

## **1035 LACTATION BREAKS**

### **1035.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide reasonable accommodations to employees desiring to express breast milk for the member's infant child.

### **1035.2 POLICY**

It is the policy of this department to provide, in compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act, reasonable break time and appropriate facilities to accommodate any member desiring to express breast milk for her nursing child for up to one year after the child's birth (29 USC § 207).

### **1035.3 LACTATION BREAK TIME**

A rest period should be permitted each time the member has the need to express breast milk (29 USC § 207). 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 may be unpaid.

Members assigned to patrol duties desiring to take a lactation break shall notify Public Safety Joint Communications or a supervisor prior to taking such a break. Such breaks may be reasonably delayed if they would seriously disrupt department operations.

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 members with the use of an appropriate room or other location to express milk in private. Such room or place should be in close proximity to the member's work area and shall be other than a bathroom or toilet stall. The location must be shielded from view and free from intrusion from co-workers and the public (29 USC § 207).

Members 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 members should avoid interrupting an member during an authorized break, except to announce an emergency or other urgent circumstance.

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Authorized lactation breaks for members assigned to the field may be taken at the nearest appropriate private area (§ 191.918, RSMo).