



Registered in England and Wales at

13 North Common Road, Ealing,
London, W5 2QB, Phone: 02088323071

Registered no: 2918520

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Parental Bereavement Leave Policy

Metanoia Institute

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Related policies
• Adoption Policy • Maternity Policy • Parental Leave Policy • Shared Parental Leave Policy • Paternity Leave Policy • Sickness Absence Policy • Bereavement Policy
External Reference
Statutory Parental Bereavement Pay and Leave: Overview - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

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Metanoia Institute Parental Bereavement Leave Policy

1. Policy Statement

Metanoia acknowledges that the death of a child, or a stillbirth, can be one of the most harrowing experiences of someone's life. This policy explains the rights to time off and pay and other support offered.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set out the Company's stance on employee entitlements to parental bereavement leave which are effective from 6 April 2020.

Scope

To support parents at a most difficult time and to Explain the rights to time off and pay.

2. Eligibility

Parental bereavement leave is available from day one of employment. It is available to employees on the death of a child under the age of 18. You may take parental bereavement leave if you fall into any one of the following categories:

- A 'natural' parent
- An adoptive parent, and those with whom a child has been placed under the 'foster to adopt' scheme, provided the placement is ongoing.
- A 'natural' parent where the child has been adopted but a Court Order exists to allow the 'natural' parent to have contact with the child.
- An employee who is living with a child who has entered Great Britain from overseas in relation to whom has received official notification that they are eligible to adopt.
- An intended parent under a surrogacy arrangement where it was expected that a parental order would be made.
- A 'parent in fact' which is someone in whose home the child has been living for a period of at least four weeks before the death and has had day to day responsibility for the child, subject to exceptions. This category includes guardians and foster parents but does not include paid carers.

- The partner of anyone who falls into the above categories, where they live in an enduring family relationship with the child and their parent.

In addition, parents who suffer a stillbirth after 24 weeks of pregnancy are entitled to take parental bereavement leave.

3. Taking Leave

A total of two weeks may be taken as parental bereavement leave and you may choose to take leave as:

- A single block of one week
- A single block of two weeks
- Two separate blocks of one week

Leave must be taken in whole weeks and can start on any day of the week. It may be taken at any time in the 56 week period following the death.

If you have suffered a stillbirth after 24 weeks of pregnancy, you are still entitled to take the full entitlement to maternity and paternity leave, provided you were eligible to take maternity or paternity leave in the first place, in addition to parental bereavement leave. Parental bereavement leave cannot be taken at the same time as maternity or paternity leave.

Where more than one child dies or is stillborn, you are entitled to two weeks of parental bereavement leave in relation to each child.

4. Notification Requirements

If leave is to be taken within the first 56 days of the death, no advance notification is needed. You should contact your Line Manager by telephone, email, or text message by the time you are due to start work on the day you wish leave to begin. If it is not possible to let us know before the leave begins, please let us know as soon as is reasonably practicable after it starts, giving the date of the death, the date on which leave will start and whether one or two weeks is to be taken.

If leave is to be taken after the first 56 days have passed since the death, one weeks' notice is required. You should contact your Line Manager by telephone or email at least one week before you wish leave to start giving the date of the death, the date on which leave will start and whether one or two weeks is to be taken.

5. Cancelling or Changing Dates of Leave

You can cancel a period of leave that you have already told us about, as long as the period of leave has not already started. If your leave was due to start within the first 56 days of the death

and you want to cancel it, you simply need to let us know, by your normal start time on the day that leave was due to start, that you no longer wish to take it. You are then free to re-arrange the leave.

If your leave was due to start once the first 56 days since the death has passed and you want to cancel it, you should let us know no later than one week prior to the intended start date.

You can also change the start date of leave by following the corresponding notice requirements above.

6. Payment During Leave

You will qualify for full pay during leave if you meet the following criteria:

- You have been continuously employed with us for at least 6 months.

7. Returning to Work

Upon your return to work, you are entitled to return to the same job, with the same terms and conditions, in which you were employed before your absence unless:

- The period of leave you have taken is more than 26 weeks when added to any other period of statutory leave including maternity, paternity, adoption leave etc. in relation to the same child and
- It is not reasonably practicable for you to return to the same job.

On your first day back to work, your Line Manager will set time aside to hold an informal meeting with you to discuss any arrangements regarding your return to work and any additional support we may be able to offer you.

8. Monitoring and Review

Human Resources are responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of this policy and supporting procedures and will conduct reviews at appropriate intervals. Anyone who feels they have been unfairly treated or discriminated against should contact Human Resources.