

HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

RULES

Includes All Revisions through June 26, 2003

CHAPTER VII

WORK HOURS, LEAVE AND BENEFIT PROGRAMS

WORK HOURS

7.00 County and/or District work hours are scheduled so that all County and/or District offices are open by 8:00 a.m. and close no earlier than 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on official Holidays. Each Elected Official/Department Head establishes work hours for employees in his or her Department. In setting work hours, an Elected Official/Department Head considers the needs of the Department and the County and/or District, and ensures that any changes in work hours are in the County's and/or District's best interest.

7.01 Effective May 1, 1995, the County's (effective April 18, 2002, for the District) regular work period for all employees, except law enforcement personnel, is a seven day period which commences at 12:01 a.m. on Monday of each week and ends at 12:00 p.m. midnight on the following Sunday. The County's regular work period, effective May 1, 1995, for "law enforcement personnel," as such term is used in the federal Fair Labor Standards Act, is a fourteen day period which commences at 12:01 a.m., on Monday and ends at 12:00 p.m. midnight 14 days later.

7.02 There are 40 regular work hours in a seven day work period and 86 regular work hours in a fourteen day work period; however, the County schedules employees subject to a fourteen (14) day work period to work a minimum of 80 hours during such work period. In the event of a conflict between the work hours rules set forth in Sections 7.01 through 7.08 hereof for Head Start Program employees, the work hours set forth in the County's approved grant application for operation of the County's Head Start Program shall control. (Amended September 20, 1995)

7.03 An employee is required to be present at his or her duty station at the beginning of each workday.

7.04 Every employee is allowed one hour for lunch each workday.

7.05 Each Elected Official/Department Head should schedule his or her employees each workday for a fifteen (15) minute rest break in the morning and a fifteen (15) minute rest break in the afternoon.

7.06 An employee's time and attendance record (Form SFA-CA-008 for non-law enforcement personnel and Form SFA-CA-046 for law enforcement personnel) should coincide with an employee's work period. A completed time and attendance record is completed and turned in to the payroll section of the County Auditor's office and/or similar office in the District no later than 10:30 a.m. on the first employee work day following two seven day work periods or one fourteen day work period. Head Start Program employees shall follow procedures established by the Head Start Program Director for preparing and processing time and attendance records. (Amended September 20, 1995)

7.07 Effective May 1, 1995, all County employees (effective April 18, 2002, for District employees) are paid biweekly on the Friday following the end of two seven day work periods or one fourteen day work period. If that Friday is a holiday, employees will generally receive their pay checks on the last work day which precedes the holiday.

7.08 An employee's pay check is based on the hours worked by the employee during the applicable work period(s), plus any eligible hours of paid leave, all as shown on a signed time and attendance record.

FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT ("FLSA")

7.09 The Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA") is the federal law which governs overtime compensation for employees covered by the provisions of that Act. Most County and/or District non-management employees are covered by the overtime compensation requirements of the FLSA. An FLSA covered employee receives: (i) time and one-half compensation; or (ii) compensatory leave of one and one-half hours; for each hour physically worked in excess of 40 hours for employees with a seven (7) day work period and 86 hours for those employees with a fourteen (14) day work period. The County provides straight hourly pay or compensatory leave on an hour for hour basis for employees with a fourteen (14) day work period who work between 80 and 86 hours in such work period. Hours for which an employee receives pay, such as paid leave and holiday hours, but which are not physically worked, are not considered hours worked for purposes of calculating FLSA overtime.

7.10 Each Elected Official/Department Head must require that his or her employees keep daily records of time worked and leave taken. Each Elected Official/Department Head must report all additional time worked for FLSA covered employees.

7.11 Except in unusual circumstances, the Elected Official/Department Head must have requested and approved, in advance, that an employee work extra hours or overtime hours. An example of an unusual circumstance is when an off-duty worker responds to an emergency. In this case, the employee is required to report the emergency and its circumstances to the Elected Official/Department Head at the beginning of the employee's next workday.

7.12 An employee who works extra hours or overtime hours without supervisory approval shall be compensated for the extra or overtime hours, but such employee is subject to disciplinary action.

7.13 The Elected Official/Department Head tracks and reports hours worked and leave used using the following forms:

- a. Form SFA-CA-008, Time and Attendance Record - Non-Law Enforcement Personnel;
- b. Form SFA-CA-046, Time and Attendance Record - Law Enforcement Personnel;
- c. Form SFA-CA-044, Leave Request Form;
- d. Form P-2, Summary of Vacation and Sick Leave; and
- e. Form P-3, 12 Month Period Summary of Leave Taken under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA).

7.14 To minimize the County and/or District's liability under FLSA for overtime or extra work hours, each Elected Official/Department Head is expected to manage work hours efficiently and effectively. An Elected Official/Department Head may need to adjust work hours for an FLSA covered employee to accomplish work assignments. When an FLSA covered employee's time and attendance record reflects hours worked in excess of that employee's standard work period, the Elected Official/Department Head and the County Auditor and/or similar office for the District shall immediately notify the County Judge and/or similar office within the District of such fact by forwarding to such party a copy of the time and attendance record for such employee (Form SFA-CA-008 or Form SFA-CA-046).

7.15 When an Elected Official/Department Head allows or requires an FLSA covered employee to work extra hours or overtime hours, the Elected Official/Department Head should make every effort to adjust the work hours during the applicable work period so that the employee

does not physically work in excess of 40 hours if the employee is on a seven day work period or in excess of 80 hours if the employee is on a fourteen (14) day work period.

ADMINISTRATION OF LEAVE AND BENEFIT PROGRAMS

7.16 The Governing Authority is solely responsible for authorizing compensated leave and benefit programs for County and/or District employees and such leave and benefit programs may be changed at any time by appropriate order of the Governing Authority. The County and/or District's existing compensated leave and benefit programs are as set forth in this Chapter.

7.17 Elected Officials and Department Heads administer the County and/or District leave and benefit programs according to law and regulations. Elected Officials/Department Heads are responsible for determining eligibility for paid leave for their employees. Each Elected Official/Department Head is also responsible for insuring that a leave account is established and maintained on each of his/her employees.

7.18 An Elected Official/Department Head may designate personnel from his or her office to be responsible for controlling absence and leave administration. Such delegation, however, does not relieve each Elected Official/Department Head of his or her ultimate responsibility for maintaining leave records on his or her employees.

7.19 Regular attendance at work is important to the overall operation of all County and/or District Departments. Any non-emergency leave, whenever practical, must therefore be scheduled in advance. Each Elected Official/Department Head may establish rules for requesting and scheduling leave not inconsistent with this Chapter. Each employee will be given a copy of any Department leave rules and amendments, and will acknowledge, in writing, receipt of such rules. A copy of the written acknowledgment shall be maintained in the employee's personnel file.

7.20 Every request for leave must:

- a. Be submitted to the Department Head/Elected Official, in writing, on a Form SFA-CA-044 which is signed by the employee;
- b. Clearly reflect when the requested leave is to begin and end;
- c. Include a brief explanation setting forth the reasons for taking the requested leave;
- d. To the extent applicable, be accompanied by any required documentation, such as a doctor's statement or military orders; and
- e. Be approved or disapproved, in writing, by the employee's supervisor, and if required, by the Department Head/Elected Official and/or the Governing Authority or its representative.

7.21 Departments shall respond to leave requests within a reasonable time, generally not to exceed five (5) business days.

7.22 After a leave request (Form SFA-CA-044) has been approved or disapproved, such completed form is processed as follows:

- a. The original is placed in the employee's personnel file; (Amended April 10, 1996)
- b. A copy is returned to the employee; and