



Helping working families make it work.

D.C. Legal Resources and Emergency Legislation During COVID-19

COVID-19 Emergency Legislation Workplace Protections For Workers in D.C

Enacted by the D.C. Council on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, the D.C. COVID-19 Response Emergency Amendment Act of 2020 provides the following workplace protections to D.C. workers:

Unemployment Compensation Benefits Extended

- You can apply for unemployment compensation benefits if:
 - o You have been directed to quarantine or isolate by the government (DC or federal) or a medical provider; or
 - o Your employer has reduced or ceased operations because of COVID-19; or
 - o You quit your job for “good cause” because your employer has failed to implement public safety measures.
- You must have monetary eligibility to receive benefits.
- It does not matter if your employer has given you a specific date to return to work or whether you expect to continue to be employed by your current employer.
- You do not have to search for work as a condition of receiving benefits.

Job-Protected Leave Extended

- You can take unpaid, job-protected leave if:
 - o You have been directed to quarantine or isolate by the government (DC or federal) or a medical provider.
- You can take leave for the duration of the public health emergency.
- A note from your medical provider or a recommendation from a D.C. or federal government agency can serve as medical certification to take this leave.
- All D.C. employers are covered, regardless of size. You do not have to be employed for a year or have worked 1,000 hours in order to be eligible for this leave.

OUR SERVICES

- First Shift Justice Project remains open and available to assist you with work-related legal issues including pregnancy discrimination and accommodations, family and medical leave, paid sick leave, sexual harassment and domestic violence.
- We are also available to assist with questions about your rights to family and medical leave and unemployment benefits related to COVID-19.

Please call (240)241-0897 or e-mail intake@firstshift.org for legal assistance.

We will be updating our website with information related to the COVID-19 emergency here: <http://www.firstshift.org/coronavirus/>

OTHER LEGAL RESOURCES

OTHER EMPLOYMENT ISSUES

For issues related to unpaid wages or workers' compensation, contact Workers' Rights Clinic via phone (202) 319-1000 or email clinic@washlaw.org to schedule a telephonic intake appointment.

PUBLIC BENEFITS

- Customers who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, Alliance, and other public benefits provided by DHS, **do not need to take any action** at this time to continue receiving existing benefits that would otherwise expire on March 31 or April 30. Those benefits will be automatically extended.
- For new applications for SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, Alliance or other public benefits, please go to dhs.dc.gov or visit our Service Centers to pick up a blank application. Applicants can drop off completed applications for benefits at DHS Service Centers. If you have additional questions, call (202) 727-5355.
- If you are experiencing issues in receiving your public benefits, contact The Legal Aid Society of DC at (202) 628-1161 or submit an online request for legal assistance [here](#).

HOUSING

- Landlords are prohibited from carrying out evictions or collecting late fees during the public health emergency.
- The D.C. Superior Court has suspended all non-emergency matters through April 30th

- Utility providers are prohibited from disconnecting electric, gas, and water service during the public health emergency
- For legal assistance with housing issues, please contact:
 - The Legal Aid Society of DC at (202) 628-1161 or submit an online request for legal assistance [here](#).
 - Bread for the City at (202)386-7616

OTHER

For other legal questions and updates about the status of courts and legal services organizations in DC during COVID-19 please visit; <https://www.lawhelp.org/DC/>

NON-LEGAL RESOURCES

- [D.C. Public Schools Covid-19 Updates](#)
- [Covid-19 Resources for Survivors of Domestic Violence](#)
- [Capital Area Food Bank Covid-19 Response](#)

For a comprehensive guide of non-legal resources, please visit the Legal Aid Society of DC's [Covid-19 Non-Legal Resource Guide](#)