

# **3 FAM 3420 SICK LEAVE**

*(TL:PER-413; 08-22-2001)*

## **3 FAM 3421 GRANTING SICK LEAVE**

### **3 FAM 3421.1 General**

*(TL:PER-411; 08-13-2001)*

*(Uniformed State/Agriculture/BBG/Commerce/USAID))*

*(Applies to Foreign Service Employees and Civil Service Employees)*

Currently accrued and accumulated sick leave may be used as follows:

(1) When the employee is incapacitated for the performance of duties by physical or mental illness, injury, pregnancy or childbirth;

(2) For medical, dental or optical examinations or treatments (including medical examinations for reservists recalled to active duty, military training duty or determination of eligibility for retention in the reserve component, except when a reservist is ordered to active duty for the examination, the absence is charged to military leave, if available, or to annual leave);

(3) To provide care for a family member with a serious health condition (see 3 FAH-1 H-3425);

(4) When, as determined by the health authorities having jurisdiction or by the employee's health care provider, the employee's health may jeopardize the health of others by his or her presence on the job because of exposure to a communicable disease;

(5) To provide care for a family member who is incapacitated by a medical or mental condition or to attend to a family member receiving medical, dental or optical examination or treatment (see 3 FAH-1 H-3426);

(6) To make arrangements necessitated by the death of a family member or to attend the funeral of a family member (see 3 FAH-1 H-3426); or

(7) When an employee must be absent from duty for purposes relating to the adoption of a child, including appointments with adoption agencies, social workers, and attorneys; court proceedings; required travel; and any other activities necessary to allow the adoption to proceed (see 3 FAH-1 H-3424, 3 FAM 3420 Exhibit 3421.1, and 3 FAH-1 H-3420).

### **3 FAM 3421.2 Authority**

*(TL:PER-411; 08-13-2001)*

*(Uniform State/Agriculture/BBG/Commerce/USAID)*

*(Applies to Foreign Service Employees and Civil Service Employees)*

The following authorities are cited:

- (1) 5 U.S.C. 6307; and
- (2) 5 CFR 630, Subpart D.

### **3 FAM 3421.3 Authorizing Official**

*(TL:PER-411; 08-13-2001)*

*(Uniform State/Agriculture/BBG/Commerce/USAID)*

*(Applies to Foreign Service Employees and Civil Service Employees)*

Authorizing officials for approving sick leave and advanced sick leave are designated in 3 FAM 3424.1 (current and/or cumulative) and 3 FAM 3424.2 (advanced).

## **3 FAM 3422 REPORTING ABSENCE ON ACCOUNT OF ILLNESS**

*(TL:PER-411; 08-13-2001)*

*(Uniform State/Agriculture/BBG/Commerce/USAID)*

*(Applies to Foreign Service Employees and Civil Service Employees)*

Absence because of illness or injury must be reported immediately to the official authorized to grant sick leave. Failure to give such notice may result in a charge to annual leave, leave without pay (LWOP), or absence without official leave, as appropriate.

### 3 FAM 3423 APPLICATION FOR LEAVE ON ACCOUNT OF ILLNESS

*(TL:PER-413; 08-22-2001)*

*(Uniform State/Agriculture/BBG/Commerce/USAID)*

*(Applies to Foreign Service Employees and Civil Service Employees)*

a. The employee's own certification as to reasons for absence on account of illness normally will be acceptable for absence of three workdays or less. However, the employee may be required to submit a medical certificate or other administratively acceptable evidence for absence of three workdays or less if the head of the office to which the employee is assigned has reason to believe that the employee is improperly using sick leave. (See 3 FAH-1 H-3421 for a definition of medical certificate and 3 FAM 4320, Disciplinary Action—Common Practices.)

(1) Except in cases of medical evacuation, the employee must submit a written application for sick leave in excess of three workdays not later than two workdays after return to duty. In general, such application must be supported by a medical certificate; however, if the services of a physician are not utilized, the employee may submit a signed statement indicating the nature of the illness and the reason for not furnishing a medical certificate, subject to approval by the approving officer.

(2) When circumstances permit, requests for sick leave must be submitted to the official authorized to grant leave in advance of absence.

(3) Permission for leave from the approving official must be obtained before an employee takes sick leave for medical, dental, or optical examination or treatment.

(4) All requests for sick leave due to exposure of the employee or a family member to a communicable disease must be supported by a certificate from a health authority which reflects the actual period of quarantine, isolation or restriction of movement. See 3 FAH-1 H-3421 for a definition of communicable disease.

(5) When caring for a family member with a serious health condition, a medical certificate or other administratively acceptable evidence as to the reason for the absence **will** be required (see 3 FAH-1 H-3425).

(b) Medical documentation is generally required for an absence in excess of three workdays, or for a lesser period, when determined by the supervisor or office head. An employee who does not provide the required evidence of medical certification within a reasonable period of time is not entitled to use sick leave for this purpose and will be charged annual leave or (if appropriate) leave without pay.

### **3 FAM 3423.1 Authorizing Officials for Current and Cumulative Sick Leave**

*(TL:PER-411; 08-13-2001)*

*(Uniformed State Agriculture/BBG/Commerce/USAID)*

*(Applies to Foreign Service Employees and Civil Service Employees)*

a. Chiefs of mission, principle officers (State) and USAID mission directors or representatives, may approve sick leave on his and/or her behalf.

b. The principal officer (Commerce) reports leave in excess of one workweek to headquarters, Office of Foreign Service-Human Resources.

c. Domestic employees: Designated authorizing official and/or immediate supervisor.

d. Employees abroad:

**State:** Designated authorizing official and/or immediate supervisor

**BBG:** Head of BBG/IBB establishment or designee abroad;

**Commerce:** Principal Commerce Office and/or Human Resources Officer;

**USAID:** Authorized official; and

**USDA:** Head of USDA organizations abroad.

### **3 FAM 3424 ADVANCED SICK LEAVE**

*(TL:PER-411; 08-13-2001)*

*(Uniformed State Agriculture/BBG/Commerce/USAID)*

*(Applies to Foreign Service Employees and Civil Service Employees)*

a. Subject to the restrictions in 3 FAM 3424.1 and when required by the exigencies of the situation, advanced sick leave is granted by the authorizing official in cases of serious disabilities or ailments or for purposes relating to the adoption of a child. Such a serious disability or ailment may be of medical or surgical origin.

b. Sick leave advances are subject to the following requirements.

(1) Requests for advanced sick leave must be submitted in writing and must be supported by a medical certificate or other satisfactory evidence in support of the request. See 3 FAM 3424 and 3 FAH-1 H-3421.

(2) Sick leave may be advanced only after all current accrued and accumulated sick leave is exhausted; however, in instances of prolonged illness or injuries, sick leave may be advanced even though the employee has annual leave to the employees credit.

(3) Sick leave is advanced with the understanding that future absence due to illness must be charged to annual leave or LWOP until the total sick leave advance has been liquidated, except as provided in 3 FAM 3424.2.

(4) Sick leave may not be advanced to an employee when it is known that the employee does not intend to return to duty.

(5) For the purpose of using sick leave to care for a family member under 3 FAM 3421.1 paragraphs (3), (5) and (6), only 40 hours (or a proportional amount for part-time employee) may be advanced contingent upon presenting administratively acceptable evidence to the approving official (see 3 FAH-1 H-3425.3).

### **3 FAM 3424.1 Restriction on Advance of Sick Leave to Certain Employees**

*(TL:PER-411; 08-13-2001)*

*(Uniformed State/Agriculture/BBG/Commerce/USAID)*

*(Applies to Foreign Service Employees and Civil Service Employees)*

Subject to the restrictions set forth in 3 FAM 3424.1 paragraph (5), sick leave may be advanced as follows:

(1) Not to exceed 30 workdays (or 240 hours) may be advanced to employees who accrue leave, including employees serving a probationary period, and to employees holding appointments with no expiration date. In the event of another serious illness before liquidation of the original advance, an additional advance may be authorized not to exceed a total deficit of 30 workdays, subject to the same restrictions that applied to the original advance. The leave-approving officer will consider the circumstance of each individual case, including the employee's past record of use of sick leave, the recommendation of the employee's attending physician, and other pertinent factors; and

(2) To employees holding temporary, limited-indefinite or time-limited appointments, except that such advances may not exceed the total sick leave which would accrue during the remaining period of such appointment. Appointments made subject to security clearance are considered as 90-day appointments until such clearance is made.

### **3 FAM 3424.2 Authorizing Official for Advanced Sick Leave**

*(TL:PER-411; 08-13-2001)*  
*(Uniformed State/Agriculture/BBG/Commerce/USAID)*  
*(Applies to Foreign Service Employees and Civil Service Employees)*

The authorizing officials are:

**State:** Leave approving official;

**BBG:** IBB, Office of Personnel;

**USAID:** Immediate supervisor;

**USDA:** See FARS 6325;

APHIS: See Directive 420.6; and

**Commerce:** Employee's leave approving official.

### **3 FAM 3425 SICK LEAVE BEFORE SEPARATION**

*(TL:PER-411; 08-13-2001)*  
*(Uniformed State/Agriculture/BBG/Commerce/USAID)*  
*(Applies to Foreign Service Employees and Civil Service Employees)*

An employee who is ill or disabled may be granted all current accrued and accumulated sick leave due, leave accruing while on leave, and at the discretion of the appropriate leave-granting official, LWOP. If an ill or disabled employee resigns while on leave, the employee's leave-with-pay status shall terminate not later than the end of the payroll period current when the notification is received in the appropriate headquarters personnel office. If the employee has been granted sick leave which would extend beyond the end of the payroll period, the employee may be continued on sick leave until the expiration of the approved leave, provided that no advance sick leave may be utilized see 3 FAM 3424.1, paragraph (4).

### **3 FAM 3426 SICKNESS DURING ANNUAL LEAVE, HOME LEAVE, OR TRANSIT TIME**

*(TL:PER-411; 08-13-2001)*

*(Uniformed State/Agriculture/BBG/Commerce/USAID)*

*(Applies to Foreign Service Employees and Civil Service Employees)*

When sickness or injury occurs within a period of annual leave or home leave, or when it necessitates an extension of transit time, the period of illness may be charged as sick leave, provided that the period of disability covers at least one workday. This substitution is not intended to cover routine visits to dentists or physicians. Applications for such substitution must be supported either by a medical certificate or, if the illness did not necessitate medical attention, by a signed statement from the employee indicating the nature of illness (see 3 FAM 3423).

### **3 FAM 3427 ABUSE OF SICK LEAVE**

*(TL:PER-411; 08-13-2001)*

*(Uniformed State/Agriculture/BBG/Commerce/USAID)*

*(Applies to Foreign Service Employees and Civil Service Employees)*

The leave-approving official will review the circumstances surrounding seemingly excessive or indiscriminate use of sick leave to determine whether there is improper use of sick leave. The requirement for the proper use of sick leave should be reemphasized, and the employee may be required to furnish medical evidence of illness when sick leave is requested or taken on future occasions, even though the period of absence is three days or less (see 3 FAM 3423). In the event the frequent use of sick leave is believed to be proper, the employee should be requested to seek medical advice. In case of continued excessive or indiscriminate use of sick leave, disciplinary action may be taken. (See 3 FAM 4320)

### **3 FAM 3428 PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES**

*(TL:PER-411; 08-13-2001)*

*(Uniformed State/Agriculture/BBG/Commerce/USAID)*

*(Applies to Foreign Service Employees and Civil Service Employees)*

See 3 FAH-1 H-3420.

### **3 FAM 3429 UNASSIGNED**

# 3 FAM 3421 Exhibit 3421.1

## SICK LEAVE USAGE

(TL:PER-411; 08-13-2001)

CATEGORY (USAGE FOR)	PURPOSE OF SICK LEAVE	PROVISIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employee</li> <li>• 3 FAM 3421.1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical or mental illness;</li> <li>• Physical injury;</li> <li>• Medical treatment (medical, dental or optical appointments);</li> <li>• Incapacitation due to pregnancy or childbirth;</li> <li>• Exposure to communicable diseases;</li> <li>• Adoption-related activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paid sick leave accrued in employee's account. Sick leave may be granted when supported by evidence that is administratively acceptable (including the employee's certification). For an absence of 3 workdays or more (or a lesser time, if requested by a supervisor), a medical certificate or other administratively acceptable evidence may be required by the leave approval official.</li> <li>• At the discretion of the bureau's Executive Director or post Human Resources Officer, a maximum of 30 days of sick leave can be advanced to an employee with a medical emergency or for adoption-related activities.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Care of Family Member (General Family Care)</li> <li>• 3 FAH-1 H-3426.1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical or mental illness;</li> <li>• Physical injury;</li> <li>• Medical treatment (medical, dental or optical appointments);</li> <li>• Funeral arrangements or bereavement due to death of family member.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Granted only a maximum of 40 hours per leave year (without regard to an employee's sick leave balance). An additional 64 hours (per leave year) can be used if the employee maintains a balance of 80 or more hours in his/her sick leave account. Total entitlement under this category is 104 hours (13 days).</li> <li>• If an employee previously used any portion of the 104 hours (13 days) of sick leave for general family care or bereavement purposes in a leave year, that amount must be subtracted from the 12 (480 hours) week entitlement.</li> </ul>
Care of Family Member (Serious Health Condition)** 3 FAH-1 H-3425.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Care of family member with a serious health condition as defined in 3 FAH-1 3421.1(6) or 5 C.F.R. 630.1202.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum of 480 hours (12 weeks) of accrued sick leave, per leave year. Medical certification may be required by leave approval official.</li> <li>• If an employee previously used any portion of the 104 hours (13 days) of sick leave for general family care or bereavement purposes in a leave year, that amount must be subtracted from the 12 (480 hours) week entitlement.</li> </ul>

**\*\* The common cold, the flu, earaches, upset stomach, headaches (other than migraines), routine dental or orthodontia problems are not serious health conditions unless complications arise.**