

## **PAID SICK LEAVE LAW CONTRACT RIDER**

### **Introduction and General Provisions**

The Earned Sick Time Act, also known as the Paid Sick Leave Law (“PSLL”), requires covered employees who annually perform more than 80 hours of work in New York City to be provided with paid sick time.<sup>1</sup> Contractors of the City of New York or of other governmental entities may be required to provide sick time pursuant to the PSLL.

The PSLL became effective on April 1, 2014, and is codified at Title 20, Chapter 8, of the New York City Administrative Code. It is administered by the City’s Department of Consumer Affairs (“DCA”); DCA’s rules promulgated under the PSLL are codified at Chapter 7 of Title 6 of the Rules of the City of New York (“Rules”).

Contractor agrees to comply in all respects with the PSLL and the Rules, and as amended, if applicable, in the performance of this agreement. Contractor further acknowledges that such compliance is a material term of this agreement and that failure to comply with the PSLL in performance of this agreement may result in its termination.

Contractor must notify the Agency Chief Contracting Officer of the City agency or other entity with whom it is contracting in writing within ten (10) days of receipt of a complaint (whether oral or written) regarding the PSLL involving the performance of this agreement. Additionally, Contractor must cooperate with DCA’s education efforts and must comply with DCA’s subpoenas and other document demands as set forth in the PSLL and Rules.

The PSLL is summarized below for the convenience of Contractor. Contractor is advised to review the PSLL and Rules in their entirety. On the website [www.nyc.gov/PaidSickLeave](http://www.nyc.gov/PaidSickLeave) there are links to the PSLL and the associated Rules as well as additional resources for employers, such as Frequently Asked Questions, timekeeping tools and model forms, and an event calendar of upcoming presentations and webinars at which Contractor can get more information about how to comply with the PSLL. Contractor acknowledges that it is responsible for compliance with the PSLL notwithstanding any inconsistent language contained herein.

Pursuant to the PSLL and the Rules:

### **Applicability, Accrual, and Use**

An employee who works within the City of New York for more than eighty hours in any consecutive 12-month period designated by the employer as its “calendar year” pursuant to the PSLL (“Year”) must be provided sick time. Employers must provide a minimum of one hour of sick time for every 30 hours worked by an employee and compensation for such sick time must

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to the PSLL, if fewer than five employees work for the same employer, as determined pursuant to New York City Administrative Code §20-912(g), such employer has the option of providing such employees uncompensated sick time.

be provided at the greater of the employee's regular hourly rate or the minimum wage. Employers are not required to provide more than forty hours of sick time to an employee in any Year.

An employee has the right to determine how much sick time he or she will use, provided that employers may set a reasonable minimum increment for the use of sick time not to exceed four hours per day. In addition, an employee may carry over up to forty hours of unused sick time to the following Year, provided that no employer is required to allow the use of more than forty hours of sick time in a Year or carry over unused paid sick time if the employee is paid for such unused sick time and the employer provides the employee with at least the legally required amount of paid sick time for such employee for the immediately subsequent Year on the first day of such Year.

An employee entitled to sick time pursuant to the PSSL may use sick time for any of the following:

- such employee's mental illness, physical illness, injury, or health condition or the care of such illness, injury, or condition or such employee's need for medical diagnosis or preventive medical care;
- such employee's care of a family member (an employee's child, spouse, domestic partner, parent, sibling, grandchild or grandparent, or the child or parent of an employee's spouse or domestic partner) who has a mental illness, physical illness, injury or health condition or who has a need for medical diagnosis or preventive medical care;
- closure of such employee's place of business by order of a public official due to a public health emergency; or
- such employee's need to care for a child whose school or childcare provider has been closed due to a public health emergency.

An employer must not require an employee, as a condition of taking sick time, to search for a replacement. However, an employer may require an employee to provide: reasonable notice of the need to use sick time; reasonable documentation that the use of sick time was needed for a reason above if for an absence of more than three consecutive work days; and/or written confirmation that an employee used sick time pursuant to the PSSL. However, an employer may not require documentation specifying the nature of a medical condition or otherwise require disclosure of the details of a medical condition as a condition of providing sick time and health information obtained solely due to an employee's use of sick time pursuant to the PSSL must be treated by the employer as confidential.

If an employer chooses to impose any permissible discretionary requirement as a condition of using sick time, it must provide to all employees a written policy containing those requirements, using a delivery method that reasonably ensures that employees receive the policy. If such employer has not provided its written policy, it may not deny sick time to an employee because of non-compliance with such a policy.

Sick time to which an employee is entitled must be paid no later than the payday for the next regular payroll period beginning after the sick time was used.

## Exemptions and Exceptions

Notwithstanding the above, the PSLL does not apply to any of the following:

- an independent contractor who does not meet the definition of employee under section 190(2) of the New York State Labor Law;
- an employee covered by a valid collective bargaining agreement in effect on April 1, 2014 until the termination of such agreement;
- an employee in the construction or grocery industry covered by a valid collective bargaining agreement if the provisions of the PSLL are expressly waived in such collective bargaining agreement;
- an employee covered by another valid collective bargaining agreement if such provisions are expressly waived in such agreement and such agreement provides a benefit comparable to that provided by the PSLL for such employee;
- an audiologist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, or speech language pathologist who is licensed by the New York State Department of Education and who calls in for work assignments at will, determines his or her own schedule, has the ability to reject or accept any assignment referred to him or her, and is paid an average hourly wage that is at least four times the federal minimum wage;
- an employee in a work study program under Section 2753 of Chapter 42 of the United States Code;
- an employee whose work is compensated by a qualified scholarship program as that term is defined in the Internal Revenue Code, Section 117 of Chapter 20 of the United States Code; or
- a participant in a Work Experience Program (WEP) under section 336-c of the New York State Social Services Law.

## Retaliation Prohibited

An employer may not threaten or engage in retaliation against an employee for exercising or attempting in good faith to exercise any right provided by the PSLL. In addition, an employer may not interfere with any investigation, proceeding, or hearing pursuant to the PSLL.

## Notice of Rights

An employer must provide its employees with written notice of their rights pursuant to the PSLL. Such notice must be in English and the primary language spoken by an employee, provided that DCA has made available a translation into such language. Downloadable notices are available on DCA's website at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dca/html/law/PaidSickLeave.shtml>.

Any person or entity that willfully violates these notice requirements is subject to a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed fifty dollars for each employee who was not given appropriate notice.

## Records

An employer must retain records documenting its compliance with the PSSL for a period of at least three years, and must allow DCA to access such records in furtherance of an investigation related to an alleged violation of the PSSL.

#### Enforcement and Penalties

Upon receiving a complaint alleging a violation of the PSSL, DCA has the right to investigate such complaint and attempt to resolve it through mediation. Within 30 days of written notification of a complaint by DCA, or sooner in certain circumstances, the employer must provide DCA with a written response and such other information as DCA may request. If DCA believes that a violation of the PSSL has occurred, it has the right to issue a notice of violation to the employer.

DCA has the power to grant an employee or former employee all appropriate relief as set forth in New York City Administrative Code 20-924(d). Such relief may include, among other remedies, treble damages for the wages that should have been paid, damages for unlawful retaliation, and damages and reinstatement for unlawful discharge. In addition, DCA may impose on an employer found to have violated the PSSL civil penalties not to exceed \$500 for a first violation, \$750 for a second violation within two years of the first violation, and \$1,000 for each succeeding violation within two years of the previous violation.

#### More Generous Policies and Other Legal Requirements

Nothing in the PSSL is intended to discourage, prohibit, diminish, or impair the adoption or retention of a more generous sick time policy, or the obligation of an employer to comply with any contract, collective bargaining agreement, employment benefit plan or other agreement providing more generous sick time. The PSSL provides minimum requirements pertaining to sick time and does not preempt, limit or otherwise affect the applicability of any other law, regulation, rule, requirement, policy or standard that provides for greater accrual or use by employees of sick leave or time, whether paid or unpaid, or that extends other protections to employees. The PSSL may not be construed as creating or imposing any requirement in conflict with any federal or state law, rule or regulation.