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# Care for Women Policy on Completing FMLA Forms

#### The FMLA Act

The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) entitles eligible employees who work for covered employers to take unpaid, job-protected leave for specified family and medical reasons, with continuation of group health insurance coverage under the same terms and conditions as if the employee had not taken leave. The employer may require the employee to submit a certification from a health care provider to support the employee's need for FMLA leave to care for a covered family member with a serious health condition or for the employee's own serious health condition. The employer **may not** request a certification for leave to bond with a newborn child or a child placed for adoption or foster care.

## FMLA Law and Employer's Policies vs. Physician Certification of Serious Health Condition.

The Government's law, and your employer's policies, pertaining to FMLA leave are completely separate from the physician's certification of a serious medical condition. The physician can <u>only</u> certify if a condition is <u>serious medical condition</u>, and the period of time <u>medically needed</u> for a patient's treatment and recovery. For the physician to certify anything more than this would be fraudulent. However, FMLA and your employer's policies may provide for additional time to be granted to the employee and this should be addressed with your employer.

#### **Surgery and Medical Procedures**

The physician can only certify that you require leave for the period of time that is <u>medically necessary</u>. To state otherwise would be fraudulent.

### Pregnancy, Delivery, and Recovery

With respect to pregnancy and recovery, the Law provides that you may take FMLA leave for the birth of a child, or for the placement of a child for adoption or foster care, and to bond with the child. However, it does not necessarily provide for leave prior to delivery of the baby, unless you have an <u>incapacitating</u> condition, such as incapacitating morning sickness or medically-required bed rest, or even for individual prenatal medical appointments. Therefore, the physician cannot certify that you need time off prior to delivery if you do not have an incapacitating complication of pregnancy.

#### Resources for Your Information

The United States Department of Labor has issued a guidebook for employees that is available online. It is called *The Employee's Guide to the Family and Medical Leave Act*. This guide is an excellent resource to explain the FMLA law and your rights and responsibilities under it.



The comprehensive care you need. The compassion & convenience you deserve. (281) 359-7000 350 Kingwood Medical Drive Suite 350 Kingwood, TX 77339 281/359-7000 Fax: (281)359-5833 www.CareForWomenOnline.com

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All FMLA and Disability forms must be dropped off and a \$25 form fee will be collected. Forms will not be accepted without payment.

Your forms will be ready within 10-14 business days. You will now have the option to have your forms faxed, mailed or you may view them on our secured patient portal. You will no longer have the option to pick up your forms due to HIPAA regulations.

Please print out the form request and attach to your FMLA/Disability forms.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this important matter.

Care for Women

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Date Received:		WORKING DAYS FOR	
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		NECESSARY PAPERWORK	`
Care For Women			
350 Kingwood Medical Dr.	A 4.11	D.	
Kingwood, TX 77339	Acct#	Dr	
	FORM REQUEST		
<b>ALL FORMS REQUIRE A \$25.00</b>	FEE TO BE PAID AT THE	TIME YOU DROP OFF FORMS-THEY	
WILL NO	OT BE ACCEPTED WITHOU	JT PAYMENT	
Ag.			
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Patient Spouse	Oth	ner	
Test			
Type of Form: (circle one)			
Disability Form FM	LA Form Other		
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DV CIGNING THIC FORM VO	II ADE AUTHORIZING CAD	E FOR WOMEN TO FILL OUT THE	
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Date

Patient Signature