

COMPASSIONATE LEAVE POLICY

1. ABOUT THIS POLICY

- 1.1 Compassionate leave is designed to help you cope with the death of a close relative, deal with necessary arrangements and attend their funeral. It may also be granted where a close relative is seriously or critically ill.
- 1.2 This policy applies to all employees. It does not apply to agency workers, consultants or self-employed contractors.
- 1.3 This policy does not form part of any employee's contract of employment and we may amend it at any time.

2. ENTITLEMENT

- 2.1 You are entitled to take compassionate leave in respect of a spouse or partner, child, stepchild, grandchild, parent, step-parent, parent-in-law, grandparent, brother or sister, stepbrother or stepsister, or brother or sister-in-law. The number of days compassionate leave is at our discretion and will be discussed with you.
- 2.2 In the event of the death of a child including a stillbirth, please see our Parental Bereavement Leave Policy which applies instead of this policy. We may at our discretion grant a further period of unpaid compassionate leave in this situation.
- 2.3 We may exercise our discretion to grant a period of paid compassionate leave in respect of any other relative or close friend, depending on the circumstances of each case.
- 2.4 If you are still unable to return to work following an authorised period of compassionate leave you should contact your Line Manager. It may be appropriate to take a period of annual leave, subject to your manager's approval, or we may at our discretion grant you further unpaid leave in those circumstances.

3. REQUESTING COMPASSIONATE LEAVE

- 3.1 We recognise that it may not always be possible to request compassionate leave in advance. However, where it is possible, you should make a request to your Line Manager. You should tell them the reasons for your request and the number of days leave you would like to take.

- 3.2 Where it is not possible to request leave in advance you should contact your Line Manager as soon as possible to tell them the reason for your absence and the number of days you expect to be absent. Someone can do this on your behalf if necessary.