrator of an act of domestic violence or sexual assault, or other evidence from the court or prosecuting attorney that the employee has appeared in court; or

(C) documentation from a medical professional, domestic violence advocate or advocate for victims of sexual assault, health care provider or counselor that the employee was undergoing treatment for physical or mental injuries or abuse resulting in victimization from an act of domestic violence or sexual assault.

(c) To the extent allowed by law, the employer shall maintain the confidentiality of any employee requesting leave under subsection (a), as well as the confidentiality of any supporting documentation provided by the employee to the employer relating to a purpose set forth in subsection (a).

(d) An employee may use any accrued paid leave or, if paid leave is unavailable to the employee, unpaid leave, not to exceed a total of eight days per calendar year, as time off for a purpose specified in subsection (a), unless a longer period of time is otherwise available to an employee under the applicable terms of employment or is provided by a collective bargaining agreement. The entitlement of any employee under this section shall not be diminished by any collective bargaining agreement term or condition.

**History:** L. 2006, ch. 213, § 10; Jan. 1, 2007.