# New Jersey Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights Model Contract

## **Written Contract Requirements**

The Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights, N.J.S.A. 34:11-69 et seq., requires a written contract that governs the employment between a hiring entity and a domestic worker, except for "casual work" or work of less than five hours per month. (N.J.S.A. 34:11-71). The law applies to covered domestic workers, regardless of immigration status.

#### Learn more

Find more information on the NJ Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights at nj.gov/labor/domesticworkers.

The contract must be in English and the domestic worker's preferred language. (N.J.S.A. 34:11-71c). The employing hiring entity(ies) and domestic worker must have enough time to review the contract. They must sign and date the contract. (N.J.S.A. 34:11-71a).

A referral or employment agency must provide domestic workers and an employing hiring entity(ies) with information concerning contract requirements of the Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights when an employing hiring entity(ies) is connected with a domestic worker. The referral or employment agency must make this model contract available to the employing hiring entity(ies). (N.J.S.A. 34:11-71e).

The contract between the employing hiring entity(ies) and the covered domestic worker must include (N.J.S.A. 34:11-71a):

- A specific list of job duties
- Hourly wage and overtime wage
- Weekly schedule including number of hours per week
- Payment method and frequency
- Breaks for rest and meals
- Paid or unpaid leave including sick time
- Paid holidays

- Any other benefits provided
- Modes of transportation required and whether provided
- Monetary value of housing if provided
- Sleeping period and personal time for live-in workers
- The term/duration of the contract
- Any additional terms and conditions of employment

The written contract between the domestic worker and the employing hiring entity(ies) shall **not** contain either:

- (1) A mandatory pre-dispute arbitration agreement for claims made by a covered domestic worker against a hiring entity regarding the local rights of the worker, or
- (2) A non-disclosure agreement, or non-competition or non-disparagement agreement, limiting the ability of the covered domestic worker to seek compensation for performing domestic services after the worker ceases to receive compensation from the hiring entity for the performance of domestic services. (N.J.S.A. 34:11-71b).

Employers must keep record of this contract in order to demonstrate compliance

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This model written contract is to be agreed upon and signed by the employer and the employee. Because a domestic worker may be jointly employed by more than one hiring entity, this model written contract allows for the parties to include multiple joint employer hiring entities. Where there is only a single employer, the users of this model written contract may disregard references to joint employers and joint employment.

Where an employer has an overlapping employment relationship with another hiring entity relative to the employment of a domestic worker, the entities that have an overlapping employment relationship with the domestic worker are by law jointly and severally liable for any violations of the Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights. (N.J.S.A. 34:11-79a).

Prevailing language clause: The English language version of a contract shall be controlling in all respects and shall prevail in case of any inconsistencies with translated versions, if any.

### **Contract Enforcement**

Under the Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights, a material breach by the employing hiring entity(ies) of a contract with a domestic worker will constitute a violation of the law, regardless of whether the breach is of a contract provision that is required by the Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights. (N.J.S.A. 34:11-77c). In this case the employing hiring entity(ies) could face enforcement action by the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

### Written Contract Definitions Under N.J.S.A. 34:11-70

**Casual work:** work that is (1) irregular, uncertain, or incidental in nature and duration, and (2) different in nature from the type of work in which the worker is customarily engaged.

### **Domestic worker:** any worker who:

- (1) works for one or more employers, and
- (2) is an individual who works in residence for the purposes of providing any of the following services:
  - (a) caring for a child,
  - (b) serving as a companion or caretaker for a sick, convalescing, or elderly person or a person with a disability,
  - (c) housekeeping or house cleaning,
  - (d) cooking,
  - (e) providing food or butler service,
  - (f) parking cars,
  - (g) cleaning laundry,
  - (h) gardening,
  - (i) personal organizing, or
  - (j) for any other domestic service purpose.

The following are expressly excluded from the definition of "domestic worker:"

(1) a family member; specifically, "a spouse, child, parent, sibling, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, first cousin, grandparent, grandchild, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepparent, stepchild, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother, or half-sister, whether the individual is related by blood, marriage, or adoption,"

- (2) an individual primarily engaged in house sitting, pet sitting or dog walking,
- (3) an individual working at a business operated primarily out of the residence, such as a home day-care business,
- (4) an individual whose primary work involves household repair or maintenance, such as a roofer, plumber, mason, painter, or other similar contractor,
- (5) an employee of the State or the United States, or
- (6) an individual established as a kinship legal guardian, as defined by N.J.S.A. 3B:12A-2, of a child who lives in the residence or an individual who participates in the Kinship Navigator Program, as authorized by the Department of Children and Families, as a caregiver of a child who lives in the residence and receives services provided by a kinship navigator service provider.

**Employment agency:** any person or entity that procures, or attempts to procure, any workers for referral to a third party.

**Hiring entity:** any employer, as defined in N.J.S.A. 34:11-4.1, who employs a domestic worker and also means any person, firm, business, partnership, association, corporation limited liability company, or other entity, including referral, employment, and internet based or on-demand platforms, that provide compensation directly or indirectly to a domestic worker for the performance of domestic services and any person or persons acting directly or indirectly in the interest of the employer in relation to the domestic worker.

**Referral agency:** any person or entity that procures, or attempts to procure, directly or indirectly through placement in a physical or virtual labor pool:

- (1) employees; and
- (2) after the procurement does not continue involvement in the terms of exchange of domestic services with the employees in any way, with the exception of the following:
  - (a) continuing to display, host, or advertise, either through physical means or virtual means, the workers' contact information, job qualifications, resume, image, or digital profile which employers or clients can use to independently contact employees about employment; or
  - (b) removing, either through physical means or virtual means, the workers' contact information, job qualifications, resume, image, or digital profile, which employers or clients can use to independently contact employees, upon the mandate of any federal, State, or local laws.

### I. Basic Information

		e agreed-upon terms and conditions ("Employer") and	
1.	Employer Contact Informati	ion	
	a. Employer name		
	b. Employer phone number		
	c. Employer email		
	d. Employer address		

b. Employer phone number  c. Employer email
d. Employer address
Employee Contact Information
a. Employee name
b. Employee phone number
c. Employee email
d. Employee address
Individual(s) receiving care or companion services (if applicable)  a. Full name
b. Age
c. Emergency Contact Name
d. Additional Information about individual receiving care services
The place of work is located at (address)
The start date of employment is
The length of employment (check one):
<ul> <li>Option 1: The length of employment is until either party ends the agreement.</li> <li>Option 2: The employment between the parties will end on ("Termination Date").</li> </ul>
Type of position (check one):
Type of position (check one):  □ Option 1: Live in the employer's home.

# **Notification of Termination Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights (N.J.S.A. 34:11-74)**

An employer of a domestic worker must notify the domestic worker of the termination of employment <u>at least two weeks prior</u> to the date of termination, and for <u>a live-in domestic worker</u>, the employer must notify the domestic worker of the termination of employment <u>at least four weeks prior</u> to the date of termination.

The employer is <u>not</u> required to provide the domestic worker with prior notification of termination of employment under the following circumstances:

If the employer has a good-faith belief and without reckless disregard or willful ignorance of the truth that the domestic worker has engaged in "significant misconduct;" defined in the law to mean, "that the domestic worker abused, neglected, or caused any other harmful conduct against the employer, members of the employer's family, or individuals residing in the employer's household," or

If the employer is a temporary help service firm, employment agency, or other staffing or placement agency, health care service firm, home health agency, or hospice provider, the domestic worker completes placement in a particular position and is not immediately placed or scheduled for another position by an employer if the employer, but the domestic worker remains on the employer's payroll for future placement opportunities, or

If the domestic worker is employed by an employer that is an individual (and not a temporary help service firm, employment agency, or other staffing or placement agency, health care service firm, home health agency, or hospice provider), regardless of whether the employer is the person receiving care from the domestic worker, and the domestic worker completes or fulfills all duties of the position, and there is no longer a practicable need for the position, including, but not limited to, if the domestic worker's employer is an individual who has employed the domestic worker to care for a person who is terminally ill and the terminally ill person passes away.

Failure to provide the two-week or four-week notification as required, will entitle the domestic worker to severance pay in the amount of the domestic worker's regular hourly rate multiplied by the regular number of hours worked over the period of time during which the required notification was not provided.

For information on Unemployment Insurance see <u>myunemployment.nj.gov</u>.

### II. Job Position and Responsibilities

Job Position
□ butler or food service
$\hfill\Box$ caregiver or caretaker for convalescing, disabled, elderly, or ill
person
□ child care provider / nanny
□ cook
☐ gardener / groundskeeper
☐ housekeeper / house cleaner

□ personal organizer				
□ valet				
□ other				
For the above position, the employee agrees to perform the following duties (check all that apply):				
Personal and Health Care				
<ul> <li>□ Assist with transfers</li> <li>□ Assist with walking</li> <li>□ Assist with bathing</li> <li>□ Assist with dressing/undressing</li> <li>□ Assist with grooming</li> <li>□ Other tasks, including</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>□ Assist with toileting</li> <li>□ Provide bowel and bladder care</li> <li>□ Provide diapering</li> <li>□ Assist with exercising</li> <li>□ Assist with or administer medication</li> </ul>			
Household Support/Cleaning				
□ Prepare meals   □ Assist with feeding   □ Clean dishes and kitchen   □ Vacuum   □ Dust   □ Mop   □ Clean windows   □ Clean bathrooms   □ Clean garage   □ Provide transportation to/from   □ Light cleaning, including   □ Pet care, including   □ Other tasks, including				
Companionship and Support  ☐ Companionship and conversation ☐ Appointment and activity scheduling ☐ Go for walks and spend time outdoors ☐ Social engagement, including ☐ Other tasks, including				
Child Care				
<ul> <li>□ Assist with bathing</li> <li>□ Assist with dressing</li> <li>□ Assist with toileting</li> <li>□ Provide emotional support</li> <li>□ Research, plan and participate in enrichment</li> </ul>	☐ Facilitate naps ☐ Care for a sick child and administer medicine, as needed  at activities, including			

☐ Organize or supervise a child's daily activities, including (for example) games, walks, play dates, playground outings, homework, reading to the child			
☐ Other tasks,			
Household Suppo	ort Related to Child	Care	
☐ Light cleanir	als for child(ren) ng, including		☐ Shop for groceries for child(ren)'s meals☐ Child(ren)'s laundry
Yard work			
☐ Yard work, ir	ncluding		
Other			
<u>Other</u>			
☐ Other tasks,	including		
of their employme	ent, that all time spes is not exhaustive	ent working must	oyee may complete additional tasks as part be compensated, and that the above list of
☐ Sunday		End time	
☐ Monday		End time	
☐ Tuesday		End time End time	
<ul><li>☐ Wednesday</li><li>☐ Thursday</li></ul>	Chaut tius s	F., al 4:	
☐ Friday		End time	
☐ Saturday		End time	
IV. Rest and	Breaks		
Days off (specify)			
	e-in" Domestic rs' Bill of Rights (N		
	worker must not b a 24-hour period o		more than six consecutive days for the same be unpaid.
= -	N.J.A.C. 12:56-5.3, o han eight hours eac	· -	side on their employer's premises must be

W	orkday meal break:	minutes	times a day	☐ Paid	□ Unpaid
Wo	orkday rest break:	minutes	times a day	☐ Paid	□ Unpaid
Ot	her:				
Wo	orkday sleeping period for	live-in workers (speci	fy):		<del></del>
	Paid 🗆 Unpaid				
Wo	orkday personal time for liv	e-in workers (specify	y):		
	Paid 🗆 Unpaid				<del></del>
Ot	her:				
	eal and Rest Breaks				
Do	omestic Workers' Bill of F	ights (N.J.S.A. 34:11	-72)		
An	employer of a domestic w	orker must comply w	vith the following:		
a.	An employer of a domest period of not less than te of the work prevents the time, such as some types person. In those types of "on-duty" rest period shattime spent on a rest breat	n minutes for each fo domestic worker fron s of child care and ca work where the dome all be provided. The en	our consecutive hours wan being relieved of all de retaker work for a sick, estic worker is not relies mployer shall pay the de	worked, unless uties for such elderly or disa eved of all work lomestic worke	the nature period of abled c duties, an
b.	The employer shall allow consecutive hours worke such 30-minute period a period shall be considere regular rate of pay.	d. Unless the domes nd is permitted to lea	tic worker is relieved of ve the work site during	all work duties that break, the	s during e meal
C.	An "on-duty" meal or rest domestic worker from be parties, an "on-duty" mea domestic worker, in writing the domestic worker's du eating a meal, drinking a choices during "on-duty"	sing relieved of all dut al or rest period is agr ng, at any time. The do uties for the employer beverage, making a p	ies and when, by writte eed to. The agreement omestic worker may, to , engage in personal ac ersonal telephone call	en agreement b may be revoke the extent postivities, such a	etween the ed by the ssible given as resting,
d.	The employer shall not in	npede or discourage a	a domestic worker fron	n taking any m	eal or rest

breaks.

V.	Compensation	n		
Regula	r rate of pay is \$	S per ho	our	
Overtin week.	ne rate of pay is	\$ \$per h	our for every hour (or fraction	thereof) worked over 40 per
The reg	gular day(s) of pa	ay will be every:		
	-			
☐ Bi-we	•			
□ Otne	r:			
On the	following day o	f the week:		
☐ Sund	-	☐ Wednesday		
☐ Mon	•	☐ Thursday	$\square$ Saturday	
☐ Tues	saay			
Minim	num Wage ar	nd Overtime		
	_	ill of Rights (N.J.S	S.A. 34:11-74)	
for mos	st employees is		st employees are entitled to 1	ry 1, 2024, the minimum wage .5 times their regular hourly
Learn n	nore at <u>mywork</u>	rights.nj.gov.		
Sleep	Time			
circum informa	stances an emp	oloyer may exclud	et and NJ Wage and Hour law go le sleep time from an employe a, at minimum, consistent with	_
609-5	. Wage and Hou 38-8310 (South 17-8611 (North	nern NJ) or		
Domes	tic worker will b	oe entitled to a	% raise every year.	
			compensation amount of \$_ ditional multilingual skills, tra	
reimbu	rsement for trai		ng additional benefit(s), for ex h insurance or reimbursemer	

### VI. Leave Policies

### Sick Leave

Under N.J.S.A. 34:11D-1 et seq., the New Jersey Earned Sick Leave Law, each employer must provide up to 40 hours of earned sick leave per year to each employee. The employer must allow the earned sick leave to be accrued at a rate of one hour of earned sick leave for every 30 hours worked, or must advance all 40 hours of earned sick leave to the employee on the first day of the benefit year.

Learn more at mysickdays.nj.gov

Additional sick leave, if any (specify quantity, accrual method, allowable purposes, notice requirements, carryover, whether it is paid or unpaid, and any other condition)		
Vacation leave (specify quantity, accrual method, notice requirements, carryover, timing is paid or unpaid, and any other conditions)	•	
Parental leave for birth or adoption of a child (specify duration, notice requirements, w paid or unpaid)	hether it is	

# **Family Leave and Family Leave Insurance**

Under N.J.S.A. 34:11B-1, et seq., the New Jersey Family Leave Act, each employer with 30 or more employees must in any 24-month period provide each covered employee with 12 weeks of paid or unpaid, job-protected leave from employment so that the employee may provide care made necessary by reason of the birth of a child of the employee, including a child born pursuant to a valid written agreement between the employee and a gestational carrier; the placement of a child into foster care with the employee or in connection with adoption of such child by the employee; the serious health condition of a family member of the employee; or, certain circumstances related to known or suspected exposure to a communicable disease, or efforts to prevent spread of communicable disease during a state of emergency declared by the Governor or when indicated to be needed by the Commissioner of Health or other public health authority.

For purposes of the New Jersey Family Leave Act, an employee is covered if the employee has been employed by that employer (the one form which the employee is seeking leave) for at least 12 months and for not less than 1,000 hours during the immediately preceding 12-month period.

Under N.J.S.A. 43:21-39.1 et al., the New Jersey family leave insurance law, a covered employee who is on leave without pay from employment to care for a family member suffering from a serious health condition; to be with a child during the first 12 months after the child's birth, if the individual, or domestic partner or civil union partner of the individual is a biological parent of the child, or is a parent of the child pursuant to a valid gestational carrier agreement, or the first 12 months after the

placement of the child for adoption or as a foster child with the individual; to engage in activities for which unpaid leave may be taken pursuant to the NJ SAFE Act, N.J.S.A. 34:11C-3, if the individual is a victim of an incident of domestic violence, a sexually violent offense, or to assist a family member of the individual who has been a victim of an incident of domestic violence or a sexually violent offense; or due to certain circumstances related to known or suspected exposure to a communicable disease, or efforts to prevent spread of a communicable disease during a state of emergency declared by the Governor or when indicated to be needed by the Commissioner of Health or other public health authority, may be eligible for up to 12 weeks of family leave insurance benefits; that is, a monetary benefit that would act as partial wage replacement during the period of leave. In order to obtain those benefits, the employee would be required to apply to the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Learn more at myleavebenefits.nj.gov

Other leave (specify quantity, accrual method, notice requirements, carryover, timing, whether it is
paid or unpaid, and any other conditions)

# **Medical Leave and Temporary Disability Insurance**

The Federal Family and Medical Leave Act entitles an eligible employee to 12 weeks of paid or unpaid, job-protected leave in a 12-month period for the birth of a child and to care for the newborn child within one year of birth; the placement with the employee of a child for adoption or foster care and to care for the newly placed child within one year of placement; to care for the employee's spouse, child or parent who has a serious health condition; a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the essential functions of the employee's job; or any qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent is a covered military member on covered active duty.

Under the FMLA, an eligible employee is one who works for a covered employer, has worked for the employer for a total of 12 months, has worked 1,250 hours during the 12 months prior to the start of the leave, and works at a location where the employer has 50 or more employees within 75 miles.

Under the FMLA, a covered employer is one with 50 or more employees for at least 20 workweeks in the current or preceding calendar year.

Under N.J.S.A. 43:21-25 et seq., the New Jersey Temporary Disability Benefits Law, a covered employee who is on leave without pay from employment due to the employee's own disability may be eligible for up to 26 weeks of temporary disability insurance benefits; that is, a monetary benefit that would act as partial wage replacement during the period of leave. In order to obtain those benefits, the employee would be required to apply to the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Learn more at <u>myleavebenefits.nj.gov</u>

# VII. **Holidays** The domestic worker..... □ New Year's Day □ Independence Day (Day, President's Day □ Columbus Day □ Columbus Day The domestic worker will receive the following holidays off (check all that apply): $\square$ Independence Day (July 4) $\square$ Veteran's Day ☐ Thanksgiving ☐ Christmas Day ☐ Other: The domestic worker will receive holiday premium pay of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for working on the following VIII. **Living Accommodations** ☐ The domestic worker will live in the following accommodations provided by the employer(s): ☐ Employer's home (address and description of living quarters) \_\_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Other location (address and description of living quarters) \_\_\_\_\_\_ Monetary value of housing provided \_\_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Employer(s) require(s) that the domestic worker reside at this location. ☐ Employer(s) will not enter the domestic worker's designated living quarters except under these conditions ☐ The domestic worker will have the following opportunity to access telephone and Internet services on premises \_\_\_\_\_ **Privacy** Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights (N.J.S.A. 34:11-75) The employer of a domestic worker is expressly prohibited from the following: 1. Keeping or holding the original copies of any personal documents of a domestic worker, or 2. Monitoring or recording, through any means, the activities of a domestic worker either (a) using any bathroom or similar facilities, (b) in the living quarters of a domestic worker, or (c) while the worker is engaged in any activities associated with dressing or changing clothes, or 3. Monitoring, recording, or interfering with the private communications of a domestic worker.

IX. Raising and Addressing	Raising and Addressing Grievances			
The employer(s) and the domestic worker will use the following process to raise and address grievances				
X. Workers' Compensation	1			
	nployer of a domestic worker must provide pensation insurance coverage and cancella			
lf a domestic worker is injured or compensation benefits.	n the job, the domestic worker may be eligib	le to collect workers		
Learn more at nj.gov/labor/wc.				
XI. Additional Terms and Co	onditions of Employment			
XII. Contract Term/Duration				
Contract Start Date				
Contract End Date				
XIII. Signatures to the Agree	ment			
The undersigned parties have revagreement.	viewed and voluntarily agree to abide by the	e terms within this		
Employer's Name	Employer's Signature	Date		
	Joint Employer's Signature (if applicable)	Date		
 Domestic Worker's Name	Domestic Worker's Signature	Date		
	eep record of this contract in order to demonstrate cor	npliance		

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