

VIRGINIA HUMAN RIGHTS ACT REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PREGNANCY

Protections from Discrimination – Va. Code § 2.2-3909

Effective July 1, 2020, employers with five or more employees for a 20-week period in the current or preceding year must provide reasonable accommodations for pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, including lactation, unless the accommodation would impose an undue hardship. Employers also may not, in response to a request for a reasonable accommodation for pregnancy:

- take adverse actions against an employee;
- deny employment or promotions; or
- require an employee to take leave if another reasonable accommodation can be provided.

Reasonable Accommodations

Examples of reasonable accommodations include more frequent or longer bathroom breaks, breaks to express breast milk, access to a private location other than a bathroom for the expression of breast milk, acquisition or modification of equipment or access to or modification of employee seating, a temporary transfer to a less strenuous or hazardous position, assistance with manual labor, job restructuring, a modified work schedule, light duty assignments, and leave to recover from childbirth.

Interactive Process

When an employee requests an accommodation, employers must engage in a timely, good faith interactive process with the employee to determine if the requested accommodation is reasonable and, if not, discuss alternative reasonable accommodations that may be provided.

Complaints

Any person who believes they were discriminated against on this basis may file a complaint with the Division of Human Rights or seek relief by filing a civil action in state court.

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Division of Human Rights

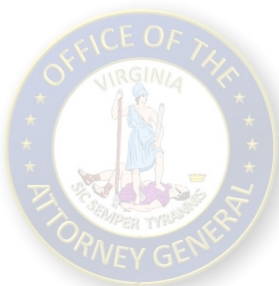
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VIRGINIA HUMAN RIGHTS ACT REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITY

Protections from Discrimination – Va. Code § 2.2-3905.1

Effective July 1, 2021, employers with more than five employees for a 20-week period in the current or preceding year must provide reasonable accommodations for otherwise qualified persons with disabilities if necessary to assist such person in performing a particular job, unless the accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the employer. “Person with a disability” means any person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of her major life activities or who has a record of such impairment. Employers also may not, in response to a request for a reasonable accommodation for disability:

- take adverse actions against an employee;
- deny employment or promotions; or
- require an employee to take leave if another reasonable accommodation can be provided.

Reasonable Accommodations

Examples of reasonable accommodations include modifying work policies, permitting the use of leave, reassignment to a vacant position, acquisition or modification of equipment, assistance with manual labor, job restructuring, a modified work schedule, and light duty assignments.

Interactive Process

When an employee requests an accommodation, employers must engage in a timely, good faith interactive process with the employee to determine if the requested accommodation is reasonable and, if not, discuss alternative reasonable accommodations that may be provided.

Complaints

Any person who believes they were discriminated against on this basis may file a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights.

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



Office of Civil Rights
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