

# PARENTAL LEAVE

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:** CHIEF HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 9/7/2022

**NEXT REVIEW DATE:** PREVIOUS REVIEW PLUS FOUR (4) YEARS – 6/10/2029

**BOARD OF REGENTS REPORTING:** PRESIDENTIAL REPORT (INFORMATION ONLY)

## I. POLICY STATEMENT

Paid Parental Leave (PPL) enables employees to support their family unit in connection with the birth, adoption, or placement of a child for foster care. This policy is established to demonstrate Northern Kentucky University's commitment to employees by supporting their family, professional, and academic responsibilities as well as its commitment to recruiting and retaining an excellent workforce that supports student success.

Upon request and following the provisions of this policy, employees will be granted PPL following the date of birth of an infant or placement/initiation of travel to secure custody of an adopted child, fostered child, or child born via a surrogate parenting arrangement.

## REQUESTS FOR PAID PARENTAL LEAVE

- A) All requests for Paid Parental Leave (PPL) as described in this policy should be made as far in advance as possible, but generally not fewer than thirty (30) calendar days before the leave is to commence.

## LENGTH AND TIMING OF PAID PARENTAL LEAVE

- B) Duration of the PPL is for up to six (6) consecutive weeks without any charge against accumulated sick or vacation time. Under certain circumstances, PPL may be taken on an intermittent basis—see item (E) below).
- C) All requests for PPL will be for no more than six (6) consecutive weeks in a rolling 12-month period.
- D) PPL is available for up to twelve (12) months from the date of the birth of the eligible employee's child, the placement of the employee's newly-adopted/fostered child (17 years old or younger) or the initiation of the employee's travel to secure custody of the employee's newly-adopted/fostered child (17 years old or younger) or child born via a surrogate parenting arrangement.
- E) PPL must typically be taken on a continuous basis (i.e., all at once). PPL on an intermittent basis (defined in section III below) is subject to approval by the employee's supervisor in consultation with Human Resources. Employees who are approved for intermittent leave or a reduced work schedule must try to schedule their leaves so they will not disrupt the department's operations.

## COMPENSATION FOR PAID PARENTAL LEAVE

- F) PPL will be compensated at 100 percent of the employee's regular pay at the time of the event and will be paid on the employee's regular scheduled pay cycle.

## **INTERACTION OF PAID PARENTAL LEAVE WITH FMLA & OTHER LEAVES**

- G) PPL will run concurrently with Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave if the employee is eligible for FMLA. If the employee has already exhausted their available FMLA Leave, the employee will remain eligible to use PPL if it has not been used within the past twelve (12) months.
- H) Before the date of birth, placement, or initiation of travel, employees may use accrued Sick Leave, Vacation Leave, or compensatory time in accordance with the applicable policies.
- I) After using the maximum PPL (six (6) weeks), employees may use their accrued Sick Leave, Vacation Leave, or compensatory time in accordance with applicable policies.
- J) In cases of loss of pregnancy, a still birth, or infant death, the provisions of Family Medical Leave or Bereavement Leave will apply.
- K) In cases where both parents are NKU employees that meet the eligibility criteria, they may each take six (6) weeks of PPL with no reduction in their accrued Sick Leave or Vacation Leave.

## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION**

- L) No employee shall be discriminated against or otherwise experience reprisals in any appointment, evaluation, promotion, tenure award or other employment-related process as a result of utilizing PPL and other provisions specified within this policy and as articulated in the University's Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination policy.

## **II. ENTITIES AFFECTED**

All full-time employees who have completed at least twelve (12) months of employment and have worked at least 1,250 hours in the prior 12 months.

## **III. DEFINITIONS**

**Child:** A child for the purposes of this policy is defined as a newborn or newly adopted/fostered child who is 17 years old or younger.

**Parent:** An eligible parent is defined as a birth parent, legal parent via a surrogate parenting arrangement, spouse or domestic partner, or a new adoptive/foster parent who is the child's primary caregiver.

**Intermittent Leave:** Intermittent leave is leave taken in separate blocks of time due to a single qualifying reason or on a reduced leave schedule under certain circumstances. A reduced leave schedule is a leave schedule that reduces an employee's usual number of working hours per workweek, or hours per workday. A reduced leave schedule is a change in the employee's schedule for a period of time, normally from full-time to part-time.

## IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

**Employee:** Complete and submit a [Paid Parental Leave Request Form](#) to supervisor or department head.

**Supervisor/Department Head:** Review request form for completion and sign form indicating review of the request. Once signed, submit the request to Human Resources for approval.

**Human Resources:** Ensure all information is included on the form, including proper signatures for approval. If denied, ensure a written explanation is included.

## V. REFERENCES AND RELATED MATERIALS

### REFERENCES & FORMS

[Paid Parental Leave Request Form](#)

### RELATED POLICIES

[Medical Leave: Family Medical Leave \(FMLA\) and Other Medical](#)

[Sick Leave](#)

[Vacation/Annual Leave](#)

[Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination](#)

[Bereavement Leave](#)

Faculty Handbook ([section 12.6 “Paid Leave for Illness, Temporary Disability, or Parental Leave”](#))

### REVISION HISTORY

REVISION TYPE	MONTH/YEAR APPROVED
Minor Revisions to sec. I for Kentucky House Bill 4 ( <a href="#">KY HB4</a> ) Compliance  Edits Throughout for Clarity and to Update Links and Formatting	June 10, 2025
New Policy	September 7, 2022

# PARENTAL LEAVE

## PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL

### PRESIDENT

Signature

A. K. Vaidya

Date

09/07/2022

Ashish K. Vaidya

## BOARD OF REGENTS APPROVAL

### BOARD OF REGENTS (IF FORWARDED BY PRESIDENT)

- ☒ This policy was forwarded to the Board of Regents on the **Presidential Report (information only)**.

Date of Board of Regents meeting at which this policy was reported: 11 / 9 / 2022.

- ☐ This policy was forwarded to the Board of Regents as a **Presidential Recommendation (consent agenda/voting item)**.

☐ The Board of Regents approved this policy on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_.  
(Attach a copy of Board of Regents meeting minutes showing approval of policy.)

☐ The Board of Regents rejected this policy on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_.  
(Attach a copy of Board of Regents meeting minutes showing rejection of policy.)

### SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS

Signature

Tammy Knochelmann

Date

11/12/2022

Tammy Knochelmann