Massachusetts law requires employers with six or more employees to provide eight weeks of unpaid leave for the purpose of giving birth or for the placement of a child under the age of 18 (or under the age of 23 if the child is mentally or physically disabled) for adoption.

Both women and men are eligible for parental leave.

PURSUANT TO M.G.L. C. 151B, §4(1) AND C. 149, §105D EVERY FULL-TIME FEMALE EMPLOYEE IS ENTITLED AS A MATTER OF LAW TO AT LEAST EIGHT WEEKS MATERNITY LEAVE IF SHE COMPLIES WITH THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

1. SHE HAS COMPLETED AN INITIAL PROBATIONARY PERIOD SET BY HER EMPLOYER WHICH DOES NOT EXCEED SIX MONTHS OR, IN THE EVENT THE EMPLOYER DOES NOT UTILIZE A PROBATIONARY PERIOD FOR THE POSITION IN QUESTION, HAS BEEN EMPLOYED FOR AT LEAST THREE CONSECUTIVE MONTHS; AND,

2. SHE GIVES TWO WEEKS' NOTICE OF HER EXPECTED DEPARTURE DATE AND NOTICE THAT SHE INTENDS TO RETURN TO HER JOB.

SHE IS ENTITLED TO RETURN TO THE SAME OR A SIMILAR POSITION WITHOUT LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR WHICH SHE WAS ELIGIBLE ON THE DATE HER LEAVE COMMENCED, IF SHE TERMINATES HER MATERNITY LEAVE WITHIN EIGHT WEEKS. (THE GUARANTEE OF A SAME OR SIMILAR POSITION IS SUBJECT TO CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS SPECIFIED IN M.G.L. C. 149, § 105D.). ACCRUED SICK LEAVE BENEFITS SHALL BE PROVIDED FOR MATERNITY LEAVE PURPOSES UNDER THE SAME TERMS AND CONDITIONS WHICH APPLY TO OTHER TEMPORARY MEDICAL DISABILITIES. ANY EMPLOYER POLICY OR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WHICH PROVIDES FOR GREATER OR ADDITIONAL BENEFITS THAN THOSE OUTLINED IN THIS NOTICE SHALL CONTINUE TO APPLY.

This Act is enforced by the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD). Employers must keep a posting in a conspicuous place describing the Parental Leave law’s requirements and the employer’s policies as to parental leave.