

Employee Handbook

[Company Name]

Effective Date: [Date]

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1. Welcome & Company Overview

Welcome Message

Welcome to [Company Name]! We're excited to have you as part of our team.

This employee handbook is designed to help you understand our company's policies, procedures, and expectations. It serves as a guide to help you navigate your employment with us and succeed in your role.

Please take the time to read this handbook carefully. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to your manager or the HR department.

About [Company Name]

Our Mission

[Insert your company's mission statement here. Example: "To provide innovative solutions that help businesses grow and succeed."]

Our Vision

[Insert your company's vision statement here. Example: "To be the leading provider of [product/service] in our industry."]

Our Values

At [Company Name], we are guided by the following core values:

- [Value 1] – [Brief description]
- [Value 2] – [Brief description]
- [Value 3] – [Brief description]
- [Value 4] – [Brief description]
- [Value 5] – [Brief description]

Company History

[Company Name] was founded in [Year] by [Founder Name(s)]. [Provide a brief history of the company, including key milestones, growth, and achievements.]

Organizational Structure

[Describe your company's organizational structure. You may include an org chart or describe the reporting relationships and departments.]

2. Employment Policies

At-Will Employment

Employment with [Company Name] is "at-will," which means that either you or the company may terminate the employment relationship at any time, with or without cause or notice. Nothing in this handbook or any other company document creates a contract of employment or guarantees employment for any specific period.

Equal Employment Opportunity

[Company Name] is an equal opportunity employer. We are committed to providing equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other characteristic protected by

applicable law.

We do not tolerate discrimination or harassment of any kind. All employment decisions are based on business needs, job requirements, and individual qualifications.

Immigration Law Compliance

[Company Name] complies with all applicable immigration laws and employs only individuals who are legally authorized to work in the United States. All new employees must complete Form I-9 and provide acceptable documentation of their identity and employment authorization.

Employee Classifications

Employees are classified as follows:

Full-Time Employees Employees who are regularly scheduled to work [40] hours or more per week. Full-time employees are eligible for all company benefits.

Part-Time Employees Employees who are regularly scheduled to work fewer than [40] hours per week. Part-time employees may be eligible for limited benefits as outlined in this handbook.

Temporary Employees Employees hired for a specific project or for a limited period of time. Temporary employees are not eligible for company benefits unless required by law.

Exempt Employees Employees who are exempt from overtime pay requirements under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). Exempt employees are paid a salary and are not eligible for overtime pay.

Non-Exempt Employees Employees who are entitled to overtime pay (1.5 times their regular rate) for hours worked over 40 in a workweek under the FLSA.

Background Checks

[Company Name] may conduct background checks on candidates as part of the hiring process, to the extent permitted by applicable law. Background checks may include verification of education, employment history, criminal history, and other relevant information.

Probationary Period

New employees are subject to a [90-day] probationary period. During this time, your performance will be evaluated to determine if you meet the standards required for your position. Successful completion of the probationary period does not change your at-will employment status.

3. Code of Conduct

Professional Behavior

All employees are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. This includes:

- Treating colleagues, customers, and vendors with respect and courtesy
- Maintaining a positive and collaborative work environment
- Being punctual and dependable
- Dressing appropriately for your role and work environment
- Representing [Company Name] positively in all interactions

Ethics and Integrity

Employees must conduct business with honesty and integrity. This means:

- Being truthful in all communications
- Avoiding conflicts of interest
- Not accepting gifts or bribes that could influence business decisions
- Reporting any unethical behavior or violations of company policy
- Protecting confidential information

Anti-Harassment Policy

[Company Name] is committed to providing a work environment free from harassment. Harassment based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other protected characteristic is strictly prohibited.

What constitutes harassment:

- Unwelcome verbal, visual, or physical conduct
- Offensive jokes, slurs, or name-calling
- Displaying offensive images or materials
- Intimidation, threats, or bullying
- Unwanted sexual advances or requests for sexual favors

Reporting harassment: If you experience or witness harassment, report it immediately to:

- Your supervisor or manager
- Human Resources at [HR contact information]
- [Company Name]'s anonymous reporting hotline at [number/email]

All complaints will be investigated promptly and confidentially. Retaliation against anyone who reports harassment or participates in an investigation is strictly prohibited.

Anti-Discrimination Policy

[Company Name] prohibits discrimination in all aspects of employment, including hiring, promotion, compensation, discipline, and termination. We are committed to making employment decisions based solely on qualifications, performance, and business needs.

Workplace Violence Prevention

[Company Name] has zero tolerance for workplace violence. This includes:

- Physical violence or threats of violence
- Intimidation or bullying
- Possession of weapons on company property
- Verbal abuse or threatening language

Any employee who engages in or threatens workplace violence will be subject to immediate disciplinary action, up to and including termination and criminal prosecution.

Substance Abuse Policy

[Company Name] is committed to maintaining a drug-free workplace. The following are prohibited:

- Being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs while on duty
- Using, possessing, or distributing illegal drugs on company property
- Misusing prescription medications in a way that affects job performance

Employees may be subject to drug and alcohol testing in accordance with applicable law. Employees who need help with substance abuse issues are encouraged to seek assistance through [Employee Assistance Program or other resources].

Conflicts of Interest

Employees must avoid situations where their personal interests conflict with the interests of [Company Name]. This includes:

- Outside employment that interferes with your job duties
- Financial interests in competitors, suppliers, or customers
- Using company resources for personal gain
- Accepting gifts or favors that could influence business decisions

If you have a potential conflict of interest, disclose it to your manager or Human Resources immediately.

Confidentiality

Employees are expected to maintain the confidentiality of company information, including:

- Trade secrets and proprietary information
- Customer and vendor data
- Financial information
- Employee personal information
- Business strategies and plans

Confidential information should not be shared with anyone outside the company without proper authorization. This obligation continues even after your employment ends.

4. Compensation & Benefits

Pay Schedule

Employees are paid [weekly/bi-weekly/semi-monthly/monthly] on [day of week/date]. If a payday falls on a holiday, employees will be paid on the preceding business day.

Direct Deposit

[Company Name] offers direct deposit for all employees. To enroll, please submit a direct deposit authorization form to [Payroll/HR] along with a voided check or bank letter.

Overtime Pay

Non-exempt employees are eligible for overtime pay at 1.5 times their regular hourly rate for hours worked over 40 in a workweek. Overtime must be approved in advance by your supervisor. Unauthorized overtime may result in disciplinary action.

Payroll Deductions

The following deductions may be made from your paycheck:

Required deductions:

- Federal, state, and local income taxes
- Social Security and Medicare taxes

- Court-ordered garnishments

Voluntary deductions:

- Health insurance premiums
- Retirement plan contributions
- Other benefits you elect

Health Insurance

[Company Name] offers health insurance coverage to eligible employees. Details include:

- **Eligibility:** [Full-time employees working 30+ hours per week]
- **Coverage options:** [Medical, dental, vision]
- **Enrollment period:** [First day of employment / Open enrollment in November]
- **Cost sharing:** [Company pays X%, employee pays Y%]

For detailed plan information, contact Human Resources or refer to the Summary Plan Description.

Retirement Plan

[Company Name] offers a [401(k)/retirement plan] to help you save for retirement.

- **Eligibility:** [Employees age 21+ with 1 year of service]
- **Company match:** [Company matches X% of employee contributions up to Y%]
- **Vesting schedule:** [Immediate / X-year vesting]

Life Insurance

[Company Name] provides [basic life insurance / AD&D insurance] to eligible employees at no cost. The benefit amount is [1x annual salary / \$50,000]. Additional voluntary coverage may be purchased.

Other Benefits

[Company Name] may offer additional benefits including:

- [Disability insurance (short-term and/or long-term)]
- [Employee Assistance Program (EAP)]
- [Tuition reimbursement]
- [Professional development allowance]
- [Wellness programs]
- [Commuter benefits]
- [Employee discounts]

Details about these benefits are available from Human Resources.

5. Time Off & Leave

Paid Time Off (PTO)

[Company Name] provides paid time off to eligible employees for vacation, personal time, and sick leave.

Accrual rates:

Years of Service	Annual PTO Days	Accrual Rate
0-2 years	[10] days	[X] hours/pay period
3-5 years	[15] days	[X] hours/pay period
6+ years	[20] days	[X] hours/pay period

PTO guidelines:

- PTO begins accruing on your first day of employment
- Maximum accrual: [X] days; accrual stops until PTO is used
- Unused PTO [is/is not] paid out upon separation
- PTO requests must be submitted at least [X days] in advance
- Manager approval is required for all PTO

Sick Leave

[If separate from PTO, describe your sick leave policy here. Include accrual rates, permitted uses, and any state-specific requirements.]

Holidays

[Company Name] observes the following paid holidays:

- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Presidents' Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Day after Thanksgiving
- Christmas Eve
- Christmas Day
- [Add or remove holidays as appropriate]

If a holiday falls on a weekend, it will be observed on [the preceding Friday / the following Monday].

Family and Medical Leave (FMLA)

Eligible employees may take up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave per year under the Family and Medical Leave Act for:

- The birth and care of a newborn child
- Placement of a child for adoption or foster care
- Care for an immediate family member with a serious health condition
- Medical leave when unable to work due to a serious health condition
- Qualifying exigencies related to a family member's military service

Eligibility requirements:

- Employed for at least 12 months
- Worked at least 1,250 hours in the past 12 months
- Work at a location with 50+ employees within 75 miles

Parental Leave

[Company Name] provides [X weeks] of [paid/unpaid] parental leave for the birth or adoption of a child. This leave [runs concurrently with / is in addition to] FMLA leave.

Bereavement Leave

Employees may take up to [3-5] days of paid bereavement leave for the death of an immediate family member (spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, or in-law). Additional unpaid leave may be granted at management's discretion.

Jury Duty

Employees summoned for jury duty will receive [full pay / the difference between jury pay and regular pay] for up to [X days]. Provide your jury summons to your manager as soon as possible.

Voting Leave

Employees are encouraged to vote before or after work hours. If your schedule does not permit this, [Company Name] will provide up to [X hours] of paid time off to vote. Please coordinate with your manager in advance.

Military Leave

[Company Name] complies with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). Employees who serve in the military are entitled to leave and reemployment rights as required by law.

6. Work Schedule & Attendance

Work Hours

Standard work hours are [9:00 AM to 5:00 PM], [Monday through Friday]. Your specific schedule will be determined by your manager based on business needs.

[If applicable: Core hours when all employees must be available are X to Y.]

Attendance and Punctuality

Regular attendance and punctuality are essential to our success. Employees are expected to:

- Arrive on time for their scheduled shifts
- Notify their supervisor as soon as possible if they will be late or absent
- Follow the proper call-in procedure: [describe procedure]

Excessive absenteeism or tardiness may result in disciplinary action.

Remote Work Policy

[Company Name] [offers/does not offer] remote work options. [If offered, describe eligibility requirements, expectations, and approval process.]

Remote work guidelines:

- Remote work arrangements must be approved by your manager
- Employees must maintain a suitable work environment at home
- Employees must be available during core business hours
- All company policies apply when working remotely
- [Company Name] may require employees to work on-site at any time

Flexible Work Arrangements

[Company Name] may offer flexible work arrangements, including:

- Flexible start and end times
- Compressed workweeks
- Job sharing

These arrangements are available at management's discretion based on job requirements and business needs.

Meal and Rest Breaks

[Non-exempt employees are entitled to the following breaks:]

- **Meal break:** [30-60 minutes] unpaid for shifts over [5-6] hours
- **Rest breaks:** [10-15 minutes] paid for every [4] hours worked

[Include any state-specific requirements that apply to your location.]

Timekeeping

Non-exempt employees must accurately record all hours worked using [timekeeping system]. This includes:

- Clock in when you start work
- Clock out when you end work
- Record all meal breaks
- Obtain approval for any overtime before working extra hours

Falsifying time records is grounds for immediate termination.

7. Safety & Security

Workplace Safety

[Company Name] is committed to providing a safe work environment for all employees. We comply with all applicable health and safety regulations, including OSHA requirements.

Employee responsibilities:

- Follow all safety rules and procedures
- Use required personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Report unsafe conditions or practices immediately
- Participate in safety training as required
- Report all injuries and accidents promptly

Emergency Procedures

In case of fire:

1. Activate the nearest fire alarm
2. Call 911
3. Evacuate using the nearest exit
4. Meet at the designated assembly point: [location]
5. Do not re-enter the building until authorized

In case of medical emergency:

1. Call 911
2. Notify a trained first responder if available
3. Do not move the injured person unless necessary for safety
4. Stay with the person until help arrives

Severe weather: [Describe procedures for tornado, hurricane, or other weather emergencies applicable to your location.]

Reporting Injuries and Accidents

All work-related injuries, illnesses, and accidents must be reported immediately to your supervisor and Human Resources. This includes:

- Injuries requiring medical attention
- Near-misses that could have caused injury
- Unsafe conditions or equipment

Prompt reporting ensures proper medical care and helps us prevent future incidents.

Workplace Security

To maintain a secure workplace:

- Wear your ID badge at all times while on company property
- Do not allow unauthorized individuals into secure areas
- Report suspicious activity to security or management
- Lock your computer when away from your desk
- Do not share access codes, passwords, or keys

Visitors

All visitors must sign in at [reception/security] and wear a visitor badge while on company property. Employees are responsible for escorting their visitors at all times.

8. Technology & Communication

Acceptable Use Policy

Company technology resources, including computers, phones, email, and internet access, are provided for business purposes. Limited personal use is permitted as long as it:

- Does not interfere with work duties
- Does not violate any company policies
- Does not consume excessive resources
- Is conducted on personal time (breaks, lunch)

Email and Internet Use

Prohibited activities include:

- Sending or viewing inappropriate content
- Downloading unauthorized software
- Sharing confidential information without authorization
- Using company systems for personal business or profit
- Accessing inappropriate websites
- Harassing or threatening others

[Company Name] reserves the right to monitor all electronic communications and internet usage on company systems.

Company Devices

Employees who are issued company devices (laptops, phones, tablets) are responsible for:

- Protecting devices from loss, theft, and damage
- Using devices primarily for business purposes
- Returning devices upon separation from the company
- Reporting lost or stolen devices immediately

Personal Devices (BYOD)

[If applicable: Describe your policy on using personal devices for work, including any required security measures, apps, or agreements.]

Social Media Policy

Employees must use good judgment when using social media, both personally and professionally.

Guidelines:

- Do not disclose confidential company information
- Do not speak on behalf of [Company Name] unless authorized
- Be respectful of colleagues, customers, and competitors
- Clearly state that opinions are your own, not the company's
- Do not use social media in a way that violates other company policies

Password and Data Security

- Use strong, unique passwords for all accounts
- Do not share passwords with anyone
- Enable multi-factor authentication where available

- Lock your computer when leaving your desk
- Report any suspected security breaches immediately

Software and Licensing

Only use software that has been approved and properly licensed by [Company Name]. Do not install unauthorized software on company devices.

9. Performance & Development

Performance Reviews

[Company Name] conducts performance reviews [annually/semi-annually/quarterly] to:

- Evaluate job performance
- Provide feedback and recognition
- Identify areas for improvement
- Set goals for the upcoming period
- Discuss career development

Your manager will schedule reviews and provide feedback throughout the year.

Goal Setting

Employees and managers will work together to establish clear, measurable goals that align with company objectives. Goals should be:

- Specific
- Measurable
- Achievable
- Relevant
- Time-bound

Feedback and Coaching

We encourage ongoing feedback and coaching throughout the year. Don't wait for formal reviews to:

- Discuss concerns or challenges
- Ask for help or resources
- Share ideas for improvement
- Recognize good work

Training and Development

[Company Name] is committed to employee development. Opportunities may include:

- On-the-job training
- Internal workshops and seminars
- External conferences and courses
- Online learning platforms
- Mentoring programs
- Tuition reimbursement (see Benefits section)

Discuss your development goals with your manager to identify appropriate opportunities.

Promotions and Transfers

[Company Name] encourages internal mobility and career growth. When positions become available, qualified internal candidates will be considered. To be eligible:

- Meet the qualifications for the new position
- Have a satisfactory performance record
- Have been in your current role for at least [6-12 months]

Disciplinary Process

When performance or conduct issues arise, [Company Name] generally follows a progressive discipline process:

1. **Verbal warning** — Documented conversation about the issue
2. **Written warning** — Formal written notice of the problem
3. **Final written warning** — Last chance notice
4. **Termination** — End of employment

[Company Name] reserves the right to skip steps or proceed directly to termination depending on the severity of the issue. Serious violations may result in immediate termination.

10. Separation & Offboarding

Voluntary Resignation

Employees who choose to resign are requested to provide at least [2 weeks] written notice to their manager. This allows time for a smooth transition of responsibilities.

Please submit your resignation in writing, including your last day of work, to your manager and Human Resources.

Involuntary Termination

Employment may be terminated by [Company Name] for reasons including, but not limited to:

- Performance issues
- Violation of company policies
- Misconduct
- Business needs (layoffs, restructuring)
- Failure to meet job requirements

Termination for Cause

Certain actions may result in immediate termination without prior warning, including:

- Theft or fraud
- Violence or threats of violence
- Harassment or discrimination
- Insubordination
- Falsification of records
- Being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at work
- Serious safety violations
- Breach of confidentiality

Final Pay

Final paychecks will be issued in accordance with applicable state law. [Describe your state's requirements for final pay timing.]

Unused PTO will be paid out according to our PTO policy and applicable law.

Return of Company Property

Upon separation, employees must return all company property, including:

- ID badges and access cards
- Keys
- Laptops, phones, and other devices
- Credit cards
- Documents and files
- Any other company materials

Failure to return company property may result in deductions from final pay where permitted by law.

Exit Interview

[Company Name] may conduct an exit interview to gather feedback about your employment experience. Participation is voluntary but encouraged. Your feedback helps us improve.

Benefits Continuation

Information about benefits continuation (COBRA) will be provided upon separation. You may be eligible to continue health insurance coverage at your own expense for up to [18/36] months.

References

[Company Name]'s policy is to confirm only dates of employment and position held. Requests for references should be directed to Human Resources.

Post-Employment Obligations

After your employment ends, you are still bound by:

- Confidentiality agreements
- Non-compete agreements (if applicable)
- Non-solicitation agreements (if applicable)
- Intellectual property agreements

Review your employment agreements for specific obligations.

11. Acknowledgement Form

Employee Handbook Acknowledgement

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the [Company Name] Employee Handbook dated [Date]. I understand that:

- 1. **I am responsible for reading and understanding the contents of this handbook.** I agree to comply with all policies and procedures described herein.
- 2. **This handbook is not a contract of employment.** My employment with [Company Name] is "at-will," meaning that either I or the company may terminate the employment relationship at any time, with or without cause or notice.
- 3. **The policies in this handbook may change.** [Company Name] reserves the right to modify, revise, or eliminate any policies at any time, with or without notice.
- 4. **This handbook supersedes all previous versions.** Any prior handbooks, policies, or practices that are inconsistent with this handbook are no longer in effect.
- 5. **I should direct questions to Human Resources.** If I have any questions about the policies in this handbook, I will contact Human Resources for clarification.

Employee Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

HR Representative Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please sign and return this acknowledgement form to Human Resources. A copy will be placed in your personnel file.

Document Information

Handbook Version: 1.0

Effective Date: [Date]

Last Updated: [Date]

Approved By: [Name, Title]

This employee handbook is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. [Company Name] recommends consulting with legal counsel to ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws.