

Lactation Breaks

1035.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance regarding reasonable accommodations for lactating employees (Labor Code § 1034).

1035.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Elk Grove Police Department to provide, in compliance with federal and state law, reasonable accommodations for lactating employees. This includes break time and appropriate facilities to accommodate any employee desiring to express breast milk for the employee's nursing child (29 USC § 218d; 42 USC § 2000gg-1; 29 CFR 1636.3; Labor Code § 1030).

1035.3 LACTATION BREAK TIME

A rest period should be permitted each time the employee requires a lactation break (29 USC § 218d; 42 USC § 2000gg-1; 29 CFR 1636.3; Labor Code § 1030). In general, lactation breaks that cumulatively total 30 minutes or less during any four-hour work period or major portion of a four-hour work period would be considered reasonable. However, individual circumstances may require more or less time.

Lactation breaks, if feasible, should be taken at the same time as the employee's regularly scheduled rest or meal periods. While a reasonable effort will be made to provide additional time beyond authorized breaks, any such time exceeding regularly scheduled and paid break time will be unpaid (Labor Code § 1030).

Employees desiring to take a lactation break shall notify the dispatcher or a supervisor prior to taking such a break. Such breaks may be reasonably delayed if they would seriously disrupt department operations (Labor Code § 1032).

Once a lactation break has been approved, the break should not be interrupted except for emergency or exigent circumstances.

1035.4 PRIVATE LOCATION

The Department will make reasonable efforts to accommodate employees with the use of an appropriate room or other location to express milk in private. Such room or place should be in proximity to the employee's work area and shall be other than a bathroom or toilet stall. The location must be shielded from view, free from intrusion from coworkers and the public, and otherwise satisfy the requirements of federal and state law (29 USC § 218d; 42 USC § 2000gg-1; 29 CFR 1636.3; Labor Code § 1031).

Employees occupying such private areas shall either secure the door or otherwise make it clear to others that the area is occupied with a need for privacy. All other employees should avoid

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interrupting an employee during an authorized break, except to announce an emergency or other urgent circumstance.

Authorized lactation breaks for employees assigned to the field may be taken at the nearest appropriate private area.

1035.5 STORAGE OF EXPRESSED MILK

Any employee storing expressed milk in any authorized refrigerated area within the Department shall clearly label it as such and shall remove it when the employee's shift ends.

1035.5.1 STATE REQUIREMENTS

Employees have the right to request lactation accommodations. If a break time or location accommodation cannot be provided, the supervisor shall provide the employee with a written response regarding the reasons for the determination (Labor Code § 1034).

Lactation rooms or other locations should comply with the prescribed feature and access requirements of Labor Code § 1031.

Employees who believe that their rights have been violated under this policy or have been the subject of discrimination or retaliation for exercising or attempting to exercise their rights under this policy, are encouraged to follow the chain of command in reporting a violation, but may also file a complaint directly with the Labor Commissioner (Labor Code § 1033).