## **EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK**

TAILORED HOME CARE II, INC.

**EFFECTIVE: MARCH 2019** 

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#### INTRODUCTION

## WELCOME TO TAILORED HOME CARE II, INC.!

We're very happy to welcome you to our Company. Thanks for joining us! The Company would like you to feel that your employment with us will be mutually beneficial and enjoyable.

You are joining an organization that has established an outstanding reputation for quality products and services. Credit for this goes to every one of our employees and we hope that you will find satisfaction and take pride in your work here.

#### HISTORY

We are a non-medical home care agency that services the Charlotte and surround area. We provide companion care to elderly and anyone in need of assistance. Tailored Home Care has been in operation for approximately 2 years and has grown quickly. Our clients are happy with our attention to detail and personal touch.

### MISSION AND VISION

Tailored Home Care aims to serve as an extension of your family into loved one's homes. We will provide safe and reliable home care services to clients with compassion.

#### CORE VALUES

Safety Reliability Compassion Communication Flexibility

### HANDBOOK PURPOSE

This employee handbook is presented as a matter of information and has been prepared to inform employees about the Company's philosophy, employment practices, policies, and the benefits provided to our valued employees, as well as the conduct expected from them. While this handbook is not intended to be a book of rules and regulations or a contract, it does include some important guidelines which employees should know. Except for the at-will employment provisions, the handbook can be amended at any time.

This employee handbook will not answer every question employees may have, nor would the Company want to restrict the normal question and answer interchange among us. It is in our person-to-person conversations that we can better know each other, express our views, and work together in a harmonious relationship.

We hope this guide will help employees feel comfortable with us. The Company depends on its employees; their success is our success. Please don't hesitate to ask

questions. Every manager will gladly answer them. We believe employees will enjoy their work and their fellow employees here. We also believe that employees will find the Company a good place to work.

No one other than authorized management may alter or modify any of the policies in this employee handbook. No statement or promise by a supervisor, manager, or designee is to be interpreted as a change in policy, nor will it constitute an agreement with an employee.

Should any provision in this employee handbook be found to be unenforceable and invalid, such a finding does not invalidate the entire employee handbook, but only the subject provision. Nothing in this handbook is intended to infringe upon employee rights under Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) or be incompatible with the NLRA.

We ask that employees read this guide carefully, become familiar with the Company and our policies, and refer to it whenever questions arise.

#### **EMPLOYMENT**

### **EQUAL EMPLOYMENT**

It is the policy of the Company to provide equal employment opportunities to all qualified individuals and to administer all aspects and conditions of employment without regard to the following:

- Race
- Color
- Age
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Gender
- Gender identity
- Religion
- National origin
- Pregnancy
- Physical or mental disability
- Military or veteran status
- Citizenship and/or immigration status
- Genetic information, including family medical history
- AIDS/HIV
- Sickle cell or hemoglobin C trait
- Child or spousal support withholding
- Wage garnishment by public hospital
- Use of lawful products off the premises during non-work hours
- Any other protected class, in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws

The Company takes allegations of discrimination, intimidation, harassment and retaliation very seriously and will promptly conduct an investigation when warranted.

Equal employment opportunity includes, but is not limited to, employment, training, promotion, demotion, transfer, leaves of absence and termination.

#### **BACKGROUND CHECKS**

Prior to making an offer of employment, or after making a conditional offer, the Company may conduct a job-related background check. The background check may consist of prior employment verification, professional reference checks, education confirmation, criminal background, and/or credit checks, as permitted by law. Third-party services may be hired to perform these checks. All offers of employment and continued employment are contingent upon a satisfactory background check.

#### AT-WILL NOTICE

The employment relationship between the Company and employees is at-will. This means that employees are not hired for any specified period of time and their employment may be terminated at any time, with or without cause, and with or without notice, by either the Company or the employee. Company policy requires that all employees are at-will; any implied, oral, or written agreements or promises to the contrary are void and unenforceable, unless approved by an officer with the power to create an employment contract. There is no implied employment contract created by this Handbook or any other Company document or written or verbal statement or policy.

#### ANNIVERSARY DATE AND SENIORITY

The employee's date of hire is their official employment anniversary date. Seniority is the length of continuous service commencing on the date of hire at the Company. Should employees leave the Company's employment and then be rehired, previously accrued seniority will be forfeited and seniority will begin to accrue again on the date of rehire. With the exception of certain protected leaves and paid time off, seniority does not accrue during leaves of absence without pay or leaves of absence that exceed 30 calendar days.

#### **IMMIGRATION LAW COMPLIANCE**

All individuals hired by the Company will be required to establish and certify their identity and right to work in the United States. Each individual employed by the Company will be required to complete Section 1 of Form I-9 on their first day of employment, and produce, within three business days, proof of their identity and eligibility to work in the United States.

#### INTRODUCTORY PERIOD

The employee's first 90 days of employment with the Company are considered an introductory period. This introductory period will be a time for getting to know fellow employees, managers and the tasks involved in the position, as well as becoming familiar with the Company's products and services. The supervisor or manager will work closely with each employee to help them understand the needs and processes of their job.

This introductory period is a try-out time for the employee and the Company. During this introductory period, the Company will evaluate employees' suitability for employment and employees can evaluate the Company as well. At any time during this first 90 days, employees may resign. If, during this period, employee work habits, attitude, attendance, performance or other relevant factors do not measure up to our standards, the Company may terminate employment.

At the end of the introductory period, the supervisor or manager will discuss each employee's job performance with them. During the course of the discussion, employees are encouraged to give their comments and ideas as well.

Completion of the introductory period does not guarantee continued employment for any specified period of time, nor does it require that an employee be discharged only for cause. Completion of the introductory period also does not imply that employees now have a contract of employment with the Company, other than at-will. Successful completion of the introductory period does not alter the at-will employment relationship.

A former employee who has been rehired after a separation from the Company of more than one year is considered an introductory employee during their first 90 days following rehire.

#### **EMPLOYMENT CLASSIFICATIONS**

The Company has established the following employee classifications for compensation and benefit purposes only. An employee's supervisor or manager will inform the employee of their classification, status, and responsibilities at the time of hire, re-hire, promotion or at any time a change in status occurs. These classifications do not alter the employment at-will status.

## Regular Full-Time Employee

An employee who is scheduled to work no less than 100% of the scheduled work hours in a workweek on a fixed work schedule (not less than 30 hours). The employee may be exempt or non-exempt and is generally eligible for all employment benefits offered by the Company.

## Regular Part-Time Employee

An employee who is scheduled to work less than 30 hours in a workweek and may be eligible for some benefits.

### Temporary Employee

An employee who is scheduled to work on a specific need of the Company. The employee will not receive any benefits unless specifically authorized in writing.

## **Exempt**

Employees whose positions meet specific tests established by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and applicable state law and who are exempt from overtime pay requirements. The basic premise of exempt status is that the exempt employee is to work the hours required to meet their work responsibilities.

## Non-Exempt

Employees whose positions do not meet FLSA and state exemption tests and who are paid a multiple of their regular rate of pay for overtime hours worked. Unless notified otherwise in writing by management, all employees of the Company are non-exempt.

#### PERSONNEL RECORDS

The Company will maintain various employment files while individuals remain an employee of the Company. Examples of these files are employee personnel files, attendance files, I-9 files and files for medical purposes. If any changes with respect to personal information, such as a change in home address and telephone number or a change of name occur, employees are required to notify their supervisor or manager so the appropriate updates can be made to the files. The Company will take reasonable precautions to protect employee files and employee personally identifiable information in its records.

Employee files have restricted access. Employees, their supervisor or manager, or their designated agents, may have access to those personnel files. In the event that an employee wishes to review their personnel file, they must do so in the presence of a supervisor or manager. Employees may review their personnel file by making a written request to their supervisor or manager. The written request will become a permanent part of the personnel file.

## **EMPLOYEE REFERENCES**

All employee reference check requests should be forwarded to Human Resources; only authorized members of management or Human Resources may provide this information. When the Company is contacted for a reference check or employment verification, generally only positions held and dates of employment will be confirmed. In some circumstances, past salary and eligibility for rehire may be provided as well.

#### **JOB TRANSFERS**

Management reserves its right to place employees where, and in whatever jobs it deems necessary. All job transfers, job changes, reassignments, promotions or lateral transfers are solely decided by the Company.

#### CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOR

### **GENERAL CONDUCT GUIDELINES**

Orderly and efficient operation of the Company requires that employees maintain proper standards of conduct and observe certain procedures. These guidelines are not intended to be all-inclusive. Nothing here is intended or will be construed to change or replace, in any manner, the at-will employment relationship between the Company and the employee. Nothing here is intended to infringe upon employee rights under Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act. The Company views the following as inappropriate behavior:

- 1. Failure to follow the policies outlined in this handbook.
- 2. Negligence, carelessness or inconsiderate treatment of Company clients and their information.
- 3. Theft, misappropriation or unauthorized possession or use of property, documents, records, or funds belonging to the Company, or any client or employee; removal of same from Company premises without authorization.
- 4. Divulging trade secrets or other confidential business information to any unauthorized individuals or to others without an official need to know.
- 5. Accessing, without authorization, confidential information pertaining to clients or employees.
- 6. Changing or falsifying client records, Company records, personnel or pay records, including time sheets without authorization.
- 7. Willfully or carelessly damaging, defacing or mishandling property of a client, the Company or other employees.
- 8. Taking or giving bribes of any nature, or anything of value, as an inducement to obtain special treatment, to provide confidential information or to obtain a position. Acceptance of any gratuities or gifts must be reported to a supervisor or manager.
- Entering Company premises without authorization.
- 10. Willfully or carelessly violating security, safety, or fire prevention regulations, or tampering with safety equipment.
- 11. Unauthorized use of a personal vehicle for Company business.
- 12. Conduct that is illegal under federal, state, or local law.
- 13. Creating a disturbance on Company premises.
- 14. Use of abusive language.
- 15. Any rude, discourteous or unbusinesslike behavior, on or off Company premises, which is not protected by Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act and that adversely affects the Company services, operations, property, reputation or goodwill in the community, or interferes with work.
- 16. Insubordination or refusing to follow instructions from a supervisor or manager; refusal or unwillingness to accept a job assignment or to perform job requirements.
- 17. Leaving during scheduled work hours without permission; unauthorized absence from assigned work area during regularly scheduled work hours.

- 18. Sleeping during regular working hours.
- 19. Recording time for another employee or having time recorded by another employee.
- 20. Use or possession of intoxicating beverages or illegal drugs on Company premises during working hours, or reporting to work under the influence of intoxicants.
- 21. Unauthorized possession of a weapon on Company premises.
- 22. Illegal gambling on Company premises.
- 23. Soliciting, collecting money, vending, and posting or distributing bills or pamphlets during working hours in work areas. Such activity by employees during non-working time, including meal and rest periods, is not restricted so long as such activity does not interfere with the regular operation of business, is lawful, in good taste, conducted in an orderly manner, and does not create safety hazards or violate general good housekeeping practices. Non-employees are prohibited from any and all forms of solicitation, collecting money, vending, and posting or distributing bills or pamphlets on Company property at all times.
- 24. Falsification of documents requested by or provided to the employer or necessary for business operations.

#### **SEXUAL AND OTHER UNLAWFUL HARASSMENT**

The Company is committed to providing a work environment free of harassment in any form, including inappropriate and disrespectful behavior, intimidation, and other unwelcome conduct directed at an individual because of their inclusion in a protected class. Applicable federal and state law defines harassment as unwelcome behavior based on someone's inclusion in a protected class. Sometimes language or actions that were not expected to be offensive or unwelcome actually are, so employees should err on the side of being more sensitive to the feelings of their co-workers rather than less.

The following are examples of harassment; behaviors not in this list may also be considered harassment:

- Unwanted sexual advances;
- Offering employment benefits in exchange for sexual favors;
- Retaliation or threats of retaliation for refusing advances or requests for favors;
- Leering, making sexual gestures or jokes, or commenting on an employee's body;
- Displaying sexually suggestive content;
- Displaying or sharing derogatory posters, photographs, or drawings;
- Making derogatory epithets, or slurs;
- Ongoing teasing about an employee's religious or cultural practices;
- Ongoing teasing about an employee's sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity;
- Physical conduct such as touching, assault, or impeding or blocking movements

Sexual harassment on the job is unlawful whether it involves coworker harassment, harassment by a manager, or harassment by persons doing business with or for the Company, such as clients, customers or vendors.

## Retaliation

Any form of retaliation against someone who has expressed concern about any form of harassment, refused to partake in harassing behavior, made a harassment complaint, or cooperated in a harassment investigation, is strictly prohibited. A complaint made in good faith will under no circumstances be grounds for disciplinary action. Individuals who make complaints that they know to be false may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

## Enforcement

All managers and supervisors are responsible for:

- Implementing the Company's harassment policy;
- Ensuring that all employees they supervise have knowledge of and understand the Company policy;
- Reporting any complaints of misconduct to the designated company representative, the HR Manager, so they may be investigated and resolved internally;
- Taking and/or assisting in prompt and appropriate corrective action when necessary to ensure compliance with the policy; and
- Conducting themselves in a manner consistent with the policy.

### Addressing Issues Informally

Employees who witness offensive behavior in the workplace - whether directed at them or another employee - are encouraged, though not required, to immediately address it with the employee whose behavior they found offensive. An employee who is informed that their behavior is or was offensive should stop immediately and refrain from that behavior in the future, regardless of whether they agree that the behavior could have been offensive.

#### Harassment Complaint Procedure

Employees are encouraged to use the Complaint Procedure to report behavior that they feel is harassing, whether or not that behavior is directed at them. The Complaint Procedure provides for immediate, thorough, and objective investigation of claims of harassment. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against those who are determined to have engaged in harassing behavior.

### ABUSIVE CONDUCT

Abusive conduct means malicious conduct in the workplace that a reasonable person would find hostile or offensive and unrelated to an employer's legitimate business interests. Abusive conduct may include repeated infliction of verbal abuse, such as the use of derogatory remarks, insults, and epithets, verbal or physical conduct that a reasonable person would find threatening, intimidating, or humiliating, or the sabotage

or undermining of a person's work performance. A single act will generally not constitute abusive conduct, unless especially severe.

The Company considers abusive conduct in the workplace unacceptable and will not tolerate it under any circumstances. Employees should report abusive conduct to a manager or Human Resources. Managers are responsible for ensuring that employees are not subjected to abusive conduct. All reports will be treated seriously and investigated when appropriate. Employees who are found to have engaged in abusive conduct will be subject to discipline, up to and potentially including termination. Retaliation against an employee who reports or abusive conduct or verifies that it took place is strictly prohibited.

#### **COMPLAINT PROCEDURE**

The Company has established a procedure for a fair review of complaints related to any workplace controversy, conflict, or harassment. Employees may take their complaint directly to the person or department listed in Step 2 if the complaint is related to their supervisor or manager or if the employee feels the supervisor or manager would not provide an impartial resolution to the problem.

## Step 1

The complaint should be submitted in writing to a supervisor or manager within three working days of the incident or as soon as possible. Generally, a meeting will be held within three business days of the employee's request, depending upon scheduling availability. Attempts will be made to resolve the issue during the meeting, but regardless of whether there is an immediate resolution, the supervisor or manager will give the employee a written summary of the meeting within three business days. Resolution may take longer if further investigation of the complaint is required. If the employee is not satisfied with the resolution, they may proceed to Step 2.

### Step 2

The employee may submit a written request for review of the complaint and Step 1 resolution to HR Manager or a designated investigator. This request should be made within three working days following the receipt of the Step 1 resolution. The HR Manager or the designated investigator will review the complaint and resolution and may call an additional meeting to explore the problem. If warranted, additional fact-finding will be undertaken. A final decision will be rendered within 10 working days after receiving the Step 2 request, and a written summary of the resolution will be provided to the employee who filed the complaint.

#### **CORRECTIVE ACTION**

A high level of job performance is expected of each and every employee. In the event that an employee's job performance does not meet the standards established for the position, employees should seek assistance from their supervisor or manager to attain an acceptable level of performance. If employees fail to respond to or fail to make

positive efforts toward improvement, corrective action may ensue, including termination of employment.

It is the policy of the Company to regard discipline as an instrument for developing total job performance rather than as punishment. Corrective action is one tool the Company may select to enhance job performance. The Company is not required to take any disciplinary action before making an adverse employment decision, including discharge. Corrective action may be in the form of a written or oral reprimand, notice(s) of inadequate job performance, suspension, discharge or in any combination of the above, if the Company so elects. The Company reserves its prerogative to discipline, and the manner and form of discipline, at its sole discretion.

If employees violate established Company procedures, guidelines, or exhibit behavior that violates commonly accepted standards of honesty and integrity or creates an appearance of impropriety, the Company may elect to administer disciplinary action.

#### COMPENSATION

### **PAY PERIODS**

The standard seven-day payroll workweek for the Company will begin at 12:00 a.m. Monday. The designated pay period for all employees is weekly. Paydays are Friday. Except as otherwise provided, if any date of paycheck distribution falls on a weekend or holiday, employees will be paid on the preceding scheduled workday.

### **TIMEKEEPING**

All non-exempt employees are required to use the timekeeping system to record their hours worked. Non-exempt employees are required to clock in/out for time off and other leave tracking purposes.

Employees should clock in no sooner than five minutes before their schedule shift and clock out no later than five minutes after their scheduled shift. Additionally, employees are required to clock in/out for their designated lunch periods. The length of the lunch period should have the agreement of the employee's manager. Lunch periods are unpaid time when employees are relieved of all duties. Waiver of the lunch period requires prior approval of the employee's manager. Under no circumstance may the waiver of the lunch period result in overtime work.

Should an employee miss an entry into the timekeeping system, the employee will notify their manager as soon possible for correction. Employees may not ask another employee to clock in/out for them.

Accurate time reporting is a federal and state wage and hour requirement, and employees are required to comply. Failing to enter time into the timekeeping system in an accurate and timely manner is unacceptable job performance.

Non-exempt employees are not permitted to work overtime or unscheduled time without prior authorization from their manager. This includes clocking in early, clocking out late, or working through the scheduled lunch period.

#### **OVERTIME**

The Company complies with all applicable federal and state laws with regard to payment of overtime work. Non-exempt employees are paid overtime at the rate of one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for all hours worked over 40 in a workweek.

Employees are required to work overtime when assigned. Any overtime worked must be authorized by a supervisor or manager, in advance. Working unauthorized overtime or the refusal or unavailability to work overtime is not acceptable work performance, and is subject to discipline, including but not limited to termination.

## **PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS**

The Company is required by law to make certain deductions from all employees' paychecks. Such deductions include federal, state, and local taxes and court-ordered wage garnishments. Voluntary deductions might include premiums for benefits, retirement plan contributions, and disability insurance.

## **Exempt Employee Payroll Deductions**

The Company complies with the salary basis requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and does not make improper deductions from the salaries of exempt employees. Exempt employees are those employed in a *bona fide* executive, administrative or professional capacity and who are exempt from the FLSA's overtime pay requirements.

There are certain circumstances where deductions from the salaries of exempt employees are permissible. Such circumstances include:

- When an exempt employee is absent from work for one or more full days for personal reasons other than sickness or disability;
- When an exempt employee is absent for one or more full days due to sickness or disability if the deduction is made in accordance with a bona fide plan, policy or practice of providing compensation for salary lost due to illness;
- To offset amounts received as witness or jury fees, or for military pay;
- For unpaid disciplinary suspensions of one or more full days imposed in good faith for workplace conduct rule infractions

The Company is not required to pay the full salary in the first or last week of employment; for weeks in which an exempt employee takes unpaid leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act, if applicable; or for penalties imposed in good faith for infraction of safety rules of major significance. In these circumstances, either partial day or full day deductions may be made.

## What to Do if an Improper Deduction Occurs

If you believe that an improper deduction has been made, you should immediately report this information to your direct supervisor, or to the person responsible for payroll processing.

Reports of improper deductions will be promptly investigated. If it is determined that an improper deduction has occurred, you will be promptly reimbursed for any improper deduction made.

## **PAY ADJUSTMENTS, PROMOTIONS AND DEMOTIONS**

All pay increases are based upon merit, market factors, and the profitability of the Company. There may not be an automatic annual cost of living or salary adjustment. Employee pay also may be adjusted downward. Salary decreases may take place when

there is job restructuring, job duty changes, job transfers, or adverse business economic conditions. Demotion is a reduction in responsibility, usually accompanied by a reduction in salary. If demotion occurs, employees will maintain their seniority with the Company.

#### **PERFORMANCE EVALUATION**

Employees will generally receive an appraisal of their job performance annually. This evaluation may be either written or oral. Such evaluation may not occur at exactly the same time each year, but thereabout, at the discretion of the supervisor or manager.

If in this appraisal employees are given an evaluation sheet or other written document, employees will be required to sign it. An employee's signature does not necessarily indicate that the employee agrees with all the comments, but merely that the employee has been given the opportunity to examine the evaluation and fully discuss the contents of it with their supervisor or manager. The completed and signed evaluation form will be placed in the employee's personnel file and the employee will receive a copy of the performance evaluation.

In addition to any formal review, informal counseling sessions may be conducted from time to time.

#### WORK ASSIGNMENTS

In addition to specific duties that come with an individual's job responsibilities, each job also includes "other duties as assigned." From time to time, employees may be required to perform duties or tasks of a fellow employee who is absent or for a position that is temporarily vacant. Employees will be compensated at their regular rate of pay while performing other assigned duties on a temporary basis.

### **EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT**

The Company will cover all reasonable, business-related expenses. Any cost that does not fall within the guidelines below must be approved by the appropriate manager *before* the expense is incurred. Employees may not be reimbursed for expenses that were not approved in advance and are deemed unnecessary or extravagant.

The following types of expenses may be reimbursable under this policy:

- Lodging
- Travel expenses including airfare, reasonable airline luggage fees, train fare, bus, taxi, and related tips
- Meals, including tips up to 20%
- Laundry and dry cleaning expenses during trips in excess of five days
- Car rental, parking fees, and tolls
- Mileage on a personal vehicle at the current IRS reimbursement rate

- Conference and convention fees
- Business entertainment expenses, up to pre-approved limits

The following expenses are examples of expenses not reimbursable under this policy:

- Airline club dues
- Traffic fines
- Tips in excess of 20%
- In-flight movies, mini-bar expenses, and other forms of personal entertainment
- First class airfare

No policy can anticipate every situation that might give rise to legitimate business expenses. Reasonable and necessary expenses not listed above may be reimbursable. When prior approval is required, managers should use their best judgment to determine if an unlisted expense is reimbursable under this policy.

### **Credit Cards**

Company-issued credit cards are to be used for purchases on behalf of the Company and for any travel expenses incurred while traveling on company business only. At no time may an employee use a Company credit card for purchases intended for personal use; such expenses will require that the Company be reimbursed and may lead to revocation of credit card privileges and other discipline. Credit card expenses require the same reimbursement documentation as other expenses.

### Documentation

Requests for reimbursement of business expenses must be submitted on the Expense Report Template. In order to comply with IRS regulations, all business expenses be supported with adequate records; employees are responsible for keeping these records as expenses are incurred. These records must include:

- The amount of the expenditure
- The time and place of the expenditure
- The business purpose of the expenditure
- The names and the business relationships of individuals for whom the expenditures were made

Requests for reimbursement lacking this information will not be processed and will be returned to the employee. While original receipts are preferred for all expenses, they are required for those greater than \$25.00. Requests for exceptions to this policy should explain why the exception is necessary and be approved by management.

### **Approvals**

Expense reimbursement forms, together with required documentation, must be submitted to the employee's manager for review and approval. Once the expense

reimbursement has been approved, it should be submitted for processing no more than 30 days after the expenses occurred. Managers approving expense reports are responsible for ensuring that the expense report have been filled out correctly with the required documentation and that the expenses submitted are allowable under this policy.

## **ADVANCES AND LOANS**

The Company does not give advances or loans to employees.

#### BENEFITS

#### **HOLIDAYS**

Regular full-time employees are entitled to the following paid holidays observed by the Company:

New Year's Day, Memorial Day, July Fourth, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day

Other days or parts of days may be designated as holidays with or without pay. No holiday pay will be paid to an employee who is on an unpaid status, on any leave or absent due to workers' compensation. If a holiday falls on a Sunday, the holiday may be observed on the following Monday. If the holiday falls on a Saturday, the holiday may be observed on the preceding Friday.

### **TEMPORARY DISABILITY LEAVE**

The Company recognizes that a temporary disability may preclude an employee's attendance at work. In such cases, the Company does not have a predetermined specified period of time in which this unpaid leave is granted. Rather, the Company will attempt to reasonably accommodate the needs of the employee as well as the needs of the Company. If a leave is granted, any extensions will be subject to the same considerations.

Employees that request a temporary disability leave must do so in writing. That request should be accompanied by a doctor's statement identifying the temporary disability, the date and the estimated date of return and, where appropriate, diagnosis and prognosis. Should the employee's expected return date change, the employee should notify the Company as soon as possible. Prior to returning to employment with the Company, employees will be required to submit written medical certification of their ability to work, including any restrictions. Upon returning to work, if employees qualify, they will be reinstated to their former position or one that is substantially the same, depending upon the availability of any position at that time.

Any unused accrued sick leave must be used prior to the effective date of the temporary disability leave. The Company may require the use of other accrued paid time off in accordance with state and federal medical leave regulations.

#### MILITARY LEAVE

If employees are on an extended military leave of absence, they are entitled to be restored to their previously held position or similar position, if available, without loss of any rights, privileges or benefits provided the employee meets the requirements specified in the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).

An employee who is a member of the reserve corps of the armed forces of the United States or of the National Guard or the Naval Militia will be granted temporary leave of

absence without pay while engaged in military duty as required by state employment law. A letter from the employee's commanding officer is required to establish the dates of duty.

### **VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY RESPONDER LEAVE**

Employees who are volunteer emergency response workers and are called to service after a proclamation of a state of disaster will be granted leave without pay for that time. The employee may use vacation or other accrued paid leave, but will not be required to do so.

### **JURY SERVICE LEAVE**

If an employee is summoned to report for jury duty, they will be granted a leave of absence without pay when the employee notifies and submits a copy of the original summons for jury duty to their supervisor or manager. The Company reserves the right to request that they seek to be excused from or request postponement of jury service if the absence from work would create a hardship to the Company.

Employees are to report to work on any day, or portion thereof that is not actually spent in the performance of jury service. For each week of jury duty, a certificate of jury service shall be certified by the Court and filed with the Company no later than Wednesday of the following week.

Any fees received for jury duty, including travel fees, are to be retained by the employee. The leave is unpaid. Exempt employees will be paid in accordance with the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) requirements.

### **WITNESS LEAVE**

If an employee is absent from work to serve as a witness or to appear as the victim in a criminal case, the employee will be granted leave without pay for such time as it is necessary to comply with the request. The Company may require proof of the need for leave.

#### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT LEAVE**

An employee who is a victim of domestic violence and requires time off from work to obtain or attempt to obtain relief will be granted an unpaid leave. Advance notice is required when possible. The Company may request documentation of any emergency that supports the employee's reason for being absent from the workplace.

### **SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT LEAVE**

Employees are entitled to up to four hours per year of unpaid leave for parent involvement with their child's school. The Company may require written verification from the school of the employee's involvement.

## **HEALTH, SAFETY, AND SECURITY**

### **Non-Smoking**

Smoking is not permitted in any Company buildings, facilities, work sites, or vehicles. Employees wishing to smoke should do so during their break times, outside Company buildings in designated areas, and in accordance with local ordinances.

#### **DRUG AND ALCOHOL**

The Company is dedicated to providing employees with a workplace that is free of drugs and alcohol. While on Company premises, whether during work time or non-work time, employees are prohibited from being under the influence of drugs or alcohol. There are limited exceptions for the use of prescription drugs (not including marijuana), as long as they do not create safety issues or impair an employee's ability to do their job, and the moderate use of alcohol at company-sponsored or sanctioned events.

Employees are strictly prohibited from possessing illegal drugs, marijuana, or excessive quantities of prescription or over-the-counter drugs while on Company premises, performing Company-related duties, or operating any Company equipment. Any drugs confiscated that are suspected of being illegal will be turned over to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Employees taking medication should consult a medical professional to determine whether the drug may affect their personal safety or ability to perform their job and should advise their manager of any resulting job limitations. Once notified, the Company will make reasonable efforts to accommodate the limitation.

The Company reserves the right to test any employee for the use of illegal drugs, marijuana, or alcohol, in accordance with applicable law. Employees in safety-sensitive positions may be subject to regular or random drug testing. Drug or alcohol tests may also be conducted after an accident in which drugs or alcohol could reasonably be involved, or when behavior or impairment on the job creates reasonable suspicion of use. Under those circumstances, the employee may be driven to a certified lab for testing at the Company's expense. Refusal to be tested for drugs or alcohol will be treated the same as a positive test result.

Violation of this policy may result in discipline, up to termination.

To the extent that any federal, state, or local law or regulation limits or prohibits the application of any provision of this policy, then that particular provision will be ineffective in that jurisdiction only, while the remainder of the policy remains in effect.

### REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

It is the policy of the Company to comply with all the relevant and applicable provisions of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Pregnancy Discrimination Act

(PDA), as well as state and local laws concerning the hiring and employment of individuals with temporary and ongoing disabilities. Pregnant workers may also have impairments related to their pregnancies that qualify under the ADA. The Company will not discriminate against any qualified employee or job applicant because of a person's physical or mental disability with respect to any terms, privileges or conditions of employment, including, but not limited to hiring, advancement, discharge, compensation and training.

Employees who become disabled should notify their supervisor or manager if the conditions of the disability impair their ability to perform the essential functions of their position. Where necessary and feasible, reasonable accommodations will be made for qualified disabled employees to perform the essential functions of the job in question, as long as the accommodation does not cause the Company undue hardship. The Company will also make reasonable accommodations for employees who have work-related limitations stemming from pregnancy, childbirth or a related medical condition. This may include temporary transfer to a less strenuous or less hazardous position, if an employee so requests upon the advice of their health care provider, as long as the accommodation does not cause the Company undue hardship.

All employees are required to comply with safety standards. Applicants who pose a direct threat to the health or safety of other individuals in the workplace, which cannot be eliminated by reasonable accommodation, will not be hired. Current employees who pose a direct threat to the health of safety of the other individuals in the workplace will be placed on appropriate leave until a decision has been made by management in regard to the employee's immediate employment situation.

### **INJURY AND ACCIDENT RESPONSE AND REPORTING**

In the event that an employee becomes injured or witnesses an injury during working hours, they must report it immediately to the nearest available supervisor or manager. Employees are to render any assistance requested by supervisor, or manager. Questions asked by law enforcement or fire officials making an investigative report should be answered giving only factual information and avoiding speculation. Liability for personal injury or property damage should never be admitted in answering an investigatory question asked by law enforcement or fire officials.

When any accident, injury, or illness occurs while an employee is at work, regardless of the nature or severity, the employee must obtain an injury reporting form and complete and return the form to Human Resources as soon as possible. Reporting should not be allowed to delay necessary medical attention. Once the accident is reported, follow-up will be handled by Human Resources or the designated Safety Officer. The employee may not return to work without the permission of Human Resources or the Safety Officer.

In addition to compliance with safety measures imposed by federal Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) and state law, the Company has an independent interest in making its facilities a safe and healthy place to work. The Company recognizes that employees may be in a position to notice dangerous conditions and practices and therefore encourages employees to report such conditions, as well as all non-functioning or hazardous equipment, to a supervisor or manager immediately. Appropriate remedial measures will be taken when possible and appropriate.

Employees will not be retaliated or discriminated against for reporting of accidents, injuries, or illnesses, filing of safety-related complaints, or requesting to see injury and illness logs.

#### WORKERS' COMPENSATION

The Company provides insurance for all work-related injuries or illness. The name of the Company's workers' compensation insurance carrier and other pertinent information is posted. The carrier governs all insurance benefits provided by the Company. These contracts shall not be limited, expanded or modified by any statements of Company personnel or Company documents. Any discrepancies shall be determined by reference to the insuring contracts.

#### **WORKPLACE VIOLENCE AND SECURITY**

It is the intent of the Company to provide a safe workplace for employees and to provide a comfortable and secure atmosphere for customers and others with whom the Company does business. The Company has zero tolerance for violent acts or threats of violence.

The Company expects all employees to conduct themselves in a non-threatening, non-abusive manner at all times. No direct, conditional, or veiled threat of harm to any employee or Company property will be considered acceptable behavior. Acts of violence or intimidation of others will not be tolerated. Any employee who commits, or threatens to commit a violent act against any person while on Company premises will be subject to immediate discharge.

Employees within the Company share the responsibility in identification and alleviation of threatening or violent behaviors. Any employee who is subjected to or threatened with violence, or who is aware of another individual who has been subjected to or threatened with violence, should immediately report this information to their supervisor, manager or designee. Any threat reported will be carefully investigated and employee confidentiality will be maintained to the fullest extent possible.

### **DRIVING SAFETY**

Employees who drive on Company business are expected to drive safely and responsibly and to use common sense and courtesy. Employees are also subject to the following rules and conditions:

- 1. A valid driver's license must be maintained as a condition of continued employment for positions that require driving. The company may request to see an employee's license at any time.
- 2. Employees who drive their own vehicles for work must maintain the minimum amount of insurance required by state law as a condition of continued employment. The Company may request proof of insurance at any time.
- 3. Employees may not drive a personal vehicle for Company business without authorization from management.
- 4. Employees must wear seat belts at all times, whether they are the driver or a passenger.
- 5. With the exception of a phone being used only for navigation purposes, employees are required to turn off cell phones or put them on silent before starting their car. Employees are permitted and encouraged to communicate to clients, associates, and business partners the reason why calls may not be returned immediately.
- 6. Employees who are using a device for navigation purposes should complete all set up before starting the vehicle.
- 7. Use of electronic devices for purposes other than navigation is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, making or receiving phone calls, sending or receiving text messages or e-mails, browsing the internet, reading books, and downloading information from the web. If an employee needs to engage in any of these activities while driving, they must pull over to safe location and stop the vehicle prior to using any device.
- 8. Employees should not engage in other distracting activities such as eating, shaving, or putting on makeup, even in stopped or slow-moving traffic.
- 9. The use of alcohol, drugs, or other substances that in any way impair driving ability is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, over-the-counter cold or allergy medications and sleep aids that have a residual effect.
- 10. Employees must follow all driving laws and safety rules, such as adherence to posted speed limits and directional signs, use of turn signals, and avoidance of confrontational or offensive behavior while driving.
- 11. All passengers must be approved by management in advance of travel.
- 12. Employees must not allow anyone to ride in any part of the vehicle not specifically intended for passenger use or any seat that does not have a working seat belt.
- 13. Employees must promptly report any accidents to local law enforcement as well as the Company.
- 14. Employees must promptly report any moving or parking violations received while driving on Company business or in Company vehicles.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER AND OUTAGES**

This policy establishes guidelines for Company operations during periods of extreme weather and similar emergencies. The Company will remain open in all but the most extreme circumstances. Unless an emergency closing is announced, all employees are expected to report to work. However, the Company does not advise employees to take

unwarranted risks when traveling to work in the event of inclement weather or other emergencies. Each employee should exercise their best judgment with regard to road conditions and other safety concerns.

## **Designation of Emergency Closing**

Only by the authorization of designated managers will the Company cease operations due to emergency circumstances. If severe weather conditions develop during working hours, it is at the discretion of Management to release employees. Employees will generally be expected to remain at work until the appointed closing time.

## **Procedures during Closings**

If weather or traveling conditions delay or prevent an employee's reporting to work, their immediate supervisor should be notified as soon as possible. If possible, such notification should be made by a telephone conversation directly with the supervisor. If direct contact is not possible, leaving a detailed voicemail message or message with another employee is acceptable.

An employee who is unable to report to work may use any accrued time off or take the day off without pay.

### Pay and Leave Practices

When a partial or full-day closing is authorized by Management, the following pay and paid leave practices apply:

- Non-exempt hourly employees will be sent home for partial days with the option of using paid time off for the remainder of the day. If paid time off is not available, employees will be excused from work without pay and without disciplinary action.
- Exempt employees will be expected to continue work from home if their job duties allow. The Company will pay the exempt employee's regular salary regardless, as outlined in the Exempt Employee Payroll Deductions policy.
- Exempt and non-exempt employees already scheduled to be off during emergency closings are charged such leave as was scheduled.

### Other Work Options

Supervisors may approve requests for employees to temporarily work from home, if doing so allows completion of work assignments.

#### WORKPLACE GUIDELINES

### **Hours of Work**

Employees are expected to be at their work area and ready to work at their scheduled time. Employees will be given their work hours upon hire and at the time of any change in position. If the normal work hours are changed or if the Company changes its operating hours, employees will be given notice.

### OFF-THE-CLOCK WORK

Non-exempt employees must accurately record all time worked, regardless of when and where the work is performed. Off-the-clock work (engaging in work assignments or duties that are not reported as time worked) is prohibited. No member of management may request, require, or authorize non-exempt employees to perform work without compensation. This includes checking email on personal devices after work hours. Any possible violations should be reported promptly to a supervisor or member of management.

### **MEAL PERIODS**

Minor employees under age 16 who are scheduled to work five or more consecutive hours in one workday are entitled to take a non-compensated meal period each workday of 30 minutes.

### **LACTATION ACCOMMODATION**

The Company provides a supportive environment to enable breastfeeding employees to express breast milk during work hours for up to one year following the birth of a child. Accommodations under this policy include a place, other than a bathroom, that is shielded from view and free from intrusion from co-workers and the public which may be used by an employee to express breast milk. Discrimination and harassment of breastfeeding mothers in any form is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

### **ATTENDANCE AND TARDINESS**

Employees are expected to be at work and ready to go when their scheduled shift begins or resumes. If an employee is unable to be at work on time, or at all, they must notify their manager no later than 30 minutes before the start of their scheduled work day. If an employee's manager is not available, the employee should contact another member of management. If an employee is physically unable to contact the Company, they should ask another person to make contact on their behalf. Leaving a message with a co-worker or answering service is not considered proper notification. Excessive tardiness or absences are unacceptable job performance.

When an employee calls in absent, they should provide their expected time or date of return. The Company reserves the right to require proof of the need for absence, if allowed by law. If an employee is absent for three consecutive days and has not

provided proper notification, the Company will assume that the employee has voluntarily guit their position and will proceed with the termination process.

If an employee becomes ill during their scheduled work day and feels they may need to leave before the end of their shift, they should notify their manager immediately. If an employee is unable to perform their job at an acceptable level, they may be sent home until they are well enough to work.

Absences should be arranged as far in advance as possible. When an employee needs to be absent during the workday they should attempt to schedule their outside appointment or obligation so that their absence has the smallest impact possible on business operations.

#### PERSONAL APPEARANCE AND HYGIENE

Employees are expected to present a professional image, both through behavior and appearance. Accordingly, employees must wear work-appropriate attire during the workday or any time they are representing the company. Clothing does not need to be expensive, but should be clean and neat in appearance. Employees should consider their level of customer and public contact and the types of meetings they are scheduled to attend in determining what attire is appropriate.

The following are generally not acceptable:

- Bare feet or flip flops
- Spandex, sweats, or work out attire
- Sagging pants, shorts, or skirts
- Sexually provocative clothing or exposed undergarments
- Clothing with offensive slogans or pictures
- Clothing showing excessive wear and tear
- Any clothing or accessories that would present a safety hazard
- Visible tattoos that are not appropriate in content

All employees are expected to maintain appropriate oral and bodily hygiene. Hair (including facial hair) should be clean and neat. Accessories should not interfere with an employee's work. The excessive use of perfume or cologne is unacceptable, as are odors that are disruptive or offensive to others or may exacerbate allergies.

Managers are responsible for enforcing dress and grooming standards for their department. Any employee whose appearance does not meet these standards may be counseled. If their appearance is unduly distracting or the clothing is unsafe, the employee may be sent home to change into something more appropriate.

Reasonable accommodation will be made for employees' sincerely held religious beliefs and disabilities when such accommodations do not cause an undue burden. If you would like to request an accommodation or have other questions about this policy, please contact your supervisor.

#### CONFIDENTIALITY

Employees may not disclose any confidential information or trade secrets to anyone outside the Company without the appropriate authorization. Confidential information may include internal reports, financials, client lists, methods of production, or other internal business-related communications. Trade secrets may include information regarding the development of systems, processes, products, design, instrument, formulas and technology. Confidential information may only be disclosed or discussed with those who need the information. Conversation of a confidential nature should not be held within earshot of the public or clients.

When any inquiry is made regarding an employee, former employee, client, or customer, the inquiry should be forwarded to a manager or Human Resources without comment from the employee.

This policy is intended to alert employees to the need for discretion at all times and is not intended to inhibit normal business communications. In addition, nothing in this policy is intended to infringe upon employee rights under Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act.

### **SOLICITATION AND DISTRIBUTION**

Solicitation during work time and in work areas is prohibited. Solicitation is defined as the act of asking for something, selling something, urging someone to do something, petitioning, or distributing persuasive materials. This could include, but is not limited to, asking for donations for a child's school (including through sales of a product), attempting to convert someone to or from a religion, distributing political materials, or collecting signatures. Work time includes time when either the person soliciting, or being solicited to, is scheduled to be performing their work duties. Work areas include areas where employees generally do work, such as cubicles, offices, or conference rooms, and does not include areas such as the lunch or break room. This policy does not prevent employees from using their approved breaks and rest periods to solicit outside of working areas, and is not intended to infringe an employee's Section 7 rights. Those not employed by the company are prohibited from solicitation on company property at all times.

## HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (HIPAA)

Protecting the privacy of our patients' medical information helps to foster long-term patient relationships built on confidence and trust. In addition, safeguarding Protected

Health Information or "PHI" is required by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Our Practice is considered a covered employer that is required to comply with the HIPAA Privacy Rule. The Privacy Rule basically states that a patient's PHI is confidential and that no one associated with our Company (such as employees, volunteers, interns or contractors) may use or disclose such information without the patient's written authorization except under limited and specific circumstances.

Protected Health Information or "PHI" includes any patient health information that is individually identifiable. Individually identifiable health information is that which can be linked to a particular person or group of people, usually by the patient's name, social security number, address, birth date or other piece of demographic information. For example a patient's medical condition coupled with that patient's name would be considered PHI. In addition, simply the fact that an individual is a patient at our Practice is also considered PHI. So in your role with the company, you are required to safeguard any patient information, including demographic data that relates to:

- Our patients' past, present or future physical or mental health or conditions,
- All provisions of health care provided to the patient, and
- All information pertaining to the past, present, or future payment for the provision of health care to the patient

During the course of your employment with the Practice, you will inevitably come into contact with Protected Health Information. This information may be in any medium (i.e. written, electronic, oral, overheard or observed). The policy that we use in our Practice is that such information may be disseminated to other employees within the Practice on a strict "need to know" basis. You are not to discuss any type of PHI with another employee who does not have a legitimate, work-related need to know such information. In addition, under no circumstances are you permitted to discuss or otherwise disclose PHI with anyone else, including other patients, the patient's family or friends, your family or friends, etc., as doing so violates the federal HIPAA law.

A HIPAA covered entity, such as our Practice, is permitted to use and disclose PHI, without the patient's authorization under the following circumstances:

- 1. To the patient. You never have to be concerned with the HIPAA Privacy Rule when discussing the patient's health information with that patient.
- 2. For treatment, payment and health care operations.
- 3. For informal reasons, as long as the patient has the opportunity to agree or object.
- 4. For purposes incidental to another permitted PHI disclosure
- 5. For Public Interest and Benefit Activities, or
- 6. For the purposes of research, public health or health care operations.

Please keep in mind that HIPAA Privacy Rule covered transactions include, but are not limited to:

- Healthcare Claims
- Health Plan Eligibility Communications
- Health Plan Enrollment and Disenrollment
- Healthcare Payment and Remittance
- Health Plan Premium Payments
- Claim Status Communications
- Referral Certification and Authorization
- Coordination of Benefits

You will receive training regarding the Practice's Privacy and HIPAA policies. You are required to follow our rules and policies in this regard as a condition of employment. Unauthorized disclosures of PHI or other Privacy or HIPAA violations will result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

HIPAA compliance is complex, and it is an area that the Practice takes very seriously. To this end, the Practice has designated a HIPAA Compliance Officer (HCO). Should you ever have questions or concerns regarding our HIPAA policy, a specific disclosure, or a disclosure request, please direct such questions to your manager or our HIPAA Compliance Officer.

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

A conflict of interest arises when an employee is engaged in activity that could be detrimental to the company. This includes when an employee improperly uses their position with the company for personal gain or the gain of someone with whom they have a relationship. *Improper use* includes behavior that is illegal, as well as behavior that is unethical or questionable to a reasonable person. These are some examples of a conflict of interest:

- An employee requesting or requiring gifts or discounts in exchange for starting or continuing a business relationship with a client or vendor
- An employee selecting a relative's company as a supplier when they have not produced the best proposal
- An employee taking a second job working for a competitor and sharing confidential company information with the competitor
- An employee taking a second job that interferes with their ability to do their work for the Company at their full potential, whether due to scheduling, exhaustion, or some other factor

Because how things appear, whether accurate or not, has a significant impact on the Company's reputation, employees should also avoid the appearance of a conflict of

interest. If questions arise as to whether a certain activity or behavior is a conflict or interest, employees should speak with their manager or HR.

#### **BUSINESS GIFTS**

Employees are prohibited from directly or indirectly requesting or accepting a gift for themselves or the company that has a value of \$50 or more. If an employee is offered or given anything of value from any client, prospective client, vendor, or business partner in connection with company business, they should alert their manager immediately.

#### **OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES**

Employees may engage in outside employment or personal educational activities during non-working hours, provided that such activities do not interfere with their job performance or constitute a conflict of interest. Prior to accepting outside employment, employees are to notify their supervisor or manager in writing. The notice must contain the name of the potential company, the title and nature of the position, the number of working hours per week, and the time of scheduled work hours. If the position constitutes a conflict of interest or interferes with the employee's job, at any time, employees may be required to terminate such activity.

### **REPORTING IRREGULARITIES**

It is the responsibility of each employee of the Company to immediately report any and all irregularities indicating actual or suspected existence of loss, fraud, embezzlement, or similar impairment of Company funds or property and suspicious persons or activity.

If an employee's actual or constructive knowledge of any irregularity exists and the employee does not report it to their supervisor or manager, that employee has engaged in unacceptable job performance.

### **INSPECTIONS AND SEARCHES**

Any items brought to or taken off of Company premises, whether property of the employee, the Company, or a third party, are subject to inspection or search unless prohibited by state law. Desks, lockers, workstations, work areas, computers, USB drives, files, e-mails, voice mails, etc. are also subject to inspection or search, as are all other assets owned or controlled by the Company. Any inspection or search conducted by the Company may occur at any time, with or without notice. Failure to submit to a search will be grounds for discipline.

## **HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE USE**

The following guidelines have been established for using the Internet and email in an ethical and professional manner. For the purpose of this policy, Company Internet includes productivity software, instant messaging applications, the Company cloud and networks, the intranet, and any other tool or program provided by or through the Company or its internet connection.

- Company Internet and email may not be used for transmitting, retrieving or storing any communications of a defamatory, discriminatory, harassing, or obscene nature.
- Telephones should only be used for company business. Employees should be professional and conscientious at all times when using Company phones or when using a personal phone for company business.
- Use of personal cell phones or other devices should be held to a reasonable limit. Reasonableness will be determined by management.
- Disparaging, abusive, profane, and offensive language are forbidden.
- Employees must respect all copyrights and may not copy, retrieve, modify, or forward copyrighted materials, except with permission or as a single copy for reference only. Almost every piece of content is or could be copyrighted (a notice of copyright is not required), so employees should proceed with caution when using or reproducing materials.
- Unless necessary for work, employees should avoid sending or receiving large files, watching videos, mass-forwarding emails, or engaging in other activities that either consume large amounts of bandwidth or create electronic clutter.
- Employees may not download any programs, applications, browser extensions, or any other files without prior approval or upon request of a manager.
- Each employee is responsible for the content of all text, audio, or images they place on or send over the Company's internet and email system. Employees may not send messages in which they are not identified as the sender.
- Email is not guaranteed to be private or confidential. The Company reserves the right to examine, monitor, and regulate email messages, directories, and files, as well as internet usage.
- Internal and external email messages are considered business records and may be subject to discovery in the event of litigation.

All company-issued hardware and software, as well as the email system and Internet connection, are Company-owned. Therefore, all Company policies are in effect at all times when they are in use. Access to the internet through the Company's network is a privilege of employment that may be limited or revoked at any time.

### SOCIAL MEDIA

## The Guiding Rule

Conduct that negatively affects an employee's job performance, the job performance of fellow employees, or the Company's legitimate business interests—including its reputation and ability to make a profit—may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Below are some guidelines for the use of social media. These guidelines are not intended to infringe on an employee's Section 7 rights and any adverse action taken in accordance with this policy will evaluate whether employees were engaged in protected concerted activity.

## **Avoiding Harassment**

Employees must not use statements, photographs, video, or audio that could reasonably be viewed as malicious, obscene, threatening, or intimidating toward customers, employees, or other people or organizations affiliated with the Company. This includes, but is not limited to, posts that could contribute to a hostile work environment on the basis of race, sex, sexual orientation, disability, religion, national origin, or any other status protected by state or federal law.

## **Avoiding Defamation**

Employees must not post anything they know or suspect to be false about the Company or anyone associated with it, including fellow employees and clients. Writing something that is untrue and ultimately harmful to any person or organization is defamation and can lead to significant financial liability for the person who makes the statement.

## Confidentiality

Employees must maintain the confidentiality of Company trade secrets and confidential information. Trade secrets include, but are not limited to, information regarding the development of systems, products, and technology. Private and confidential information includes, but is not limited to, customer lists, financial data, and private personal information about other employees or clients that they have not given the employee permission to share.

### Representation

Employees must not represent themselves as a spokesperson for the Company unless requested to do so by management. If the Company is a subject of the content being created—whether by an employee or third party—employees should be clear and open about the fact that they are employed with the Company but that their views do not necessarily represent those of the Company.

#### Accounts

Employees must not use Company email addresses to register for social media accounts unless doing so at the request of management. Employees who manage social media accounts on behalf of the Company should ensure that at least one member of management has all the login information needed to access the account in their absence.

### **PERSONAL CELL PHONE USE**

The use of personal cell phones, or work cell phones for personal matters, should be held to a reasonable limit during work hours and not interfere with an employee's productivity or the productivity of their coworkers. Reasonableness will be determined by management.

### PERSONAL PROPERTY

The Company is not liable for lost, misplaced, or stolen personal property. Employees should take all precautions necessary to safeguard their personal possessions. While the Company does not prohibit personal items in the office, desks and office areas are to be kept as neat and organized as possible. Employees should refrain from having their personal mail sent to the Company because mail may be automatically opened.

## **PARKING**

All parking is at an employee's own risk. It is recommended that employees and visitors lock their vehicle and take other appropriate safeguards. Employees are not to park in areas reserved for visitors.

#### **EMPLOYMENT SEPARATION**

### **RESIGNATION**

Employees are requested to provide a minimum of two weeks' written notice of their intent to resign. An employee's notice of resignation to voluntarily terminate employment with the Company should be submitted to their supervisor or manager. An exit interview may be requested.

### **TERMINATION**

All employment with the Company is at-will employment. This means that the employee has not been hired for a specified duration, but that they can terminate their employment with the Company or the Company can terminate the employment relationship at any time, with or without cause, and with or without prior notice. An employee's at-will employment status cannot be changed by any oral modifications.

#### PERSONAL POSSESSIONS AND RETURN OF COMPANY PROPERTY

Any Company property issued to employees, such as computer equipment, keys, tools, parking passes or Company credit cards must be returned to the Company at the time of employment separation. Employees may be responsible for any lost or damaged items. Upon separation of employment employees are to remove their personal possessions from all Company property.