

How to Request Paid Family Leave

to bond with a newly born, adopted, or fostered child



Paid Family Leave



Before you apply



Check the eligibility requirements for Paid Family Leave. (See next page or visit PaidFamilyLeave.ny.gov)



Plan your leave. Leave can be taken either all at once or intermittently, but must be taken in full-day increments.



Notify your employer at least **30 days** before the start of leave, if foreseeable; otherwise, notify your employer as soon as possible.

Complete your forms and attach required documentation

Complete the **Request for Paid Family Leave (Form PFL-1)**



- ☐ Fill out your section, make a copy, and give the form to your employer to fill out **Part B**.
- ☐ Your employer is required to return **Form PFL-1** to you within **three business days**. If there is a delay, you do not have to wait to proceed. Send the **Form PFL-1** that you have filled out, along with the rest of your request package, directly to the insurance carrier.



Complete the **Bonding Certification (Form PFL-2)**

Complete **Form PFL-2** and attach the required documentation. (See next page for details.)

Submit to your employer's insurance carrier



You must submit your completed request package **within 30 days** after the start of your leave to avoid losing benefits.

Keep a copy of all forms and documentation for your records.

Mail or fax your **Form PFL-1**, **Form PFL-2**, and required documentation to your employer's insurance carrier.

To find out who your employer's insurance carrier is, you can:

- Look for the Paid Family Leave poster in your workplace.
- Ask your employer.
- Use the employer coverage search application on wcb.ny.gov to look up your employer's Paid Family Leave insurance carrier.

If you cannot find your employer's insurance carrier, call the Paid Family Leave Helpline for assistance: **(844) 337-6303** (Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

Please do NOT submit your request package to the NYS Workers' Compensation Board.

It is YOUR responsibility to submit the forms to the insurance carrier. It is NOT your employer's responsibility.



Important to know

In most cases, the insurance carrier must pay or deny benefits within 18 days of receiving your completed request or your first day of leave, whichever is later. Your request cannot be considered incomplete solely because your employer did not fill out **Part B** of **Form PFL-1** within three business days.

If the carrier denies or fails to timely pay your benefits, or you have any other claim-related dispute, you may request to have the carrier's actions reviewed. More information can be found at nyspfla.com.

Complaints about employer discrimination or retaliation are resolved by a Workers' Compensation Board Law Judge after a hearing. If you believe that your employer has discriminated or retaliated against you for taking or requesting Paid Family Leave, visit PaidFamilyLeave.ny.gov or contact **(844) 337-6303**.

Eligibility

- Mothers and fathers, including same-sex parents, can take job-protected, paid time off to bond with their new child within the first 12 months of the child's birth, adoption or foster placement.
- Most employees who are employed in New York State for private employers are covered under Paid Family Leave.
 - **Full-time employees:** If you regularly work 20 or more hours per week for a covered employer, you are eligible after 26 consecutive weeks of employment with your employer.
 - **Part-time employees:** If you regularly work fewer than 20 hours per week for a covered employer, you are eligible after working 175 days for your employer, which do not need to be consecutive.
- Non-represented public employees may be covered if their employer has voluntarily opted in to provide the benefit. Union-represented public employees will only be covered if the benefit has been negotiated through collective bargaining.
- Citizenship and/or immigration status is not a factor in employee eligibility.
- If you believe you are eligible, you can apply for Paid Family Leave and the insurance carrier will make a determination.
- If you have questions about eligibility rules, call the PFL Helpline at **(844) 337-6303**.

Required Documentation

The required documentation varies based on the type of leave, as outlined below:

For the Birth of a Child:

- The birth mother will need the following documentation:
 - A copy of the child's birth certificate, if available, or an original copy of a health care provider certification of birth.
 - A parent other than the birth mother will need the following documentation:
 - A copy of the child's birth certificate, if available, naming them as the second parent, a ***Voluntary Acknowledgement of Paternity***, or a ***Court Order of Filiation***.
- OR
- Same documentation as birth mother and a second document verifying the relationship to the birth mother, such as a marriage certificate, civil union, or domestic partner document.

For Foster Placement:

- Foster care placement letter issued by the county or city department of social services or authorized voluntary foster care agency.
- If the second parent is not named in placement letter, the second parent must also provide proof verifying the relationship to the parent named in the placement letter, such as a marriage certificate, civil union, or domestic partner document.

For Adoption:

- A copy of court documents finalizing the adoption.
- Documentation in furtherance of adoption.
- If the second parent is not named in the legal documents, the second parent must also provide proof verifying the relationship to the parent named in the court documents, such as a marriage certificate, civil union, or domestic partner document.

REMEMBER: It is YOUR responsibility to submit the forms to the insurance carrier. It is NOT your employer's responsibility.



Paid Family Leave

Request For Paid Family Leave (Form PFL-1) Instructions

- To request PFL, the employee requesting PFL must complete Part A of the *Request For Paid Family Leave (Form PFL-1)*. All items on the form are required unless noted as optional. The employee then provides the form to the employer to complete Part B.
- The employer completes Part B of the *Request For Paid Family Leave (Form PFL-1)* and returns it to the employee within three days.
- Additional forms are required depending on the type of leave being requested. The employee requesting leave is responsible for the completion of these forms.
- **The employee submits the completed *Request For Paid Family Leave (Form PFL-1)* with the required additional form to the employer's PFL insurance carrier listed on Part B of *Request For Paid Family Leave (Form PFL-1)*. The employee should retain a copy of each submitted form for their records.**

PART A - EMPLOYEE INFORMATION (to be completed by the employee)

The employee requesting PFL must complete all required information.

Paid Family Leave (PFL) Request (to be completed by the employee)

Question 12: A child is defined as a biological, adopted, or foster son or daughter, a stepson or stepdaughter, a legal ward, a son or daughter of a domestic partner, or the person to whom the employee stands in loco parentis. A parent is defined as a biological, foster, or adoptive parent, parent-in-law, a stepparent, a legal guardian, or other person who stood in loco parentis to the employee when the employee was a child.

Questions 13: If dates are "Continuous", the employee must provide the start and end dates of the requested PFL. These dates should be the actual dates that the PFL will begin and end. If uncertain, estimate the start and end dates and indicate "Dates are estimated". If dates are "Periodic", enter the dates PFL will be taken. Please be as specific as possible. If the dates are unknown or estimated,

indicate "Dates are estimated".

If dates are estimated, the PFL carrier may require you to submit a request for payment **after** the PFL day is taken. Payment for approved claims will be due as soon as possible but in no event more than 18 days from the date of the completed request.

Question 14: If the employee is submitting the PFL request to their employer with less than 30 days' advance notice from the start date of the PFL, the employee must explain why 30 days' notice could not be given. If the explanation will not fit in the space provided on the form, enter "See Attached" and add an attachment with the explanation. Be sure to include the employee's full name and their date of birth at the top of the attachment.

Employment Information (to be completed by the employee)

Question 16: Enter the date of hire to the best of the employee's recollection. If it has been more than a year since the date of hire, entering the year in which employment started is sufficient.

Question 18: Enter the best estimate of average gross weekly wage. Include only the wages earned from the employer listed on this request form. **The gross weekly wage is the total weekly pay - including overtime, tips, bonuses and commissions - before any deductions are made by the employer**, such as federal and state taxes. If the employer is not able to supply this information, the employee can calculate their gross weekly wage as follows:

Step 1: Add all gross wages received (before any deductions) over the last eight weeks prior to the start of PFL, including overtime and tips earned. (See Step 3 for instructions for calculating bonuses and/or commissions.)

Step 2: Divide the gross wages calculated in step one by eight (or the number of weeks worked if less than eight) to calculate the average weekly wage.

Step 3: If the employee received bonuses and/or commissions during the 52 weeks preceding PFL, add

the prorated weekly amount to the average weekly wage. To determine the prorated weekly amount, add all bonuses/commissions earned in the preceding 52 weeks and then divide by 52.

Example of a gross weekly wage calculation:

Week 1 - Gross wage including overtime	\$550
Week 2 - Gross wage	\$500
Week 3 - Gross wage	\$500
Week 4 - Gross wage	\$500
Week 5 - Gross wage	\$500
Week 6 - Gross wage	\$500
Week 7 - Gross wage, including overtime	\$600
Week 8 - Gross wage, including overtime	+ \$550
Total =	\$4,200
Divide by 8	÷ 8
Average Weekly Wage =	\$525
Bonus earned in preceding 52 weeks	\$2,600
Divide by 52	÷ 52
Prorated Weekly Bonus =	\$50

Form PFL-1 Instructions continued on next page

PART A - EMPLOYEE INFORMATION (to be completed by the employee) - continued from prior page*Form PFL-1 Instructions continued from prior page*

Average Weekly Wage	\$525
Prorated Weekly Bonus	+ \$50
Average Weekly Wage (including bonus) =	\$575

Please note that the employer is also required to provide this information in Part B of the *Request For Paid Family Leave (Form PFL-1)*.

If you are pre-submitting form: Indicate if the employee is pre-submitting their PFL request. Pre-submitting is defined as submitting the application in advance of an upcoming qualifying event, with certain required information missing due to the information being unknown at the time of the submitting. If pre-submitting is permitted by the carrier

or self-insured employer, the missing information must be supplied as soon as it is known. Benefits cannot be determined until all of the required information is provided.

The PFL insurance carrier or self-insured employer will provide the employee a notice within five days which 1) states the claim is pending; 2) identifies what information is missing; 3) instructs how to submit the missing information.

Once all information is supplied, the PFL insurance carrier or self-insured employer has 18 days to pay or deny the claim.

If the carrier or self-insured employer does not permit pre-submitting, the carrier or self-insured employer must return the Request for Paid Family Leave within five days to the employee with an explanation that the claim should be re-submitted when all information is available.

Employee signs and dates, before giving this form to their employer to complete Part B.

PART B - EMPLOYER INFORMATION (to be completed by the employer)

The employer of the employee requesting PFL must complete all information in Part B.

Question 2: If a Social Security Number is used for the Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN), enter the Social Security Number.

Question 7: The employee occupation code can be found at: www.bls.gov/soc/2018/major_groups.htm

Question 8: Enter the wages earned by the employee during the last eight weeks preceding the PFL start date. The gross amount paid is the employee's gross weekly pay, including any overtime and tips earned for that week, plus the weekly prorated amount of any bonus or commission received during the preceding 52 weeks. (For detailed steps, see Question 18 starting on page 1 of the instructions.) Calculate the gross average weekly wage by adding up the gross amounts paid, and then divide by eight (or number of weeks worked if less than eight).

Question 9: Failure to select "Yes" for requesting reimbursement from the insurance carrier, will result in a waiver of the right to reimbursement.

Question 10a: 'Disability' refers to NYS statutory required disability. If the answer is "none," enter a "0" for total weeks and days in Question 12b.

Question 10b: The maximum number of weeks available for NYS statutory disability and PFL in any 52 week period is 26 weeks. Specify the total number of weeks, as well as the number of additional days if the leave includes a partial week, taken for NYS statutory disability and PFL during the preceding 52 weeks.

Question 12, 13 & 14: Enter the Paid Family Leave or Disability/PFL insurance carrier's name, address and PFL policy number. If this employer is self-insured, enter the name and address of where the PFL request should be submitted for processing.

Affirmation employee is eligible for PFL: An employee who regularly works 20 hours or more per week must have been in employment for at least 26 consecutive weeks. An employee who regularly works less than 20 hours per week must have worked 175 days.

Employer signs and dates, and then returns to the employee requesting PFL within three business days.

Be sure to complete the appropriate additional PFL form(s) based on the type of PFL leave being requested.

Notification Pursuant to the New York Personal Privacy Protection Law (Public Officers Law Article 6-A) and the Federal Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a).

The Workers' Compensation Board's (Board's) authority to request that employees provide personal information, including their social security number or tax identification number, is derived from the Board's administrative authority under Workers' Compensation Law section 142. This information is collected to assist the Board in investigating and administering claims in the most expedient manner possible and to help it maintain accurate records. Providing your social security number or tax identification number to the Board is voluntary. The Board will protect the confidentiality of all personal information in its possession, disclosing it only in furtherance of its official duties and in accordance with applicable state and federal law.



PART A - EMPLOYEE INFORMATION (to be completed by the employee)

1. Employee's legal name (first name, middle initial, last name)

2. Other last names, if any, under which employee has worked

3. Employee's mailing address

Street address

City, State _____ Apt # _____

Zip code _____ Country (if not U.S.A.) _____

4. Employee's Social Security Number or TIN

□ □ □ - □ □ - □ □ □ □

5. Employee's date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY)

□ □ / □ □ / □ □ □ □

6. Employee's primary telephone number

(□ □ □) □ □ □ - □ □ □ □

7. Employee's preferred email address while on PFL (if available)

8. Employee's gender

☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Not designated/Other

9. Employee's preferred language

☐ English ☐ Español ☐ Русский ☐ Polski
☐ 中文 ☐ Italiano ☐ Kreyòl ayisyen ☐ 한국어
☐ Other _____

Optional (for research purposes)

10. Employee's ethnicity/race

For purposes of health demographic only. (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) code set, version 1.0.)

Is employee of Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish origin?

(One or more categories may be selected.)

- ☐ Mexican
☐ Mexican American
☐ Chicano/a
☐ Puerto Rican
☐ Dominican
☐ Cuban
☐ Another Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish origin
☐ Not of Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish origin
☐ Unknown

What is employee's race?

(One or more categories may be selected.)

- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
☐ Black or African American
☐ Asian Indian
☐ Chinese
☐ Filipino
☐ Japanese
☐ Korean
☐ Vietnamese
☐ Other Asian
☐ White
☐ Native Hawaiian
☐ Guamanian or Chamorro
☐ Samoan
☐ Other Pacific Islander
☐ Other race

Paid Family Leave (PFL) Request (to be completed by the employee)

11. Reason for PFL request: ☐ Bond with child ☐ Care for family member ☐ Military qualifying event

12. The family member is employee's:

☐ Child ☐ Spouse ☐ Domestic partner ☐ Parent ☐ Parent-in-law ☐ Grandparent ☐ Grandchild ☐ Sibling

Form PFL-1 continued on next page



TO BE COMPLETED BY THE EMPLOYEE

Employee's name (first name, middle initial, last name)

Employee's date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY)

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PART A - EMPLOYEE INFORMATION (to be completed by the employee) - continued from prior page

Form PFL-1 continued from prior page

13. Will PFL be for a continuous period of time and/or periodic?

☐

Continuous

PFL start date (MM/DD/YYYY)

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PFL end date (MM/DD/YYYY)

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☐

Dates are estimated

☐

Periodic

Identify dates periodic PFL will be taken:

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☐

Dates are estimated

14. If providing less than 30 day's advance notice to the employer, please explain:

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Employment Information (to be completed by the employee)

15. Business name

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16. Employee's date of hire (MM/DD/YYYY)

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17. Employee's work location

Street address

City, State

Zip code

Country (if not U.S.A.)

18. Employee's average gross **weekly** wage (This data will be requested of both employee and employer)

19. Employer's telephone number for contact regarding this request () -

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20a. Does employee have more than one employer? ☐ Yes ☐ No20b. If yes, is employee taking PFL from the other employer? ☐ Yes ☐ No21. Is employee currently receiving Workers' Compensation Lost Wage Benefits? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Disclosure statement: Information regarding PFL benefits received by the employee, such as payments received and types of leave, will be provided to the employer.

Declaration and signature

Any person who knowingly and with intent to defraud any insurance company or other person files an application for insurance or statement of claim containing any materially false information, or conceals for the purpose of misleading, information concerning any fact material thereto, commits a fraudulent insurance act, which is a crime, and shall also be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed five thousand dollars and the stated value of the claim for each such violation.

I am hereby making a request for paid family leave benefits under the NYS Workers' Compensation Law. My signature affirms that the information I am providing is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Employee's signature

Date signed (MM/DD/YYYY)

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☐ I am submitting this form in advance (see instructions about pre-submitting). I understand the insurance carrier will contact me to advise how to submit the required missing information.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE EMPLOYEE

Employee's name (first name, middle initial, last name)

Employee's date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY)

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PART B - EMPLOYER INFORMATION (to be completed by the employer)

1. Business's full legal name and mailing address

Business name

Mailing address

City, State

Zip code

Country (if not U.S.A.)

2. Employer's FEIN

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3. Employer's contact name for questions related to PFL

4. Employer's contact telephone number

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5. Employer's contact email address

6. Employee's date of hire (MM/DD/YYYY)

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Last date worked (MM/DD/YYYY)

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7. Employee's occupation Codes are available at: www.bls.gov/soc/2018/major_groups.htm

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8. Enter the last 8 weeks of gross wages for the employee and calculate the average gross weekly wage

Week no.	Week ending date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Number of days worked	Gross amount paid
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
Calculated average gross weekly wage:			

9. If employee received or will receive full wages while on PFL, will employer be requesting reimbursement?

☐ Yes ☐ No

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE EMPLOYEE

Employee's name (first name, middle initial, last name)

Employee's date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY)

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PART B - EMPLOYER INFORMATION (to be completed by the employer) - continued from prior page

Form PFL-1 continued from prior page

10a. In the preceding 52 weeks has the employee taken leave for: ☐ NYS Disability ☐ PFL ☐ Both Disability and PFL ☐ None

10b. Enter the total number of weeks and days taken for both Disability and PFL in the last 52 weeks:

Disability:	Weeks	Please provide specific dates for Disability:
	Days	
PFL:	Weeks	Please provide specific dates for PFL:
	Days	

11. Is the employee taking Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) concurrently with PFL? ☐ Yes ☐ No

12. PFL insurance carrier's name and mailing address

PFL insurance carrier's name

Mailing address

City, State

Zip code

Country (if not U.S.A.)

13. PFL insurance carrier's telephone number () -

14. PFL policy number

Declaration and signature

☐ I affirm the employee regularly works 20 or more hours per week and has been in employment for at least 26 consecutive weeks OR the employee regularly works less than 20 hours per week and has worked at least 175 days.

Any person who knowingly and with intent to defraud any insurance company or other person files an application for insurance or statement of claim containing any materially false information, or conceals for the purpose of misleading, information concerning any fact material thereto, commits a fraudulent insurance act, which is a crime, and shall also be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed five thousand dollars and the stated value of the claim for each such violation.

I am the person authorized to sign as the employer of the employee requesting PFL. My signature affirms that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information I have provided is true and accurate.

Employer's authorized signature

Date signed (MM/DD/YYYY)

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Title

Bonding Certification (Form PFL-2) Instructions

If the employee is requesting PFL to bond with a newborn, an adopted child or a foster child, the employee must submit the *Bonding Certification (Form PFL-2)* with the *Request For Paid Family Leave (Form PFL-1)*.

BONDING CERTIFICATION (to be completed by the employee)

**The employee requesting PFL must complete all applicable requested information.
Send completed forms and supporting documentation to insurance carrier.**

If this form is being submitted in advance (pre-submitting) and some information is unknown, the insurance carrier will contact the employee and explain how to provide the required additional information.

Questions 1 & 2: If the form is submitted to the PFL insurance carrier prior to the birth of a child, this is considered pre-submitting. The employee is then required to provide the required documentation of the child's birth to the PFL insurance carrier. The PFL carrier will tell the employee how to provide the required additional documentation.

There may be instances where PFL can be taken before the adoption or foster care is finalized. For example, the employee may be required to appear in court or travel to another country as part of the adoption or foster care process. The employee should include documentation to show that the PFL is necessary to further the adoption or foster care.

Question 5: See chart below for documentation details. Unless specified, do not send the original documents.

Bonding Form/Certification	Description
Health care provider certification of pregnancy	An original letter obtained from the birth mother's health care provider that certifies pregnancy. It should include the mother's name and the expected due date.
Health care provider certification of birth	An original letter obtained from the birth mother's health care provider that includes the mother's name and child's date of birth.
Birth Certificate	A copy of the certificate issued by the city or county office in which the child is born.
Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity (Form LDSS-4418)	A copy of the form that establishes legal fatherhood when the parents are unmarried. Completed by both mother and father. For more information, see childsupport.ny.gov/dcse/aop_howto.html
Court Order of Filiation	A copy of the order from the family court that names the father of a child. Establishes legal fatherhood when the parents are unmarried. Completed by both mother and father. For more information, visit childsupport.ny.gov/dcse/aop_howto.html
Marriage Certificate	A copy of the official statement issued by the town or city clerk from which the marriage certificate was issued.
Civil union/domestic partner's documentation	A copy of the certificate of civil union or domestic partnership.
Foster care placement letter	A copy of the letter of foster care placement issued by the county or city department of social services or authorized voluntary foster care agency.
Court documents of adoption	A copy of the court document finalizing adoption or documentation in furtherance or court order finalizing adoption.
Other documentation	Other documentation of parental relationship may be accepted if none of the others listed apply.

Notification Pursuant to the New York Personal Privacy Protection Law (Public Officers Law Article 6-A) and the Federal Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a).

The Workers' Compensation Board's (Board's) authority to request that employees provide personal information, including their social security number or tax identification number, is derived from the Board's administrative authority under Workers' Compensation Law section 142. This information is collected to assist the Board in investigating and administering claims in the most expedient manner possible and to help it maintain accurate records. Providing your social security number or tax identification number to the Board is voluntary. The Board will protect the confidentiality of all personal information in its possession, disclosing it only in furtherance of its official duties and in accordance with applicable state and federal law.



TO BE COMPLETED BY THE EMPLOYEE

Employee's name (first name, middle initial, last name)

Employee's date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY)

/ /

Other last names, if any, under which employee has worked

Employee's Social Security Number or TIN

- -

Employee's mailing address

Mailing address

City, State

Zip code

Country (if not U.S.A.)

BONDING CERTIFICATION (to be completed by the employee)

1. **Child's date of birth** (MM/DD/YYYY) / /

2. **Child's gender** ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Not designated/Other

3. **Does child live with the employee requesting PFL?** ☐ Yes ☐ No

4. **Child is employee's:**

☐ Biological child ☐ Stepchild ☐ Foster child ☐ Adopted child ☐ Legal ward ☐ Spouse/Domestic partner's child ☐ Loco parentis

5. **Select one of the following and attach the document as required as evidence of the relationship.**

Parent of newborn child:

Birth mother:

☐ Health care provider certification of pregnancy (include expected due date AND mother's name); OR

☐ Health care provider certification of birth (include date of birth of child AND mother's name); OR

☐ Child's birth certificate

Other parent:

☐ Copy of birth certificate naming second parent; OR

☐ Voluntary acknowledgment of paternity; OR

☐ Court order of filiation; OR

☐ Birth mother documents (see above) PLUS one of the following:

☐ Marriage certificate; OR

☐ Certificate of civil union; OR

☐ Evidence of domestic partnership

☐ OR; Other documentation of parental relationship

Foster parent:

☐ Letter of foster care placement or anticipated placement issued by county or city department of Social Services or authorized voluntary foster care agency

Adoptive parent:

☐ Court document finalizing adoption

☐ Documentation in furtherance of adoption

6. **Date of foster care or adoption placement, if applicable** (MM/DD/YYYY) / /

Form PFL-2 continued on next page



TO BE COMPLETED BY THE EMPLOYEE

Employee's name (first name, middle initial, last name)

Employee's date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY)

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BONDING CERTIFICATION (to be completed by the employee) - continued from prior page*Form PFL-2 continued from prior page***Declaration and signature**

Any person who knowingly and with intent to defraud any insurance company or other person files an application for insurance or statement of claim containing any materially false information, or conceals for the purpose of misleading, information concerning any fact material thereto, commits a fraudulent insurance act, which is a crime, and shall also be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed five thousand dollars and the stated value of the claim for each such violation.

I am hereby making a request for paid family leave benefits under the NYS Workers' Compensation Law. My signature affirms that the information I am providing is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Employee's signature

Date signed (MM/DD/YYYY)

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