

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational
11 Garden Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
Federal EIN: 04-2104074

Following the recent posting of the process by which a church may opt in to the Paid Family and Medical Leave program, First Church in Cambridge has opted in to the PFML program as of January, 2021. The benefits to employees begin six months later.

Employer Notice to Employee

Rights and Obligations under the Massachusetts Family and Medical Leave Law, M.G.L. c. 175M

For more detailed information, please consult the Department's website: www.mass.gov/DFML

Explanation of Benefits

- **Beginning July 1, 2021, six months after the employer has opted in,**
 - employees may be entitled to up to 12 weeks of paid family leave in a benefit year for the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of a child, or because of a qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that a family member is on active duty or has been notified of an impending call to active duty in the Armed Forces;
 - employees may be entitled to up to 20 weeks of paid medical leave in a benefit year if they have a serious health condition that incapacitates them from work;
 - employees may be entitled to up to 26 weeks of paid family leave in a benefit year to care for a family member who is a covered service member undergoing medical treatment or otherwise addressing consequences of a serious health condition relating to the family member's military service.
- **Beginning July 1, 2021,**
 - employees may be entitled to up to 12 weeks of paid family leave in a benefit year to care for a family member with a serious health condition.

Employees may be eligible for up to 26 total weeks, in the aggregate, of paid family and medical leave in a single benefit year. An employee's weekly benefit amount will be based on the employee's earnings, with a maximum benefit of \$850 per week.

Job Protection, Continuation of Health Insurance, No Retaliation

- **Job Protection:** Generally, an employee who has taken family or medical leave under the law must be restored to the employee's previous position or to an equivalent position, with the same status, pay, employment benefits, length-of-service credit and seniority as of the date of leave.
- **Continuation of Health Insurance:** The employer must continue to provide for and contribute to the employee's employment-related health insurance benefits, if any, at the level and under the conditions coverage would have been provided if the employee had continued working continuously for the duration of such leave.
- **No Retaliation:** It is unlawful for any employer to discriminate or retaliate against an employee for exercising any right to which such employee is entitled under the paid family and medical leave law. An employee or former employee who is discriminated or retaliated against for exercising rights under the law may, not more than three years after the violation occurs, institute a civil action in the superior court.

Employee/Employer Contributions to the DFML Family and Employment Security Trust Fund

On January 11, 2021, contributions to the Department of Family and Medical Leave (DFML) Employment Security Trust Fund will begin. An employer will be responsible for sending contributions to the DFML for all employees. Currently, the total contribution amount is 0.75% of wages. Of that 0.75% total contribution amount, there is a split: 0.62% is a medical leave contribution and 0.13% is a family leave contribution. Under the law, employers are permitted to deduct from employees' wages up to 40% of the medical leave contribution (0.248% of wages) and up to 100% of the family leave contribution (0.13% of wages). Employers with 25 or more covered workers are required to pay an employer portion of at least 60% of the medical leave contribution.

- **Medical Leave Contribution** – The employer will deduct 0.248% from your earnings and will contribute 0.372%.
- **Family Leave Contribution** – The employer will deduct 0.13% from your earnings and will contribute 0%.

How to File a Claim

- Employees must file claims for paid family and medical leave benefits with the DFML using the Department's forms. Forms and claim instructions will be available on the Department's website www.mass.gov/DFML before January 2021.
- Employees are required to provide at least 30 days' notice to their employer of the anticipated starting date of any leave, the anticipated length of the leave and the expected date of return. An employee who is unable to provide 30 days' notice due to circumstances beyond his or her control is required to provide notice as soon as practicable.

Department of Family and Medical Leave (DFML) Contact Information

The Massachusetts Department of Family and Medical Leave

Charles F. Hurley Building
19 Staniford Street, 1st Floor
Boston, MA 02114

(617) 626-6565
www.mass.gov/DFML

Payment for Concurrent Leave

Any paid leave provided under an employer policy and paid at the same or higher rate than paid leave available under this law shall count against the allotment of leave benefits available under this law.

Acknowledgement

Your signature below acknowledges your receipt of the information above and will be retained by the employer. Please retain a copy for your own reference. In the event that you refuse to sign this acknowledgement, the employer must permit you to sign a statement indicating your refusal to sign this acknowledgement, and that will be retained by the employer.

Signature

Date

Name (Print)