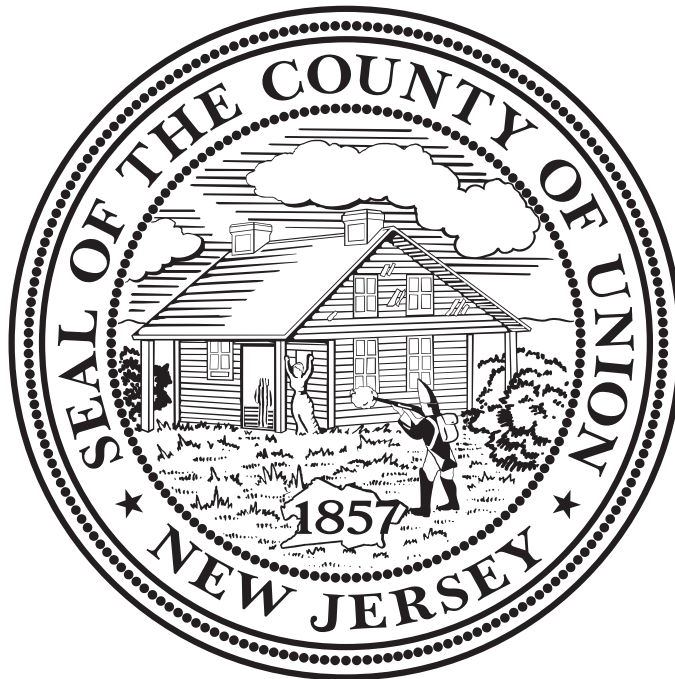


COUNTY OF UNION EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK



ALFRED J. FAELLA
COUNTY MANAGER

2013

UNION COUNTY
We're Connected to You!

A SERVICE OF
THE UNION COUNTY
BOARD OF CHOSEN
FREEHOLDERS

DISCLAIMER

The purpose of this Handbook is to acquaint employees with Union County ("County") employment. The policies and practices contained in this Handbook are only guidelines and may be canceled or changed by the county at any time with or without notice. This Handbook is not intended to nor does it create an employment contract between the county and any of its employees.

THIS HANDBOOK IS NOT A CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT.

Except as otherwise provided by a collective bargaining agreement or applicable law, all employees are employees at-will. This means that any employee may voluntarily terminate his or her employment at any time, for any reason. It also means that the county may terminate any employee's employment at any time with or without good cause.

Nothing contained in this Handbook constitutes a contractual right, express or implied. No provision contained in this Handbook or any other policy or procedure may be changed by any oral statement but must be in writing signed by an authorized representative of the County.

The County retains all rights to discharge or discipline employees. As a County employee, you agree to conform to all applicable policies, procedures, rules, regulations, statutes and collective negotiations agreements.

This Handbook is not meant to affect, or to be a comprehensive description of County, State or Federal statutes, rules or regulations, civil service, disciplinary procedures, employment benefits, workers' compensation, leaves from employment, employee compensation, the policies, practices and procedures of the county, or collective negotiations. Employees' rights and responsibilities are always governed by existing law and any applicable collective negotiations agreement or established past practice. Nothing in this Handbook provides legal rights in addition to those, if any, provided to employees under County, State or Federal statutes, rules, regulations, collective negotiations agreements or established past practice. If any part of this Handbook conflicts with County, State or Federal statutes, rules, regulations, a collective negotiations agreement or established past practice, the part of the Handbook which conflicts with a county, state or federal statute, rule, regulation, collective negotiations agreement or established past practice will be null and void as it applies to the affected group of employees. Likewise, if at any time, any county, state or federal statutes, rules, regulations or collective negotiations agreement should be amended, this Handbook will be deemed to have been likewise amended, even though actual changes to the Handbook have not been made.

The County recognizes that many of its employees' terms and conditions of employment are governed by collective negotiations agreements and established past practices. This Handbook does not supersede or affect any term or condition of employment that may exist in any collective negotiations agreement or that may have been established through past practice. If any part of this Handbook conflicts with any term or condition of employment expressly set forth in a collective negotiations agreement or established through past practice, that part of the Handbook will be null and void as it applies to the affected group of employees.

UNCLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES

N.J.S.A. 11A:3-5 provides that incumbents in an unclassified title serve for a fixed term or at the pleasure of the appointing authority. The laws and regulations which apply to Career Service employees (also known as Civil Service employees) do not apply to unclassified employees. The portions of this Handbook which refer to the rules promulgated by the New Jersey State Civil Service Commission (N.J.A.C. 4A:1-1 *et seq.*) do not apply to unclassified employees. However, all other County, State or Federal statutes, rules and regulations referred to in this Handbook do apply to unclassified employees.

EMPLOYEES IN COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNITS

Many County employees have job titles where the terms and conditions of employment are governed by a collective negotiations agreement between the County and the recognized union(s). If an employee's job title is part of a recognized bargaining unit, the employee should always consult his or her collective negotiations agreement and the Civil Service laws and regulations, if applicable.

NON-CONTRACTUAL EMPLOYEES

An employee whose job title is not the subject of a collective negotiations agreement should consult the Union County Administrative Code and any applicable Federal, State or local statutes, rules and regulations.

SUPERVISORS' RESPONSIBILITY:

Supervisors are required to enforce the Policies and Procedures outlined in this Employee Handbook, as well as any other Policy & Procedure established or promulgated by the County of Union. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

EMPLOYEES' RESPONSIBILITY:

All employees are expected to know and follow the Policies and Procedures outlined in this Employee Handbook. Failure to adhere to these Policies & Procedures may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

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COUNTY OF UNION

OFFICE OF LINDA CARTER

Freeholder Chairman

**BOARD OF
CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS**

LINDA CARTER
Chairman

CHRISTOPHER HUDAK
Vice Chairman

BRUCE BERGEN

ANGEL G. ESTRADA

MOHAMED S. JALLOH

BETTE JANE KOWALSKI

ALEXANDER MIRABELLA

DANIEL P. SULLIVAN

VERNELL WRIGHT

ALFRED J. FAELLA
County Manager

ROBERT E. BARRY, ESQ.
County Counsel

JAMES E. PELLETTIERE
Clerk of the Board

Dear Employee:

As Chairman of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, I would like to welcome you to your new position in Union County government. The Freeholder Board is certainly proud of those who serve the public on the county's behalf, and we appreciate their dedication and hard work.

Union County government provides our residents with an incredible variety of important services and assistance. You are now a part of this county's government, supported by our taxpayers and citizens. In this capacity, you are a public servant, and a link between our citizens and their county resources and services.

This is challenging at times, but you will find public service to be a fulfilling career path. We wish you success and longevity in your position, and we welcome you as part of our workforce.

Sincerely,

Linda Carter
Chairman

Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Elizabethtown Plaza

Elizabeth, NJ 07207

(908)527-4100 fax(908)289-4143

www.ucnj.org

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COUNTY OF UNION

OFFICE OF COUNTY MANAGER

Alfred J. Faella, County Manager

BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

LINDA CARTER
Chairman

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ALFRED J. FAELLA
County Manager

ROBERT E. BARRY, ESQ.
County Counsel

JAMES E. PELLETTIERE
Clerk of the Board

Dear Employee:

Welcome to Union County Government. As a new county employee, you have become part of a dynamic, hard-working team that serves the people of the County of Union. More than 500,000 people in this county depend on the services and supports we provide every day. Our mission is to provide those services in a timely, efficient manner.

As County Manager, I am responsible for the operations of this county government and its 2,600 employees. I answer directly to the Board of Chosen Freeholders, the elected officials who set the policies and direction of county government. Employees work for many departments, divisions, offices, and bureaus, providing a wide array of important services for the people of this county.

In all your activities as an employee of the County of Union, you should be aware that first and foremost, you are a public servant. When you interact with the public, you represent their county. Always treat them with the respect, professionalism and courtesy you would expect.

Please review this book very carefully. It sets out the rules and responsibilities for employees of this county. You will be expected to know and understand these rules and guidelines. If you have any questions, please contact the Division of Personnel at (908)527-4160.

As Union County Manager, I welcome you to our team and to public service, and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Alfred J. Faella
County Manager

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Elizabethtown Plaza

Elizabeth, NJ 07207

(908)527-4200

fax(908)289-0180

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FOREWORD

As stewards of the public trust, County employees must perform their duties ethically and treat co-workers, supervisors and the public with courtesy and respect at all times. County employees are part of a government that values and respects diversity and builds on the strengths of its individual employees, the organization and the community. We are motivated, progressive and visionary. We challenge ourselves to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our services by being innovative, collaborative and creative. We are well-trained and valued. We provide government services to the public with responsiveness and accountability. We work with a positive attitude, and are proud of our record of outstanding public service to the citizens of Union County.

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

This Handbook provides a general description of employment in the County. Individual departments may adopt more specific descriptions and applications of these policies as they affect an employee's particular duties. There are established documents that contain more detailed information regarding their respective subject matter. An employee may contact the Division of Personnel to obtain a copy of the following:

State of New Jersey Public Employees' Retirement System Plan Handbook

State of New Jersey Police and Firemen's Retirement System Plan Handbook

Policy Against Workplace Discrimination and Harassment

Family Leave and Medical Leave Act Policy

Drug Abuse Policy

Violence in the Workplace Policy

Voluntary Leave

Donated Leave

Military Family Leave Policy

Union County Home Work Policy

Union County Compressed Work Week Policy

Union County Flex-Time Policy

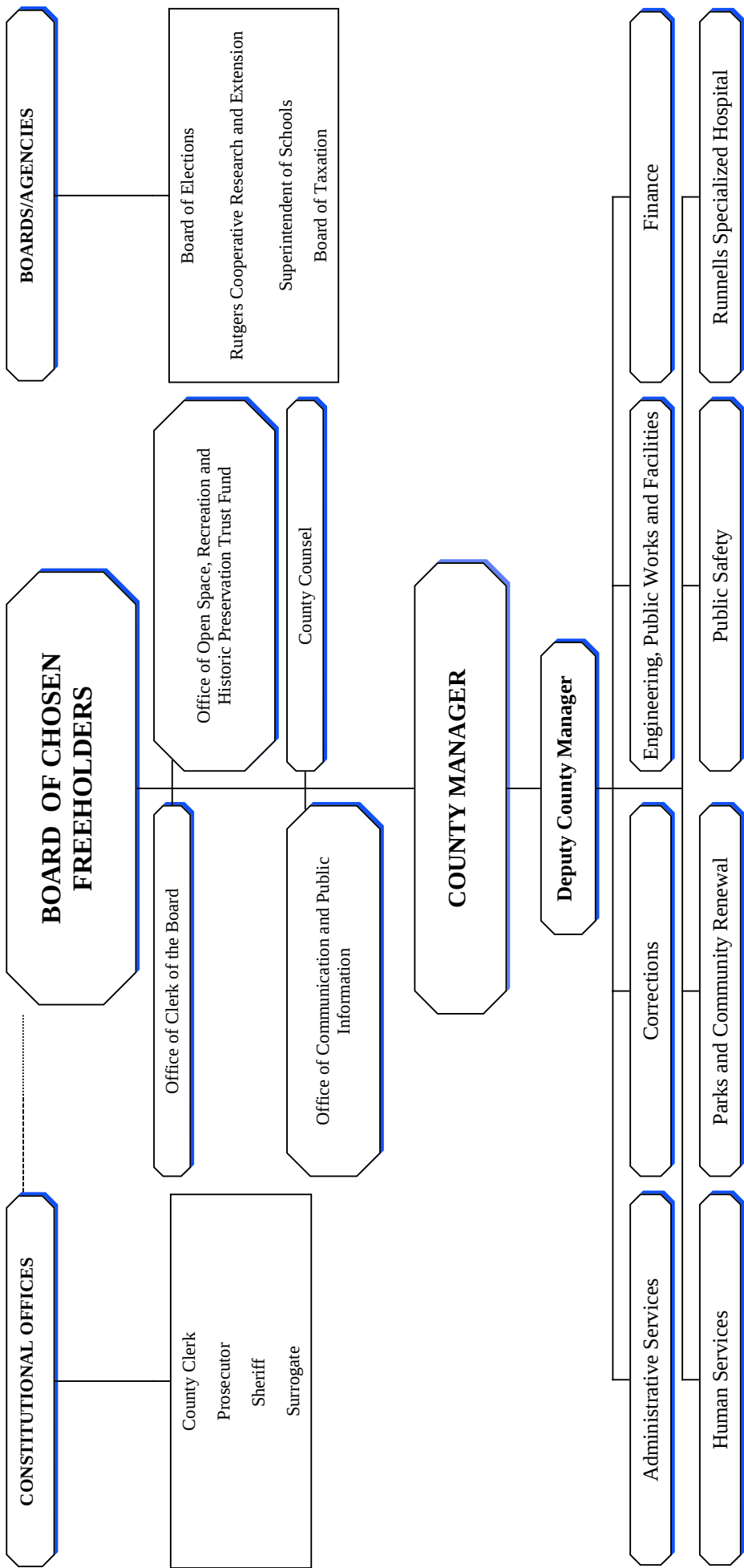
FORM OF GOVERNMENT

The County of Union functions under the County Manager Plan form of government as defined by statute. (See N.J.S.A. 40:41A *et seq.* and the Administrative Code of the County of Union ("U.C.A.C.") §1-6 *et seq.*) The Board of Chosen Freeholders is vested with the legislative power of the County. The County Manager is responsible for the supervision, direction, and administration of all County departments. The Board of Chosen Freeholders may interact with County employees through the County Manager. All contact with County employees and all actions and communications concerning the administration of the County's government will be through the County Manager, except as otherwise provided by law.

A County employee may appear before his or her duly-elected officials and engage in open communication, speech, inquiry, and discussion on matters of general or public concern. This communication may take place between the County employee and any member, group of members, or the entire Board of Chosen Freeholders. It is an employee's constitutional right to speak freely on public issues.

The right to speak freely on matters of public concern, however, does not include the right to engage in public discussion on matters of private concern. That is, the right of open and free communication and discussion with elected officials does not extend to matters that are of concern to an individual employee or to a small group of employees. If an employee is concerned about a particular administrative matter, the employee must proceed through appropriate supervisory channels and ultimately to the attention of the County Manager, if necessary. In this way, the necessary and proper balance between the interests of the employee, as a citizen, in commenting on matters of public concern and the interests of the County, as an employer, in promoting the efficiency of the public service it performs through its employees, will be properly maintained.

RESIDENTS OF THE COUNTY OF UNION



I - EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATION

A. COLLECTIVE BARGAINING ORGANIZATIONS

The County is bound by the laws of the United States and the State of New Jersey to recognize the rights of employees to organize and to negotiate with the County over terms and conditions of employment. Most employees of the County are covered by such bargaining unit representation. The Division of Personnel can provide the name of the employee's organizational representative upon request. Copies of current collective negotiations agreements are available only through bargaining representatives. Providing such agreements is not a responsibility of the County.

Union Council No. 8 N.J.C.S.A.	Represents all regularly-employed non-supervisory blue collar and white-collar employees. Excludes police, confidential employees, managerial executives, craft employees, professionals, supervisors and non-contractual employees within the meaning of the Public Employment Relations Act (the "Act").
P.B.A. Local 73 County Police	Represents all patrolmen and detective patrolmen employed by the County Police. Excludes the chief, captains, lieutenants, sergeants, other non-uniformed personnel, and professional employees and supervisors within the meaning of the Act.
Superior Officers Association P.B.A. Local 73	Represents all captains, lieutenants, sergeants, and detective sergeants employed by the County Police. Excludes the chief, patrolmen, detective patrolmen, non-uniformed personnel, and professional employees and supervisors within the meaning of the Act.
P.B.A. Local 108 Sheriff's Officers	Represents all Sheriff's officers and investigators at the Union County Court House and other locations under the jurisdiction of the County.
Sheriff's Superior Officers P.B.A. Local 108	Represents all Sheriff's superior officers, sergeants, lieutenants and captains.
P.B.A. Local 199 Corrections Officers	Represents all corrections officers below the rank of sergeant employed in the Union County jail facilities.
Superior Corrections Officers P.B.A. Local 199	Represents all superior corrections officers, sergeants, lieutenants and captains, employed in the Union County jail facilities.

P.B.A. Local 250 Prosecutors Detectives/ Investigators	Represents all detectives, investigators, and investigator accountants employed by Union County, not holding a superior rank, who work for the Union County Prosecutor's Office.
PBA 250A Prosecutors Detectives/ Investigators Superior Officers Assn.	Represents all sergeants of county investigators, lieutenants of County detectives/investigators, captains of County detectives/investigators, and deputy chiefs employed by the County, but excluding the chief of County investigators.
Union County Social Services C.W.A.- A.F.L. & C.I.O. Local 1080	Represents the following employees in Social Services: clerk, account clerk, senior account clerk, principal account clerk, supervising account clerk, clerk bookkeeper, child support specialist, child support worker, clerk stenographer, clerk transcriber, clerk typist, data control clerk, data entry machine operator, income maintenance specialist, income maintenance technician, income maintenance worker, income maintenance investigator CWA, messenger, receptionist, stenographer, telephone operator, social worker, social worker specialist, supervisor of data entry machine operations, training technician, senior building maintenance worker, accountant, paralegal specialist, principal data control clerk, supervising clerk transcriber, legal secretary, Human Services Specialist I, II & III, accounting assistant, interpreter and all bilingual titles covered by the recognition clause.
Local 68-68A&B Operating Engineers	Represents all stationary engineers, plumber/steamfitters and assistant supervising plumbers, HVAC mechanics (Low Pressure), assistant supervising HVAC mechanics, HVAC mechanic/stationary engineers, maintenance repairmen (LP) and assistant chief stationary engineers employed in the Court House complex. Excludes plumbers and maintenance repair plumbers in the Division of Facilities.
Park Maintenance Union	Represents non-supervisory employees in the County's recreational facilities, including, but not limited to, the golf courses and skating rinks. Excludes supervisory employees and foremen.
Union County Supervisors' Assn.	Represents all foremen employed in the Department of Engineering, Public Works & Facilities. Excludes foremen in the parks department, general trade, general supervisor mosquito extermination, recreation park maintenance general foremen, managerial executives, police, white-collar, professionals and other higher level supervisors.

P.B.A. Local 203 Div. of Weight & Measures	Represents all weights and measures personnel excluding managerial, confidential, professional, supervisory and craft employees.
Union County Social Services Teamsters 102 Primary Supervisors	Represents income maintenance supervisor, social work supervisor, child support supervisor, fraud unit supervisor, assistant training supervisor and senior investigator in the Division of Social Services.
Teamsters 102 Secondary Supervisors	Represents administrative supervisors in income maintenance, assistant administrative supervisor of income maintenance, field office supervisor, child support coordinator, data processing coordinator, training supervisor, administrative supervisor of social work and the assistant administrative supervisor of social work in the Division of Social Services.
Health Professionals & Allied Employees (HPAE) Local 5112	Represents registered nurses (RN's) affiliated with Runnells Specialized Hospital.
Assistant Prosecutors Assn.	Represents the County's Assistant Prosecutors. Excludes first assistant prosecutor, executive assistant prosecutor, investigations supervisor, trial supervisor, non professionals, all managerial and confidential.
Teamsters Local 102 Jail Professionals	Represents the Public Safety Professional Staff of Counselors, Social Workers, Recreation Program Coordinator and Teachers in the Jail and Juvenile Facility.
Park Foremen's Assn.	Represents all Union County Park System employees of the level of foreman and supervisory mechanics, but excluding all non-supervisory employees, clericals, police, managerial executives and all other employees.

IBEW Prosecutor's Office	Represents all unit managers, social case workers, prosecutors agents, office supervisors, senior forensic chemists, forensic chemists, forensic scientists, counselor victim witness programs, advocate victim witness programs, coordinator victim witness programs, assistant chemists, legal analysts, critical infrastructure coordinator, and assistant public information officer, employed by the Union County Prosecutor's Office. Excludes managerial executives, confidential employees, supervisors, craft employees, police employees, casual employees, prosecutors, assistant prosecutors, detectives, investigators, clerical employees (including clerk typists, property clerk/word processing, and all other employees within the Union County Prosecutor's Office.
FMBA (NAGE Loc R2-343/SEIU5000)	Represents all hazardous materials technicians and hazardous materials responders, excluding managerial executives, confidential employees and supervisors within the Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management.

B. DEMAND AND RETURN SYSTEM

A contractual employee need not formally join a labor organization or pay dues to it. However, if an employee's job title is covered by a collective negotiations agreement, he or she will be represented by a bargaining representative in contract negotiations and certain other matters. An employee who is represented by recognized bargaining representatives, and who elects not to be a regular dues-paying member of an association, will be charged a representation fee in lieu of dues through payroll deductions. The representation fee will be in an amount equal to the regular membership dues, initiation fees and assessments charged by the majority representative to its own members minus the cost of benefits financed through the dues, fees and assessments available to or benefiting only its members and in aid of activities or causes of a partisan political or ideological nature only incidentally related to the terms and conditions of employment. Although it may be lower, in no event will the fee be higher than eighty-five percent (85%) of the regular membership dues, fees, and assessments charged to regular members by the association. N.J.S.A. 34:13A-5.5, as amended, requires the union to establish and maintain a "demand and return" system whereby an employee required to pay the representation fee in lieu of dues may demand the return of his "pro-rata share" of expenses related to political activities and benefits limited only to union members. Where applicable, an employee should consult the current collective negotiations agreement.

C. STRIKES/NO LOCKOUT

Pursuant to the New Jersey State Constitution, public employees do not have the right to strike or to engage in work stoppages or slowdowns of any kind. The County will not condone such activities or threats thereof by public employees, or any other such action, which would interfere with service to the public or violate the Constitution and the laws of the State of New Jersey. A County employee who engages in such activity will be subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment.

II - TELEPHONE DIRECTORY FOR PERSONNEL ASSISTANCE

Administration Building Main Office	527-4160
Health Benefits.....	527-4067
NJDOP (information).....	527-4024
Risk Management	527-4064
Salary Administration	527-4098
 Runnells Satellite Personnel Office	 771-5727
Health Benefits.....	771-5729
 Social Services Satellite Personnel Office	 965-3611
Health Benefits	791-7174
 Office of County Counsel	
Affirmative Action Office.....	527-4230

III - EMPLOYMENT STATUS

A. CONTRACTUAL & NON-CONTRACTUAL STATUS

The terms and conditions of employment for the vast majority of job titles within the County are covered by an established past practice. The union contract is also known as the collective negotiations agreement. Employees whose job titles are covered by a collective negotiations agreement will be referred to herein as "contractual" employees. Employees whose positions are not so represented will be referred to as "non-contractual" or "exclusionary" employees.

B. CAREER SERVICE EMPLOYEES

Additionally, most employee positions are governed by the Career Services laws and regulations of the New Jersey Civil Service Commission. These employees will be referred to herein as "Career Service," "Civil Service" or "Classified" employees. The Civil Service laws and regulations which govern Career Service employees are published in Title 11A of the New Jersey Statutes Annotated (N.J.S.A. 11A:1-1 *et seq.*) and Title 4A of the New Jersey Administrative Code (N.J.A.C. 4A:1-1 *et seq.*). Employees not governed by the Career Service laws and regulations will be referred to herein as "Unclassified" employees.

Definitions of Career Service Employee Status

Emergency Appointed	An employee appointed for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days for emergency reasons.
Full-time	An employee who is hired to work the full, regular, work-week hours of the department.
Interim	An employee who is appointed to a specific vacant position, replacing a permanent employee who is on an approved leave of absence.
Part-Time	An employee who is hired to work for less than the full, regular work-week hours of the department. Regular hours vary by department.
Permanent	(Competitive Division) An employee who has received successful test results from a New Jersey Civil Service Commission examination, is selected from a certified list of eligibles, and successfully completes the required working test period.

(Noncompetitive Division) An employee who receives permanent status after successful completion of the required working test period, which starts on the date of hire.

Probationary	An employee whose permanent status, after appointment from a certification list or hiring into a noncompetitive position, is pending the satisfactory completion of the required working test period.
Provisional	An employee serving in a competitive title awaiting the examination announcement and ultimately successful scoring and ranking, leading up to a permanent appointment. See above definition of permanent employee (competitive division).
Seasonal	A temporary employee who has been hired for a specified seasonal position.
Temporary (Grant Funded)	An employee who is appointed to a position for the duration of an employment program that is grant funded by a source other than the County of Union for a maximum of 12 months.
Temporary	An employee who is hired for up to 6 months in a 12-month period. However, if the position is established as a result of a short-term grant, the appointment may be extended for a maximum of 12 months.

Definitions of Changes in Career Service Employment Status

Layoffs	A layoff may occur for economy, efficiency, or other reasons having a negative impact on the County.
Reassignment	A reassignment is the in-title movement of an employee to a new job function, shift, location, or supervisor.
Reinstatement	A permanent employee who has resigned in good standing, has retired, or has been voluntarily demoted, may, within three years of one of the aforementioned actions, request consideration for reemployment as a permanent employee with the previous permanent title.

Resignation	Any employee may resign in good standing by giving written notice at least 14 days in advance, unless the Department Head allows a shorter period of notice. If an employee resigns without a 14-day notice or without authorization to provide a shorter period of notice, he or she will be considered as having resigned not in good standing.
Terminations	Termination includes voluntary or employee-initiated, and involuntary or employer-initiated. Voluntary terminations include resignations and retirements. Involuntary terminations are employer-initiated and involve involuntary discharge or separation from employment.
Transfers	A transfer results when an employee is moved permanently to another department. The employee must transfer with the same title and salary and with the consent of both Department Heads.

Career Service Examinations/Testing

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 4A:1-1 *et seq.*, a career service examination may be written, oral or an evaluation based on education, training and experience. The examination may be open, competitive or promotional. In either case, a certified list will result. If an employee served in the military, he or she may be eligible for veteran's preference consideration when taking a Civil Service examination. Check with the Division of Personnel for details.

C. WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT EMPLOYEES

Another category of employees is Workforce Investment Act (WIA) employees. A WIA employee is a temporary employee whose salary is funded 51% or more by the Federal Workforce Investment Act program.

WIA employees are not subject to the Career Service regulations. Additionally, WIA employees may not participate in the New Jersey Public Employees Retirement System ("PERS"). However, a retirement plan maintained by Mutual of America is available for WIA employees. A WIA employee will be included as a participant in the plan on the first day of the month after completing one year of service on July 1st and after attaining 21 years of age. A WIA employee must complete at least 1,000 hours of service to be credited with a year of service for eligibility. For more information, please refer to the *Union County Employee Pension Benefit Manual* or contact the Office of Workforce Development Operations at (908) 527-4880.

Additionally, a WIA employee is eligible for a life insurance plan. A WIA employee is eligible after working at least 20 hours per week and completing 12 months of service on July 1st. For more information, please contact the Office of Workforce Development Operations at (908) 527-4880.

IV - CONDUCT OF EMPLOYEES

A. ETHICAL CONDUCT

Pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Ethics Law:

1. No employee or member of his or her immediate family will have an interest in a business organization or engage in any business, transaction or professional activity, which is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his or her duties in the public interest.
2. No employee should use or attempt to use his or her official position to secure unwarranted privileges or advantages for him or herself or others.
3. No employee should act in his or her official capacity in any matter wherein he or she, a member of his or her immediate family, or business organization in which he or she has an interest, has a direct or indirect personal or financial interest that might reasonably be expected to impair his or her objectivity or independence of judgment.
4. No employee should undertake any employment or service, whether compensated or not, which might reasonably be expected to prejudice his or her independence of judgment in the exercise of his or her official duties.
5. No employee, member of his or her immediate family, or business organization in which he or she has an interest, should solicit or accept any gift, favor, loan, political contribution, service, promise of future employment, or other thing of value based upon an understanding that the gift, favor, loan contribution, service, promise or other thing of value was given or offered for the purpose of influencing him or her directly or indirectly in the discharge of his or her official duties.
6. No employee will use, or allow to be used, his or her public employment, or any information, not generally available to members of the public, which he or she receives or acquires in the course of and by reason of his or her employment, for the purpose of securing financial gain for himself or herself, any member of his or her immediate family, or any business organization with which he or she is associated.
7. No employee or business organization in which he or she has an interest will represent any person or party other than the County in connection with any cause,

proceeding, application or other matter pending before any agency in the local government in which he or she serves. An employee or members of his or her immediate family may represent himself or herself in proceedings concerning the employee's own interests.

(See N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5 and U.C.A.C. §1-163 *et seq.*)

B. CONDUCT RELATED TO ELECTIONS

Pursuant to New Jersey law governing elections, no holder of a public office or position will demand payment or contribution from another holder of a public office or position for the campaign purpose of any candidate or for the use of any political party.

(See N.J.S.A. 19:34-42).

C. CONDUCT RELATED TO POLITICAL ACTIVITY

No person holding a position in the Career Service will directly or indirectly use or seek to use his or her position to control or affect the political action of another person or engage in political activity during working hours.

(See N.J.A.C. 4A:10-1.2).

No employee in the Career Service or Unclassified Services whose principal employment is in connection with a program financed in whole or in part by Federal funds or loans, will engage in any of the following prohibited activities under the "Hatch Act."

1. Using official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election or a nomination for office;
2. Directly or indirectly coercing, attempting to coerce, commanding or advising an officer or employee to pay, lend, or contribute anything of value to a party, committee, organization, agency, or person for political purposes; or
3. Being a candidate for public office in a partisan election.

(See 5 U.S.C. §1502).

The Hatch Act is enforced by the Special Counsel of the United States Merit System Protection Board. Department Heads or Supervisors can advise an employee if his or her position is federally funded.

D. EMPLOYEE CONDUCT AND WORK RULES

To assure orderly operations and provide the best possible work environment, the County expects employees to follow rules of conduct that will protect the interests and safety of all employees, County government and the public. It is not possible to list all the forms of behavior that are considered unacceptable in the workplace. The consumption of alcohol and/or the use of a controlled dangerous substance without medical authorization during working hours is strictly prohibited.

Personal Cell Phones, Smart Phones, Tablets, PC/Laptops - Personal cell phones, smart phones, tablets, and pc/laptops usage is prohibited during working hours, unless an emergency arises. This includes, but is not limited to, receiving or placing calls, text messaging, checking voice messages and receiving or responding to e-mails.

E. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS - CAREER SERVICE EMPLOYEES

An employee may be subject to a ***major*** or ***minor*** disciplinary action for:

1. Incompetence, inefficiency or failure to perform duties;
2. Insubordination;
3. Inability to perform duties;
4. Chronic or excessive absenteeism or lateness;
5. Conviction of a crime;
6. Conduct unbecoming a public employee;
7. Neglect of duty;
8. Misuse of public property, including motor vehicles;
9. Discrimination that affects equal employment opportunity (as defined in N.J.A.C. 4A:7-1.1), including sexual harassment;
10. Violation of Federal regulations concerning drug and alcohol use by, and testing of, an employee who perform functions related to the operation of commercial motor vehicles, and State and local policies issued there under;

11. Other sufficient cause.

This can include, but is not limited to, items such as unhygienic personal habits; falsification of records; unauthorized use of County equipment, vehicles or facilities; failure to comply with safety requirements; fighting; loafing; idleness; theft or misappropriation; failure to report loss, theft, damage or injury; failure to abide by procedural rules and/or policies which have been duly promulgated by the County; and other serious breaches of discipline which arise during the course of the employer/employee relationship.

Major Discipline

Major discipline includes: removal; disciplinary demotion; suspension or fine for more than five (5) working days at any one time; suspension or fine for five (5) working days or less where the aggregate number of days suspended or fined in any one (1) calendar year is fifteen (15) working days or more; or suspension or fine when an employee receives more than three (3) suspensions or fines of five (5) working days or less in a calendar year.

Hearing procedure in major disciplinary actions.

Generally, an employee will be served with a "Preliminary Notice of Disciplinary Action" ("PNDA") setting forth the charges against the employee and affording a hearing opportunity at a specified date, time and location. The employee must respond with a request for a hearing within five (5) days of the receipt of PNDA; otherwise, the hearing is waived. After the hearing (or a waiver of a hearing), a decision is made and within 20 days (unless additional time is agreed to by the parties). Written notification to the employee is made by issuing a "Final Notice of Disciplinary Action" form.

An **immediate suspension** may be imposed prior to a hearing when:

1. The employee is unfit for duty or presents a hazard to any person if permitted to remain on the job or the suspension is necessary to maintain safety, health, order or effective direction of public services. However, a PNDA with opportunity for a hearing must be served in person or by certified mail within five (5) days following the immediate suspension; **or**
2. The employee is suspected/charged with an act of misdemeanor, felony or any form of malicious mischief which leads to arrest and/or incarceration and fails to notify his Department/Division Head or Designated Superior immediately. This failure could result in Disciplinary Action up to and including Termination; **or**

3. The employee has been formally charged with a crime of the First, Second or Third Degree or a crime of the Fourth Degree directly related to the employee's job.

Where a suspension is immediate, and is without pay, the employee must first be apprised either orally or in writing regarding the charges, the reason why an immediate suspension is sought, and a general description of the evidence in support of the charges. The employee will be provided an opportunity to respond to the charges before a representative of the County. The response may be oral or in writing.

Minor Discipline

Minor discipline may include a formal written reprimand, or a suspension or fine of five (5) working days or less. Notification of the charges and discipline is given to the employee on the "Notice of Minor Disciplinary Action" form. No hearing is afforded unless expressly provided in a collective negotiations agreement.

F. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

An employee, who wishes to initiate a grievance or complaint concerning wages, hours of work or other terms and conditions of employment, may do so pursuant to the terms of his or her collective negotiations agreement. A Non-contractual employee should discuss any complaints with his or her immediate supervisor for the purpose of resolving the matter informally.

In general, the grievance process consists of four (4) steps. Step 1 involves an informal discussion with the immediate supervisor. In Step 2, a written grievance is filed with the Department Head. In Step 3, a written grievance is filed with the County Manager. Step 4 involves a written demand for arbitration to the New Jersey State Board of Mediation. Grievances may be settled at any step. Employees should refer to their collective negotiations agreement for the specifics concerning the grievance procedure to be followed.

However, employees concerned about County administrative matters must proceed through appropriate supervisory channels and ultimately to the attention of the County Manager, if necessary. This procedure promotes operations efficiency while protecting the privacy interests of County employees.

V - POLICIES, PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES

Supervisors are required to enforce the Policies and Procedures outlined in this Employee Handbook, as well as any other Policy & Procedure established or promulgated by the County of Union. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

A. ABSENTEEISM & LATENESS

Every employee is expected to report for work on time and to adhere to his or her assigned work hours for the normal working day as set by the department. The County will not tolerate unnecessary absenteeism or lateness. Excessive absenteeism and tardiness place a burden on other employees and on the County. If extenuating circumstances arise and an employee will be late or absent for any reason, the employee **must** telephone his or her Supervisor as far in advance of the starting time as possible. It is the employee's responsibility to ensure that proper notification is provided.

Unauthorized or excessive absenteeism, lateness, extending lunch breaks, or leaving work early is disruptive and may be subject to disciplinary action up to or including termination of employment.

B. BACKGROUND CHECK

The County reserves the right to conduct a criminal history background check for potential new hires. A criminal history record background check may be requested of any person for an official governmental purpose by an authorized County official. Law enforcement areas of the County conduct criminal background checks including psychological testing, fingerprinting, and checking references provided prior to hiring new employees.

C. CHANGE OF NAME OR ADDRESS

Any change in an employee's name, address or telephone number must be reported to his or her immediate Supervisor, Department Head or Division Head. Changes in marital status or number of dependents must also be reported. Maintaining proper records is important for processing of payroll, insurance, and other personnel matters.

Contact at Current Address via Mail or Telephone

All mail sent to an employee's current address by the County, whether sent by regular or certified mail, return receipt requested must be promptly accepted. An employee's failure or

refusal to accept mail sent to him/her by the County or to provide the Division of Personnel with a telephone number at which he or she can be reached if absent during his or her scheduled work time, or in case of emergencies, or who refuse or fail to accept calls from the County at such number without good cause, may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

D. CONFIDENTIAL EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

Personnel records. The Division of Personnel maintains official records of all County employees. The satellite offices; Division of Personnel at Runnells Hospital and the Division of Social Services, maintain their own records. Subject to the New Jersey Right to Know Law, Executive Order No. 11 and other applicable law, the County will not release employee personnel information to anyone other than to the employee and his or her authorized representative without a valid Court Order.

The County encourages every employee to review his or her personnel file. Contact the Division of Personnel, or the personnel unit of Runnells Hospital, or the Division of Social Services, for an appointment. Comments concerning the contents of an employee's personnel file may be made on a form contained in the Division of Personnel, to be provided at the time the personnel file is reviewed. No insertions or withdrawals of any correspondence, except this form, are permitted.

Lending Institutions. The Division of Personnel will respond to a request for personnel information by a recognized lending institution for credit information purposes. Only the fact of employment will be verified by telephone. Requests for additional information must be in writing and sent to the Division of Personnel. All requests must be accompanied by a release signed by the employee authorizing and holding the County harmless for release of personnel information.

E. DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITED

The County complies with all Federal and State laws that prohibit discrimination, including but not limited to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ("Title VII"), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504"), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (the "ADA"), the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (the "Age Discrimination Act"), the Age Discrimination in Employment Act ("ADEA", the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination ("NJLAD")) and all other applicable laws and regulations.

Equal Employment Opportunity

Union County is an equal employment opportunity employer and does not discriminate against employees or job applicants on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, age, marital status, civil union status, domestic partnership status, affectional or sexual orientation, familial status, genetic information, sex, gender identity or expression, disability (including perceived disability, physical, mental, and/or intellectual disabilities, AIDS or HIV infection), political affiliation (to the extent protected by law), atypical hereditary cellular or blood trait, or because of the liability for service in the Armed Forces of the United States, veteran status, citizenship status, or any other group status protected by law, unless required by a bona fide occupational qualification.

The County will ensure that personnel decisions are made in accordance with principles of Equal Employment Opportunity by imposing only nondiscriminatory job requirements. The County will not discriminate with regard to any term, condition or privilege of employment. County-sponsored training, education, tuition assistance, and social and recreation programs will be administered without discrimination.

The County has an Affirmative Action Officer, who is assigned overall responsibility of the Affirmative Action Program. Any employee or applicant with a question or grievance should contact the Affirmative Action Officer at:

Affirmative Action Officer
Administration Building, 5th Floor
Elizabeth, NJ 07207
(908) 527-4230

Individuals with Disabilities

The County acknowledges its responsibility under the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"), the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination ("NJLAD") and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504") to avoid discrimination against individuals with disabilities. Section 504 prohibits discrimination against otherwise qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in a program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. The ADA prohibits discrimination against otherwise qualified individuals on the basis of disability with respect to employment or the benefits, services, or activities of a public entity.

Under the ADA and Section 504, the definition of an "individual with a disability" is a person who:

1. has a mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities such as seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, or working; or

2. has a record of such impairment; or
3. is regarded as having such an impairment.

The County will furnish auxiliary aids and services to employees and members of the public who have disabilities to the extent necessary for communication with other persons, unless it will result in an undue burden on, or a fundamental alteration to, the program or service.

No otherwise qualified employee or candidate for employment will be discriminated against in recruitment, employment, promotion, training, transfer or any other terms and conditions of employment solely because of a disabling condition. No candidate for employment will be required to answer a question as to whether he or she has a disabling condition or the extent of such a disabling condition. The County may inquire into the applicant's ability to perform job-related tasks. No candidate will be discriminated against on the basis of a disabling condition that is not directly related to the essential function of the position for which the applicant has applied.

Reasonable modifications, which do not pose a danger or undue hardship and which do not fundamentally alter a County program or activity, will be made to accommodate employment conditions to meet the needs of an otherwise qualified disabled person.

Grievance Procedure

The County has adopted an internal grievance procedure providing for prompt and equitable resolution of allegations of discrimination on the basis of disability. Information concerning same is available from:

ADA Coordinator
Administration Building, 4th Floor
Elizabeth, NJ 07207
(908) 527-4840

Prohibition Against Harassment

It is the County's policy to ensure all employees of the County of Union a work environment free of any type of harassment and discrimination based upon a protected group status, including freedom from sexual harassment. All employees are expected to maintain a productive work environment that is free from harassing and discriminatory activity or behavior. No form of harassment or discrimination will be tolerated.

For more information, consult the County's *Policy Against Workplace Discrimination and Harassment*. All employees are responsible for understanding and complying with the County's Policy. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against any employee who violates this Policy.

F. DRESS CODE

Some departments/divisions have adopted certain dress standards or require uniforms. In general, an employee must present himself or herself professionally at all times.

Professional Business Attire – The intent of professional business attire is to ensure that County personnel are dressed appropriately to meet with the public at a moment's notice. This means dress pants, or a dress shirt worn with jacket for Men; or a skirt/dress slacks with a dressy blouse and/or sweater, cardigans or other types of tops with a jacket for Women. Also, slacks that are similar to Dockers, and/or cotton, synthetic material, wool pants, corduroys, dressy capris are acceptable.

Inappropriate/Unacceptable Attire - Clothing that is inappropriate, distracting, provocative or too revealing such as; denim jeans that are well-worn or torn; sweatpants; exercise pants; Bermuda shorts; short-shorts; bib overalls; leggings; and any spandex or other form-fitting pants that is usually worn when biking should not be worn at the workplace. Inappropriate attire for work includes, but is not limited to: tank tops; midriff tops; shirts with potentially offensive words, terms, logos, pictures, cartoons or slogans; halter tops; tops with bare shoulders; and sweatshirts and t-shirts, unless worn under another appropriate blouse, shirt, jacket or dress. Flashy athletic shoes, tongs, flip-flops, slippers, sneakers, or well-worn or torn shoes, is not acceptable attire for County workers.

Casual Business Attire - The key point to sustaining an appropriate casual business attire program on Fridays is the use of common sense and good judgment. If you question the appropriateness of the attire, it probably isn't appropriate.

Employees who work with Machinery - employees who work with machinery must be careful that clothing does not get caught in the machinery; must always wear proper safety clothing, County required paraphernalia and remove all jewelry and keep hair neatly tied or pulled back from face and eyes by wearing a hair net or securing it with an elastic band.

An employee is expected to dress in good taste reflective of his or her particular work environment, to come to work looking neat and clean, and to wear clothing that does not create a safety hazard. Employees who do not follow the standards related to the County's dress code may be subject to progressive discipline up to and including termination of employment.

G. DRUG/ALCOHOL ABUSE

The County has a vital interest in maintaining a safe, healthy and efficient working environment for its employees, free from the use of illegal and nonprescription drugs, alcohol and the unauthorized use of prescription drugs. Being under the influence of drugs or alcohol, on the job, poses serious safety and health risks, not only to the user, but also to all who come in contact with the user. The use, sale, transfer, or possession of alcohol, drugs, controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, or any combination thereof, on any County premises or worksite (including in County vehicles or any private vehicles parked on County premises or worksites) is grounds for discharge for the first offense.

For more information, please refer to the County's policy regarding drug and alcohol abuse. All employees are responsible for understanding and complying with the County's Drug and Alcohol Abuse policy. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against any employee who does not comply with this policy.

H. DRUG/ALCOHOL TESTING RELATED TO LICENSES

- ***Employees with Commercial Driving Licenses***

Federal regulations mandate random drug and alcohol testing of employees who are required to have a commercial driver's license ("CDL") for their job. The tests will be unannounced and administered in accordance with Federal regulations and established procedures. A positive alcohol or drug test may result in the termination of employment.

- ***Employees Without Commercial Driving Licenses***

It shall furthermore be a condition of employment for all employees not subject to testing under Department of Transportation requirements (employees not possessing a CDL) to submit to drug and alcohol testing under the following circumstances:

Where there is reasonable suspicion to believe that an employee is under the influence of alcohol or is using illegal drugs.

When an employee is involved in an on-the-job motor vehicle accident where personal injury or damage to property occurs. (please see page 28 of this handbook for accident reporting procedures).

As part of a follow up program for treatment of drug and/or alcohol abuse.

I. EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The County of Union contracts with Intervention Strategies to provide confidential assessment, referral, and short-term counseling for Union County employees and their families in need of assistance in dealing with life's stresses and problems. These include emotional and mental health concerns, family and marital difficulties, alcohol and substance abuse, financial and legal pressures, and vocational and educational issues. ***All information is kept strictly confidential.***

This service is available to a County employee and to his or her family, at no cost, by calling Intervention Strategies 800-663-0404. Calls will be answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Employees must advise the clinician that he or she is calling for EAP services.

J. EXIT INTERVIEWS

Prior to leaving County employment an employee should notify the Division of Personnel at least two (2) weeks in advance (if possible). The County reserves the right to conduct an exit interview. The purpose of this interview is to (1) obtain the return of County property (*i.e.*, ID badge, parking sticker, etc.) (2) review pension information (3) receive health insurance information (COBRA) and (4) obtain open and honest information about why the employee is leaving County government. All information is ***confidential***.

K. FITNESS FOR DUTY

The County has the right to request a fitness for duty examination for reasonable cause. This may be a physical and/or psychological examination based on the County's concern regarding an employee's physical and/or mental ability to perform the duties of his or her job. Examinations can be required either prior to an employee's return from an authorized sick leave of absence, or during the course of employment.

L. HOURS OF WORK

Subject to specific collective negotiations agreements, the following rules apply to employee hours of work:

Scheduling. Due to the numerous functions and responsibilities of Union County's institutions, agencies, and departments, employees' hours of work vary. The Department Head will inform an employee of his or her schedule. Regular attendance during all scheduled hours of work and remaining at work to the end of the work period is expected of every employee. If, for any reason, an employee cannot report for work on time, the employee must telephone his or her supervisor as far in advance as possible.

Breaks. The employee's immediate supervisor will schedule and inform the employee of the work schedule, lunch break, and any other breaks to which the employee is entitled by collective negotiations agreement. The schedule and duration of breaks varies by department and union contract.

Work from Home Policy. Allows an eligible County employee to work from home upon written approval by a Department Head or Division Head. The County employee must meet certain eligibility requirements prior to being allowed to participate in Home Work; twenty-four (24) hour offices are not eligible to participate. The initial duration period for Home Work will last anywhere from one (1) week to six (6) months; however, the County employee will have the opportunity to extend the initial duration period. The County employee's ability to work from home must be a benefit conferred upon the County and the specific job function must be suitable for home work. Interested County employees are advised to consult the *Union County Home Work Policy* on file with the Division of Personnel Management and Labor Relations for further information.

The Compressed Work Week Policy. Allows an eligible County employee to work any schedule that enables a full-time employee to work the equivalent of a full week in less than five (5) days. The County employee must obtain written consent from a Department Head or Division Head prior to initiating a compressed work week. The County employee's ability to participate in a compressed work week must be based upon a conferred benefit to the County and the specific job function must be suitable for a compressed work week. Twenty-four (24) hour offices and part-time employees are not eligible to participate in a compressed work week. Interested County employees are advised to consult the *Union County Compressed Work Week Policy* on file with the Division of Personnel Management and Labor Relations for further information.

The Flex-Time Policy. Allows an eligible County employee flexibility in setting his or her work hours to fit his or her personal needs. The County employee must obtain written consent from a Department Head or Division Head prior to initiating a Flex-Time work week. The County employee's ability to participate in a Flex-Time work week must be based upon a conferred benefit to the County and the specific job function must be suitable for a Flex-Time work week. Twenty-four (24) hour offices are not eligible to participate in a Flex-Time work week. Interested County employees are advised to consult the *Union County Flex-Time Policy* on file with the Division of Personnel Management and Labor Relations for further information.

M. HOUSEKEEPING

Since most employees spend approximately one third of their lives on the job, the County encourages and expects each employee to observe the same general rules of good housekeeping at work as at home.

N. IDENTIFICATION BADGE

All employees are required to wear a Union County Identification Badge at all times while on duty. The badges must be worn in a conspicuous location on the employee's clothing. Pictures for ID badges are taken on Tuesdays, Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. Appointments can be made by calling 908-527-4950 or visit the Sheriff's Office on the first floor of the Administration Building.

Runnells Specialized Hospital employees are to notify Runnells security at (908)771-5896 for issuance of badges and for lost or stolen badges. Lost or stolen ID badges must be report to security immediately.

O. LEGAL REPRESENTATION

An employee requiring the services of outside counsel in matters pertaining to litigation arising out of the scope of his or her employment, but not initiated by the employee, should notify the Office of the County Counsel immediately and request a conference. This notification and request must be made *prior* to retaining such services, so that the County may determine whether the employee is entitled to legal representation as a County employee.

P. MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

All job applicants are required to submit to a pre-employment medical examination, including a drug/alcohol test, once an offer of employment has been extended by the County. This requirement provides protection for the employee, fellow workers, and the County.

All job applicants applying for law enforcement positions such as County Correction Officer, County Police, Juvenile Detention Officer, and Sheriff Officer, will be required to submit to a psychological evaluation in addition to the pre-employment medical examination. The applicable Department or Division will so advise the job candidate whether this evaluation is necessary as well as the rules and regulations pertaining to this requirement.

Q. OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT (OPRA)

The Open Public Records Act (N.J.S.A .47:1A-1 et seq) attempts to strike a balance between the public's full right of access to government records and the privacy rights and security concerns that public agencies are responsible to maintain. At the County of Union, all requests for information from the public must be processed through the Clerk of the Board of Chosen

Freeholders. The Clerk and/or County Counsel will determine whether the requested information is accessible or exempt from public disclosure.

Confidentiality (Requests by employees/requests by public made to employees) - All employees are responsible for holding confidential information they obtain while performing their job functions or otherwise obtain during the course of their employment. When a request for information is made, and the employee is uncertain as to whether the information is appropriate for disclosure to others, the employee should refer the person requesting such information to the OPRA Office at 908-527-4178 or opra@ucnj.org. Also, an employee must follow confidentiality procedures as outlined within the department or division to which they are assigned and not release any information to others without first consulting with their Department/Division Head.

R. ORIENTATION - NEW EMPLOYEES

A newly-appointed employee is required to attend an administrative session conducted by a member of the Division of Personnel. New Jersey Civil Service Commission and County rules and regulations will be explained to new employees. Conditions that affect the employee's work in a government setting will be explained and relevant handbooks and brochures will be distributed to those in attendance. Employees will be contacted as to time and place.

Departmental Personnel Liaisons must e-mail the Division of Personnel at the appropriate office providing the name, title and department of the participating employee. Supervisors should also remind the employee of the meeting one day in advance.

Orientation for a new employee at Runnells Hospital will be handled by the Runnells Personnel Office.

Orientation for a new employee in the Social Services Department will be handled by the Social Services Personnel Office.

S. PARKING

Upon employment, each employee will be asked to fill out a form for a parking authorization sticker. At that time, depending upon availability, the location of parking areas and parking regulations will be explained.

T. VISITORS TO COUNTY BUILDING

Check with Security at your location for rules and regulations concerning visitors 908-527-4950.

U. RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

(See U.C.A.C. §1-62; Ordinance #225)

All persons who are employed by the County of Union in a full-time capacity in the classified or unclassified service after November 10, 1983, prior to employment, must be and thereafter remain bona fide residents of the County of Union. Upon completion of fifteen (15) years of service with the County of Union, the residency requirement is waived.

Waiver of residency

Whenever a County appointing authority, with the consent and approval of the County Manager, determines that there cannot be recruited a sufficient number of qualified Union County residents for an available specific position, the County will advertise for qualified applicants who will be classified and appointed according to the following preferences:

1. Residents of counties contiguous to the County of Union.
2. Residents of other counties in the State of New Jersey.
3. All other qualified applicants.

Whenever an appointing authority, through the County Manager, advises the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Union that there are specific positions requiring special talents or skills, which are necessary for the operations of the County, such positions or employment may be filled without reference to residency as follows:

1. The County Manager will apply to the Board of Chosen Freeholders for a blanket waiver setting forth, with appropriate documentation, the nature of the special talent or expertise required, and the efforts made to recruit persons with special talent or expertise from within the County.
2. Thereafter, the Board of Chosen Freeholders may, in its discretion, adopt a Resolution waiving the residency requirement and will so advise the Clerk of the Board and the New Jersey Civil Service Commission.

Whenever an appointing authority, through the County Manager, advises the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Union that there are special reasons why a particular position or

title should not require the person holding the same to comply with the County's residency requirements, the Board of Chosen Freeholders will consider the reasons and may, in its discretion, waive the residency requirements for that position or employee. The waiver, if granted, must be obtained and filed with the Clerk of the Board prior to appointment.

A non-resident appointed to a position of employment must become a bona-fide resident of the County of Union within one (1) year of appointment, unless the residency requirement has been previously waived by the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

A full-time employee who was permanently employed prior to November 10, 1983 is exempt from the County's residency ordinance for Civil Service Promotional Examinations and internal transfer only. Such an employee is nevertheless subject to the provisions for all Civil Service Open Competitive Examinations as announced by the New Jersey Civil Service Commission which require residency in Union County.

V. SAFETY

The County's policy is to provide safe and healthy working conditions and to implement safe operating practices, which protect everyone. Therefore, each employee must assume responsibility for safety consciousness by maintaining safe operating conditions and by performing duties in accordance with safe work practices. Safety is a 24 hour per day responsibility and requires total commitment from every employee.

W. SMOKE-FREE WORKPLACE

Smoking is prohibited in all County buildings, recreational facilities, County parks and vehicles. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against any employee who violates this Policy.

(See Ordinance No. 385 amended 6/10/10)

X. SOCIAL NETWORKING

For purposes of this policy, a social networks is defined as a site that uses internet services to allow individuals to construct a profile within that system, define a list of others users with whom they share some connection, and view and access their list of connections and those made by others within that system. The type of network and its design vary from site to site. Examples of the types of internet based social networking activities include: blogging, networking, photo sharing, video sharing, microblogging, podcasting, as well as posting

comments on the sites. The absence of, or lack of explicit reference to a specific site or activity does not limit the extent of the application of this policy.

Procedures - The use of the internet and social networking sites (MySpace, Facebook, Twitter, etc.) in particular is a popular activity; however, employees must be mindful of the negative impact of inappropriate or unauthorized postings upon the County and its relationship with the community. This policy identifies prohibited activities by employees on the internet where posted information is accessible to members of the general public, including, but not limited to, public postings on social networking sites. The County reserves the right to investigate postings, private or public, that violate work-place rules, such as the prohibition of sexual harassment and other discriminatory conduct, where such postings lawfully are made available to the County by other employees or third parties.

Employees should use common sense in all communications, particularly on a website or social networking site accessible to anyone. If you would not be comfortable with your supervisor, co-workers, or the management team reading your words, you should not write them. Recognize that you are legally liable for anything you write or present online. Employees can be disciplined for commentary, content, or images that are defamatory, pornographic, proprietary, harassing, libelous, or that can create a hostile work environment. You can also be sued by agency employees or any individual who views your commentary, content, or images as defamatory, pornographic, proprietary, harassing, libelous or creating a hostile work environment. What you say or post on your site or what is said or posted on your site by others could potentially be grounds for disciplinary action up to and including termination. More information on this policy may be obtained from the Division of Personnel.

Y. UNIFORM ALLOWANCE

An employee represented by a union or association should consult his or her union representative or the collective negotiations agreement applicable to his or her bargaining unit regarding uniform allowance.

Z. USE OF COUNTY PROPERTY

Equipment. County equipment including, but not limited to, machinery, power tools, hand tools, electrical equipment, electronics, generators, furniture, computers, facsimile machines, copiers, phones and pagers etc., will be used for County business purposes only. When using County property, employees shall exercise care, perform required maintenance, and follow all operating instructions, safety standards, guidelines, and laws. Improper, careless, negligent, destructive, or unsafe use or operation of equipment may result in reimbursement of damage costs. Misuse of any and all County equipment by any County employee is subject to discipline, up to and including termination of employment.

Use of Motor Pool Vehicles. In the course of employment a need may arise for an employee to use an automobile to conduct County business and may be obtained through the Division Motor Vehicles. Employee use of any County Vehicle requires authorization by their Department/Division Head.

All employees must comply with the Division of Motor Vehicle regulations when utilizing a Motor Pool Vehicle. They are as follows:

- Drivers must have a valid driver's license and may not drive a vehicle if their driver's license has been suspended or revoked. Employees are responsible for immediately reporting to their supervisor any suspension or loss of license privilege.
- Assignment of a pool vehicle is for *official County business only*. In addition, only the employee that has completed the Motor Vehicle Authorization Request is approved to drive the vehicle.
- Operators of County-owned vehicles are personally responsible for the safe and proper operation of the vehicles assigned to or operated by them. If damages result through careless or negligent operation, misuse or abuse, the operator may be subject to disciplinary action and loss of future privileges.
- All vehicle credentials e.g.; Registration and Insurance ID Cards are ***not*** to be removed at any time from the assigned vehicle, with the exception of presenting these vehicle credentials to the proper authorities when asked to do so.
- New Jersey State Law prohibits the use of hand held devices (e.g.; cell phones or texting devices) while driving. Employees may not use cellular phones or similar devices to receive or place calls, text messages, surf the internet, check voice messages, or receive or respond to email while driving a County vehicle. Employees are required to stop the vehicle in a safe location so that employee can safely use his/her cell phone or similar device. Employees who violate this policy and/or is issued a summons for this type of violation will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.
- Smoking is prohibited in all County-operated vehicles; when vehicle is in motion, use of seat belts and shoulder harness is required; vehicles must be locked when

parked and windows must be closed; and the vehicle should not be operated unless it is in a safe condition.

- Fines for traffic violations and toll violations, including overtime parking and E-ZPass, shall be paid in a timely manner by the operator of the vehicle responsible for the violation. Fines are not reimbursable. Unpaid fines may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination to the employee.

Accident Reporting Procedures

- All accidents, that occur while operating an assigned vehicle, must be reported to the County Police (908-654-9800).
- ***No matter how minor the accident, it is the driver's responsibility to report all accidents.***
- Make no committals and give no information except as it is required by the investigating authorities.
- Notify your immediate supervisor

In the event of an accident, the driver of the assigned vehicle must:

- Obtain all pertinent information with the driver of other vehicle – exchange of licenses, registration, and insurance cards; note location of the accident; name, address and phone numbers of any witnesses; and if police responded to the accident, a copy of the police report should be provided as soon as possible.
- Report all accidents to his/her Department /Division Head even if there are no apparent injuries or damage.
- The Department/Division Head will complete and sign the accident report. Completed reports should be sent to Risk Management within 3-5 days. If you have any questions or concerns contact Risk Management at 908-527-4064.

If the driver of the vehicle possesses a CDL (Commercial Drivers License); or is driving a CDL vehicle; or is a safety sensitive employee; or possesses a regular driver's license; and is involved in an accident, the driver will be subject to a drug and alcohol test as soon as possible if any of the following accident conditions are present:

- If any person requires immediate medical treatment;

- If either vehicle is towed from the scene;
- If a fatality occurs;
- If significant property damage is incurred;
- If the County driver is issued a summons for a motor vehicle violation.

Telephones. Much of the County's business is conducted over the telephone and the lines cannot be tied up with personal telephone calls. Personal calls, both incoming and outgoing, are discouraged. Abuse will not be tolerated and will result in progressive discipline.

Internet and E-Mail. Pursuant to Resolution No.989-, adopted September 29, 2005, electronic networks, including the Internet and e-mail are to be used to conduct the business of County government, to effectively communicate with others in the course of government business, and to gather information relevant to the performance of governmental duties. All information gathered via on-line resources or stored on County computers belongs solely to the County. The County retains the right to monitor all on-line communication to ensure that all employees pursue only appropriate business purposes. Installation of any unauthorized software is prohibited and may result in discipline up to including termination of employment.

Email Retention. Following the last calendar day of each month, the E-mail server will be purged of all E-mails that are more than nine (90) days old. Therefore, all E-mails not properly filed (archived) by individual E-mail users that is nine-one (91) days or older will be permanently deleted from the E-mail server during the server purge. All items located in an individual E-mail user's IN and SENT boxes, plus "deleted items" folder shall be permanently deleted during the period purge of the E-mail server.

Employees have no expectation of privacy in connection with their use of any County property and equipment.

AA. VIOLENCE IN THE WORKPLACE

The County strives to maintain an atmosphere, which to the greatest degree possible will discourage workplace violence. Violence or threats of violence towards County employees by any person will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action. Please refer to the County's policy regarding Violence in the Workplace.

(See Resolution No. 77-99, adopted 1/21/99)

BB. EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

The County allows for emergency days during extreme weather conditions. During inclement weather or other emergency conditions in this area, please visit the County's webpage for information at www.ucnj.org for special announcements of closings or delays. The County encourages all employees to sign-up to receive any all emergency and informational alert notifications thru First Alert. More information on this topic is explained in the ***Emergency Alert UC First Alert*** section below.

This does not apply to 24-hour operations. The Correctional Facility, County Police, Juvenile Detention and Runnells Specialized Hospital will continue to operate in a twenty four (24) hour capacity in emergent weather conditions.

EMERGENCY ALERT UC FIRST ALERT

The County of Union uses the UC First Alert Network to immediately contact employees during a major crisis or emergency. The UC First Alert Network delivers important emergency alerts, notifications and updates to employees on their devices:

- Email account (work, home, other)
- Cell phone (via SMS)
- Pager
- Smartphone/PDA (BlackBerry, Treo & other handhelds)

When an incident or emergency occurs, authorized senders will instantly notify employees. The UC First Alert Network is an employee's personal connection to real-time updates, instructions on where to go, what to do, or what not to do, who to contact and other important information.

To register, employee's must log on to www.ucfirstalert.org and follow the simple steps to set up a new user account. Once this process is completed, the employee is to email ucfirstalert@ucnj.org with his or her name and work location (physical building such as the administration building). This will enable the County to add the employee to the proper group.

VI - COMPENSATION

A. SALARY

Compensation for contractual employees. For most contractual classifications or job titles, a salary range has been established in conjunction with the collective negotiations process. The established range may provide for annual increments until the employee reaches his or her respective maximum salary. No employee will be paid less than the minimum or more than the

maximum for his or her classification. A contractual employee should refer to the collective negotiations agreement for more specific information concerning compensation, including holiday pay, shift differential, and longevity.

Compensation for non-contractual employees. A classification and compensation system has been established for non-contractual employees. All non-contractual positions recognized by this program have an assigned grade level designated with an established minimum and maximum salary range. The non-contractual employee compensation plan provides a formula for calculating salary increases, whether promotion or merit based, for non-contractual employees. The County reserves the right to adjust the salary grades.

(See Resolution No. 968-92)

B. COMPENSATORY TIME (NON-CONTRACTUAL EMPLOYEES)

Compensatory Time Policy. All non-contractual employees, who are exempt from the overtime pay requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act and/or the New Jersey Wage and Hour Law (excluding elected officials) below the position of Department and Division Head shall be entitled to the benefits of a compensatory time program. For purposes of this Policy, Department Head shall include the County Manager, the Deputy County Manager, and the Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders. All such employees who are presently compensated for authorized overtime work performed shall continue to receive such compensation in accordance with existing policies and practices. All employees who are not presently compensated for authorized overtime, and who are required to work beyond their normal working hours for a minimum of at least one hour shall be entitled to receive compensatory time at the rate of one and one-half hours for every hour of eligible time in excess of forty (40) hours in a week. The maximum amount of compensatory time permitted to be accrued is 100 hours, subject to approval of the Department Head. The County Manager may permit lower accrual limits based upon requests from Department Heads. Said compensatory time must be taken within the calendar year of the accrual of the compensatory time except that time earned during the last three (3) months of the calendar year which may be used within the first three (3) months of the following calendar year. The Department Head shall have discretion in scheduling such time with due consideration to the needs of the department and the wishes of the employee.

(See Resolution No. 263-09)

Furthermore, these same employees may be able to accrue compensatory time off for "volunteer" work at County activities outside his or her normal work week. Opportunities for volunteering will be posted by the department needing assistance. In order to participate in any program where compensatory time will be earned, written approval by the employee's Department/Division Head must be obtained **prior** to the event in question. No employee will be utilized by another department without having this approval. It will be the responsibility of each "volunteering"

employee to obtain documentation of the hours they have worked and present same to the employee's Department or Division Head. Each department will be responsible for maintaining compensatory records for its own employees and monitoring its use.

C. DEDUCTIONS

Payroll deductions include mandatory deductions in addition to electives. The chart below identifies each deduction and its respective abbreviation. Each employee's payroll check stub will indicate the amounts deducted and for what purpose. It is the responsibility of the employee to notify the Department of Finance of any changes that occur in voluntary deductions and in the employee's family situations, which are claimed for income tax purposes, including any change in marital status.

MANDATORY DEDUCTIONS

FIT	Federal Income Tax
SS-O	Social Security – Old Age Survivors Disability
SS-M	Social Security – Medicare
SIT	State Income Tax
SUI	State Unemployment Insurance (Does not include State Disability Insurance)

OTHER DEDUCTIONS/ VOLUNTARY DEDUCTIONS

BACK PEN	Back Pension Amount
CI ADJ	Contributory (Pension Insurance Adjustment)
COPE	CWA 1080 (donation to COPE Organization)
CR UN	Credit Union
DENTAL-CO	Dental Premium Costs
DIR DEP	Direct Deposit- 2 nd Account
DIS INS	Temporary Disability Insurance
DVUF	United Way
EIC	Earned Income Credit

GARN/LEVY	Garnishee/Levy/Child Support
GRP LIFE	Group Life Insurance (Pension)
DENTA	Dental Premium Costs
HARTFORD D/C	Deferred Compensation (Hartford Life)
HEALTH IN	Health Insurance Premium Cost
JER-MAINT	JE Runnells Maintenance
JTPA LOAN	JTPA Pension Loans
ORTHO	Orthodontist Premium Cost
PEN ADJ	Pension Adjustments (PERS)
PERS ARRS	P.E.R.S. Arrears
PERS BKCI	Pension Back Contributory Insurance (PERS)
PERS CI	P.E.R.S. Contributory Insurance
P/T CI	P.E.R.S. Contributory Insurance Part time
PERS LOAN	P.E.R.S. Loan
PERS PENS	Public Employee Retirement System, Pension
P/T PENS	Part timer Public Employee Retirement System
PERS SA	P.E.R.S. Pension Supplemental Annuity
P&F ARREA	Police & Fire Pension Arrears
P&F LOAN	Police & Fire Pension Loan
P&F PENSI	Police & Fire Pension
P&F SA	Police & Fire Supplemental Annuity
ROTH	Roth IRA Mainstay Account
UN DUES	Union Dues
UPGRADE	Health Insurance Upgrade
VEH FRING	Vehicle Fringe Benefit
WELLS FARGO	Voluntary Optional Insurances

D. DIRECT DEPOSIT

All employees have the option to participate in the direct deposit of his or her payroll check to a financial institution. For further information, please contact the Payroll Unit of the Department of Finance (908) 527-4082.

E. PAY DAY

Employees are paid on a bi-weekly basis. In order to maintain a bi-weekly basis for paycheck distribution, a rotating bi-weekly pay day schedule shall be implemented whereby the pay day will be changed in each successive year as follows:

2012: Tuesday
2013: Wednesday
2014: Thursday
2015: Friday
2016: Monday

F. PROMOTIONS

The County offers a wide range of positions, which extend to each employee the opportunity for advancement. Employees should review any applicable collective negotiations agreement and the rules and regulations of the New Jersey Civil Service Commission in connection with opportunities for advancement.

G. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

The County is committed to encourage and reward employees who demonstrate outstanding performance. Conversely, poor performance may have an adverse impact on an employee's salary and compensation. An employee evaluation system has been established for employees in certain bargaining units. Contractual employees should review the applicable collective negotiations agreement.

H. RETURN TO PAY STATUS FROM LEAVE

Upon return from leave without pay, an employee should notify the Division of Personnel in order to reactivate pay and other benefits which may have been affected by the leave. Failure to do so may result in a delay to full pay status and may cause unnecessary hardship for the employee.

VII- ABSENCES FROM WORK

All employees are required to inform their Department/Division Heads in writing with a request to take paid time off, for use of any vacation, personal accrued time, or any prescheduled use of sick time. Seasonal, or temporary employees are paid for hours actually worked, they do not have any entitlement to sick, vacation or personal time.

A. AUTHORIZATION

The County, in its discretion, may grant an unpaid leave of absence to an employee for a period up to one year. (See, Personal Leaves Without Pay Policy below)

B. ABSENCE WITHOUT PERMISSION

(See N.J.A.C. 4A:2-6.2)

Any employee who is absent from duty for five (5) or more consecutive business days without the approval of his or her Supervisor will be considered to have abandoned his or her position and will be recorded as having resigned not in good standing.

Similarly, an employee who has not returned to duty for five (5) or more consecutive business days following the expiration of an approved leave of absence will be considered to have abandoned his or her position and will be recorded as having resigned not in good standing.

C. SICK LEAVE WITH PAY

(See N.J.A.C. 4A:6-1.3)

Amount of Leave

A full-time employee will be entitled to annual paid sick leave as follows:

1. A new employee will receive one (1) working day for the initial month of employment if he or she begins work on the first (1st) through the eighth (8th) day of the calendar month and one-half working day if he or she begins on the ninth (9th) through the twenty-third (23rd) day of the month. After the initial month of employment and up to the end of the first calendar year, an employee will be credited with one (1) working day for each month of service.
2. At the beginning of each calendar year thereafter, in anticipation of continued employment, an employee will be credited with fifteen (15) working days as unearned sick time.

A part-time employee will be entitled to a proportionate amount of paid sick leave.

Use of Leave

Sick leave may be used by an employee who is unable to work because of:

1. Personal illness or injury;
2. Exposure to contagious disease;
3. Care, for a reasonable period of time, of a seriously ill member of the employee's immediate family (spouse, domestic partner, civil union partner, child, legal ward, grandchild, foster child, father, mother, legal guardian, grandfather, grandmother, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, and relatives residing in the employee's household);
4. Death in the employee's immediate family, for a reasonable period of time;
5. Sick leave may also be used by a disabled employee for absences related to the acquisition or use of an aide for the disabled when the aide is necessary to function on the job. In such cases, reasonable proof may be required by the County.

Notice

When an employee anticipates an absence from work for any of the reasons stated above, the employee must notify his or her supervisor of the impending absence within a reasonable time prior to the absence and of the reason for the absence. This procedure is required to assist the employee's department in planning for coverage during the employee's leave of absence. Failure to so notify the supervisor will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action.

When an employee is in an unpaid status for 15 working days of a month, he or she will not be eligible to earn benefit time such as sick days and vacation days for that month.

Medical Certification

Any employee who is absent on sick leave for five (5) or more consecutive working days is required to produce a physician's certificate of illness as evidence substantiating the illness. A Department Head may also require proof of illness of an employee on sick leave whenever such

a requirement appears reasonable or warranted. This certificate will also indicate that upon the employee's return to work he or she is able to resume regularly assigned work duties.

Sick leave will extend from the date at which the employee's physician certifies that the employee is unable to work due to the disabling effects of the injury or illness until that date which the employee's physician certifies that the employee is able to resume work. Requests for sick leave must contain both anticipated commencement and return to work dates. These dates may be adjusted or extended upon application from the employee combined with medical certification of necessity.

The County reserves all rights to challenge any application for sick leave and to require an employee to be examined by a County-designated physician prior to the granting of sick leave or prior to permitting the employee to return to work.

Any employee who accrues fifteen (15) or more absences in any one (1) calendar year consisting of periods of less than five (5) day absences in any one block of time may be required to submit acceptable medical certifications of illness for any additional request for sick leave in that calendar year. If the cause for the absences is an illness of a chronic or recurring nature requiring an employee's absence from duty of one (1) day or less on repeated occasions, then only one medical certification will be required for every six (6) month period. This medical certification must specify that the chronic or recurring nature of the illness is likely to cause recurring and subsequent absences from employment.

Temporary Reassignment

The County may, as a reasonable accommodation, grant an employee's request for temporary reassignment to another position within the employee's department. This provision applies only to an employee who provides medical certification that temporary reassignment is necessary due to medical reasons (including pregnancy) and only if such reassignment does not present an undue burden on the employee's department. In general, however, the County has the discretion to preclude an employee from working if the employee cannot perform the essential functions of his or her job.

Separation of Employee

An employee who has resigned or was dismissed, or who has otherwise separated from employment, will be paid for any earned, unused vacation days for the current year pro-rated upon the number of months actually worked in the calendar year in which the separation becomes effective, in addition to any unused vacation days due for the previous year. Employees will not be paid for any unused sick or personal time.

Sick Leave Payback

If an employee leaves the County's employment for any reason before the end of the calendar year he or she will be required to pay back any sick leave that was taken but not yet earned.

Unpaid Sick Leave

An employee may request a leave of absence due to disabling injury or illness. To the extent possible, an employee requesting disability leave must apply to his or her Department Head in writing prior to commencing such leave. An employee requesting an unpaid leave of absence should consult the County's *Family Leave and Medical Leave Act Policy*.

Nonaccrual During Leave or Suspension

Paid sick days will not accrue during a leave of absence without pay or during a suspension.

Abuse of Sick Leave

Abuse of sick leave, in the form of excessive or chronic use of sick leave or the use of sick leave to extend weekends or holidays, will be cause for disciplinary action.

D. CANCER SCREENING

Employees will be granted four (4) hours of paid leave each year for use for cancer screening. An employee must submit a medical certification verifying that the employee was absent from work for the purpose of cancer screening. Employees may not break this block of time into smaller hourly increments.

(See Resolution No. 1623A-99 adopted 12/9/99)

E. DONATED LEAVE PROGRAM

Purpose. The intent of this program is to permit County employees to donate earned sick time and vacation time on a voluntary basis to another County employee who is suffering from a catastrophic health condition or injury, or to care for a member of the employee's immediate family suffering from a catastrophic health condition or injury which compels his or her prolonged absence from work. Approvals regarding eligibility will be made on a case-by-case basis subject to the discretion of the County Administration.

Recipient eligibility. A Union County employee will be eligible to receive donated sick or vacation leave from other County employees if the employee meets all the following criteria:

1. Employee or immediate family member must be suffering from a catastrophic health condition or injury which necessitates the employee's prolonged absence from work and for which the employee has no available paid leave.
2. Must produce acceptable medical verification from a physician or other licensed health care provider. The medical verification must indicate the nature, severity, and anticipated duration of the disability resulting from the serious health condition or injury involved.
3. Must have completed at least one year of continuous service with the County of Union.
4. Must have exhausted all accrued paid leave time including compensatory time off, sick leave and vacation leave.

Donor eligibility. To be eligible to donate leave to another employee, an employee must meet the following criteria:

1. Must have at least fifteen (15) days of accrued sick leave remaining to his or her credit after making any donations.
2. Must not have solicited nor accepted anything of value from anyone for the donation.
3. Only whole days may be donated.

Program Procedures

1. Any employee may request to participate as a recipient in this program by contacting the Director of the employee's Department. The Director will provide the proper forms to the eligible employee and will require acceptable medical documentation concerning the nature, severity and anticipated duration of the employee's condition. The request must be made prior to the employee's exhaustion of all accumulated sick and vacation time. The Director of the employee's Department must first approve the request and, if approved, it will then be forwarded for review and approval by the Division of Personnel . If the request is approved, all Union County employees will then be eligible to donate sick and vacation time on a voluntary basis. If the request is not approved, the employee can appeal the decision to the Donated Leave Committee established by the County Manager, whose decision is final. Decisions and approvals regarding eligibility will be made on a case-by-case basis.

2. Once a recipient is approved for the program, the Division of Personnel will post on employee bulletin boards, or communicate by other appropriate means, the name(s) of eligible employee(s) who will have exhausted all earned paid leave time by a designated date. The posting will be done only with the recipient's consent. If the employee is unable to consent, the employee's family may consent on behalf of the employee. Notice will be provided to all appropriate bargaining representatives.
3. A County employee may donate only whole days of either sick leave or vacation leave, or a combination thereof, within the prescribed limitation.
4. The donor and the recipient (or family representative) will fill out the required forms. No one will directly or indirectly intimidate, threaten or coerce, or attempt to intimidate or coerce, any other employee for the purpose of interfering with any right which such employee may have with respect to contributing, receiving or using paid leave under this program. This includes promises to confer any benefit (such as appointment, promotion or compensation) or effecting or threatening to effect any reprisal (such as deprivation of appointment, promotion or compensation). An affidavit to this effect will be signed by the donor. Any employee who engages in the above-described prohibited conduct will be subject to disciplinary action.
5. The donor's leave time will be reduced by the number of sick or vacation days, which are donated.
6. The eligible recipient may receive up to 180 donated days during the employee's employment with the County.
7. Should an employee return to work, or otherwise terminate the use of leave with donated time remaining, that time will be returned to the donor(s) on a prorated basis in whole days.
8. The recipient employee, while using donated leave, will continue to earn sick and vacation leave. If the earned sick leave is unused when the employee returns to work, all such earned time will be retained by the recipient employee and credited to the employee's accrued sick leave time.
9. If the recipient employee retires, he or she will not be granted supplemental compensation for any unused sick days, which he or she received through the donated sick leave program.

10. The recipient employee who utilizes donated time will be treated as a County employee on a leave of absence with pay.
11. Once the sick and/or vacation leave has been donated, it may not be revoked by the donor.
12. Donations may not be used on a retroactive basis.

If the employee's prolonged absence extends beyond the expiration of the donated leave time, the employee may make application for a leave of absence without pay. The employee should consult the County's *Family Leave and Medical Leave Act Policy*.

This information is presented to familiarize the employee with the contents of this program in summary form. Further information and questions concerning this program should be directed to the Division of Personnel .

F. VACATION (ANNUAL LEAVE)

An employee in a bargaining unit subject to a collective negotiations agreement should consult that agreement as to vacation entitlement, payment for unused vacation leave, and other matters regarding leave. The following is a general description of annual leave benefits:

Amount of Leave

Generally, except for personnel hired by the Department of Human Services, Division of Social Services prior to July 1, 1990, paid vacation time is granted as follows:

During the first calendar year of employment, an employee will earn one (1) vacation day for each month of service during the calendar year following the date of employment.

An employee with one (1) to eight (8) years of service will be entitled to thirteen (13) working days vacation each year.

An employee with eight (8) completed years to ten (10) years of service will be entitled to fourteen (14) working days vacation each year.

An employee with ten (10) completed years to fifteen (15) years of service will be entitled to seventeen (17) working days vacation each year.

An employee with fifteen (15) completed years to twenty (20) years of service will be entitled to nineteen (19) working days vacation each year.

An employee with twenty (20) completed years to twenty-five (25) years of service will be entitled to twenty-two (22) working days vacation each year.

An employee with twenty-five (25) completed years or more of service will be entitled to twenty-seven (27) working days vacation each year.

A part-time employee will receive vacation credit allowances on a pro-rated basis in accordance with the above.

Social Services Division Employees

A full-time employee of the Division of Social Services prior to July 1, 1990 is granted vacation leave as follows:

One (1) working day for each month or major fraction thereof of employment during the first calendar year of employment.

Twelve (12) working days after the first calendar year up to and including five (5) years of employment.

Fifteen (15) working days after the first five (5) years of employment and up to and including ten (10) years of employment.

Twenty (20) working days after ten (10) years of employment and up to and including fifteen (15) years of employment.

Twenty-two (22) working days after fifteen (15) years of employment up to and including twenty (20) years of employment.

Twenty-six (26) working days after twenty (20) years of employment up to and including twenty-five (25) years of employment.

Twenty-eight (28) working days after twenty-five (25) years of employment.

Scheduling

The Department Head has the exclusive right to determine when an employee's vacation will be scheduled, giving reasonable consideration to an employee's wishes in this regard. Where conflicts in choice of dates occur, preference will be governed by seniority insofar as effective staffing requirements permit. Vacations must be taken during the current calendar year unless the Department Head determines that it cannot be taken due to excessive workload in which case unused vacations may be carried forward into the next succeeding year only. NJ State Statute requires that if such a determination is made, an employee may only carryover one (1) additional year's vacation time. No employee may start a new year with more than two (2) years worth of vacation time.

Unused Leave

An employee, who has resigned, has been dismissed, or who has otherwise separated from employment, will be paid for any earned, unused vacation days in accordance with any applicable collective negotiations agreement.

An employee who is retiring on pension based on length of service will be entitled to the full vacation for the calendar year in which he or she retires in accordance with any applicable collective negotiations agreement.

Upon the death of an employee, any annual vacation leave credits will be calculated based on the deceased's present salary rate, and will be paid to his or her estate in accordance with any applicable collective negotiations agreement.

No Vacation Accrual During Leave Without Pay

An employee on a leave of absence without pay, except for military leave, furlough extension leave, or voluntary furlough, does not accrue vacation benefits.

Vacation Payback

If an employee leaves the County's employ for any reason before the end of the calendar year, after having taken a vacation allowance for the year, he or she will be charged with the unearned part of his or her vacation. The amount owed will be deducted from his or her final paycheck.

Vacation Purchase Program

This Program provides an opportunity for County employees to request the purchase of additional vacation time according to the following schedule:

- The value of three (3) days pay for five (5) days vacation
- Six (6) days pay for ten (10) days vacation
- Nine (9) days pay for fifteen (15) days vacation

To be eligible, for the Vacation Purchase Program, employees must have at least one full year in a permanent status and work a 24/7 schedule. Approval to participate in the Vacation Purchase Program is at the discretion of each Department Head. Time purchased will be credited to the employee when payments are complete. One full year of earned vacation time must be utilized in that year prior to the use of any purchased vacation time.

(See Resolution No. 1225-04)

G. HOLIDAYS

The following days are paid holidays, as listed by the day of the week and calendar date of the appropriate year on which they fall. An employee in a bargaining unit subject to a collective negotiations agreement should consult that agreement.

New Years Day
 Martin Luther King's Birthday*
 Lincoln's Birthday
 Washington's Birthday*
 Good Friday
 Memorial Day*
 Independence Day
 Labor Day
 Columbus Day*
 Election Day
 Veterans' Day
 Thanksgiving Day
 Day after Thanksgiving
 Christmas Day

* As provided by Federal and State Law.

Holidays falling on a Sunday will be observed on the following Monday. Holidays falling on a Saturday are observed on the Friday before the holiday. . If a holiday falls during a period of unpaid leave of absence, the employee will not be paid for the holiday. Holidays occurring during vacation or sick leave are not counted as a day of vacation or sick leave.

H. PERSONAL LEAVE

An employee may take personal leave for personal, business, or religious reasons.

Personal Leave Entitlement

All full-time employees shall receive one personal leave day after each completed four consecutive months of employment prior to the January 1 after their date of hire.

All full-time employees shall be granted three personal leave days at the beginning of each calendar year in anticipation of continued employment. Full-time Social Services employees hired prior to July 1, 1990, who have completed five years of continuous employment shall be granted four personal leave days at the beginning of each calendar year in anticipation of continued employment.

Part-time employees receive pro-rated personal leave benefits. Temporary and seasonal employees are not eligible for personal leave benefits.

Personal leave must be taken in full, half and quarter day increments.

Notification

An employee must apply for personal leave to his or her Division Head by completing the Leave Request form. The employee must provide the reason for the requested leave and apply for it as far in advance as possible but not less than 72 hours. An employee may take personal leave only if the Division Head or his or her designee approves and grants the leave. If the requested leave is for business reasons, the employee must demonstrate that the business purpose could not be scheduled after working hours.

Limitations on Usage

No personal leave will be applied for, approved, or granted immediately before or after any vacation period, holiday period, or weekend, except under extraordinary circumstances.

Accrual of Personal Leave

Employees must take personal leave in the calendar year in which it is earned. Personal leave days cannot be accumulated from year to year.

Any employee who exhausts all of his or her personal leave in any one year shall not be credited with additional paid personal leave until the beginning of the next calendar year.

Separation of Employee

An employee who has resigned, was dismissed or has otherwise been separated from employment will not be paid for any unused personal time.

Unionized Employees

Unionized employees shall receive personal leave benefits in accordance with their respective collective bargaining agreements.

I. JURY SERVICE

An employee who is required to be present for jury service in any court of New Jersey, any court in another state, the United States District Court of New Jersey, or any other Federal District Court during his or her scheduled working hours or during his or her scheduled work shift will be excused and granted leave with pay.

The County requires employees to:

1. Submit a written request for leave with a copy of the summons to their Division Head within three business days after receipt of the summons;
2. Inquire about the anticipated length of service and inform the Division Head of the expected duration in advance of accepting service;
3. Notify the Division Head as soon as possible if the length of jury duty has been extended beyond the original return date;
4. Report for work at any time as his or her presence as a juror is not required;
5. Provide the County with an appropriate certification or order from the assignment judge, clerk of the court or such other officer as appropriate setting forth the period of jury duty service; and
6. Reimburse the County for any payments or fees received as a result of such jury service upon receipt of such compensation.

J. DEATH IN THE FAMILY

Full-time and part-time employees will be granted up to five (5) consecutive working days of paid leave commencing on the day of death or the day of the funeral in the event of the death of a spouse, civil union partner, domestic partner, or child.

Full-time and part-time employees will be granted up to three (3) consecutive working days of paid leave commencing on the day of death or the day of the funeral in the event of the death of the employee's mother, father, sister, brother, grandparent, mother-in-law, father-in-law, grandchild, or relative residing in the employee's household.

Employees should notify their Division Head of their intent to take bereavement leave as soon as possible. The County may require that the employee produce reasonable proof of death.

Employees in a bargaining unit shall be entitled to bereavement leave in accordance with their respective collective negotiation agreements.

Temporary and seasonal employees are not entitled to paid bereavement leave.

Any extension of absences under this policy may, at the employee's option and with the consent of the Division Head, be charged against available vacation or personal time.

K. CONVENTION LEAVE

Convention Leave will be granted in accordance with New Jersey statute, the Administrative Code at N.J.A.C. 4A:6-1.13, and/or the employee's collective negotiations agreement.

L. MILITARY LEAVE

The County of Union recognizes that a strong, ready Reserve and National Guard are essential to the defense of this nation in time of national emergency, disaster, domestic violence, or foreign aggression. The County also encourages its employees to serve in the Reserve or National Guard and recognizes the great personal and economic sacrifices of the patriotic men and women who may be called to duty in time of crisis.

Military leave with pay will be granted to an employee in accordance with N.J.A.C. 4A:6-1.11, N.J.S.A. 38:23-1, N.J.S.A. 38a:4-4 and the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act ("USERRA").

Organized Militia

Any permanent or full-time temporary officer or employee, who is a member of the organized reserve of the Army of the United States, United States Naval Reserve, United States Air Force Reserve or United States Marine Corps Reserve, or other affiliated organization, including the National Guard of other states, shall be entitled to a leave of absence without loss of pay or time on all work days on which he or she is engaged in any period of Federal active duty, up to thirty (30) work days in any calendar year. A military leave of absence is in addition to the employees' regular vacation or other accrued leave. Any leave of absence for such duty in excess of thirty (30) work days will be with differential pay and without loss of time for the duration of the mandatory activation.

A full-time temporary officer or employee who has served under such temporary appointment for less than one year will receive military leave without pay but without loss of time.

New Jersey Organized Militia

Any permanent or full-time officer or employee who is a member of the New Jersey organized militia shall be entitled, in addition to pay received, if any, as a member of the organized militia, to a leave of absence without loss of pay or time on all days during which he or she shall be engaged in State or Federal active duty, up to ninety (90) work days in any calendar year. Any leave of absence for such duty in excess of ninety (90) work days will be with differential pay and without loss of time for the duration of the mandatory activation.

A full-time temporary officer or employee who has served under such temporary appointment for less than one year will receive military leave without pay but without loss of time.

Procedure

In all cases involving military leave, the employee must, as soon as possible, provide the Division Head with notice of the call to military duty prior to beginning the military leave, unless giving notice is impossible, unreasonable, or precluded by military necessity. The Division Head will forward the request and supporting documentation if any to the Department of Personnel by the end of the next working day. The Department of Personnel will respond to the request in writing to the employee and the Division Head in accordance with N.J.A.C. § 4A:6-1.11 within five days.

Health Insurance and Pension Benefits – Mandatory Activation

Health benefits for the employee and eligible dependents, if applicable, continue as if the employee were actively on the job for the duration of the mandatory activation.

Members of the State administered retirement systems (PERS and PFRS) will continue accruing service and salary credit in the system for the duration of the mandatory activation. Employees are required to pay the employee portion of the pension contributions to receive credit.

Seniority and Accrual of Paid Leave

Employees on military leave will continue to accrue seniority, sick and vacation time for the duration of the mandatory activation as if they were on the job. Upon return from leave from active duty only, the employee's Department Director may allow payment of vacation. The maximum allowable payment is one year's accrual for the affected employee based upon the employee's actual rate at the time of return.

Reinstatement

To be reinstated by the County without loss of privileges or seniority, the employee must report for duty with the County within the time required by law following release from active duty under honorable circumstances. Pursuant to the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act ("USERRA"), any employee released from active duty under honorable circumstances shall return to work without loss of privileges or seniority within the following time limits: for service less than thirty-one (31) calendar days, the employee must return to work on the beginning of the first regularly scheduled workday or eight (8) hours after the end of military duty, with reasonable allowances for commuting; for service of thirty-one (31) to one hundred eighty (180) calendar days, the employee must submit an application for reinstatement within fourteen (14) calendar days after completing military duty; for service greater than one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days, the employee must submit an application for reinstatement within ninety (90) calendar days after completing military duty.

The County does not provide differential pay and benefits for any transition period following the end of the mandatory activation and the employee's reinstatement by the County.

In accordance with legal requirement, employees who take military leave are required to:

- Provide the County with notice of the leave as soon as possible by providing the Department Director with notice of the call to military duty prior to beginning the military leave;
- Provide the County with proof of active duty, its duration and the compensation received;
- Apply for reinstatement within the time required by law;
- Have five years or less of cumulative service in the uniformed services while employed by the County;

- Have a creditable military record including completion of all required training and full-time service and be discharged under honorable conditions.

Upon return from a military leave of absence, the employee will be reinstated as required by law. Failure to comply with the requirement enumerated above or as required by law will jeopardize an employee's reemployment rights.

Job Protected Military Leave

Pursuant to the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (the "FMLA"), County employees may be eligible for unpaid, job-protected leave:

1. Because of any qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent is a covered military member on active duty (or has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty) in support of a contingency operation ("Qualifying Exigency Leave");
2. To care for a covered service member with a serious injury or illness if the employee is the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of the service member ("Military Care Giver Leave").

(Employees should consult the County's *Military Family Leave Policy*)

M. PERSONAL LEAVES OF ABSENCE WITHOUT PAY

Employees who want to take a leave of absence for a reason not covered by the FMLA or NJFLA, or beyond the leave time provided under the FMLA or NJFLA, may be granted an unpaid personal leave of absence for up to one year at the sole discretion of the Department Director or his or her designee, if the leave does not cause undue operational disruption. In exceptional circumstances, leave may be extended beyond one year. (N.J.A.C. § 4A:6-1.1(a)(2)). The leave of absence must include the use of any accrued personal, vacation and, if applicable, sick leave time regardless of the length of leave requested. The portion of the leave that runs beyond the exhaustion of personal, vacation and, if applicable, sick leave will be without pay.

To Request a Leave of Absence To request a leave of absence without pay, an employee must submit his or her request in writing, relaying all facts bearing on the request, including the reason, the beginning date, and the expected date of return, to his or her Division Head. The Division Head will send the employee's request to the Department Director within two working days along with a recommendation to approve or deny the request. The Department Director will consider each case on its merits and, without establishing a precedent, make such decision as his or her judgment dictates. The Department Director will approve or deny the leave within two

weeks of receipt of the written request. The approval or denial will be in writing to the employee and the Division Head.

If an employee wishes to extend a leave without pay beyond one year, he or she must submit a written request to his or her Department Director and to the Division Head stating the reasons for the extension and the inclusive dates of the additional leave. The County must request approval from the New Jersey Civil Service Commission if it wishes to grant such an extension.

Notification *The request for the leave must be submitted 30 days in advance of the desired commencement of the leave. If the request is for an extension of a leave taken under the FMLA and/or NJFLA, where the employee has/will take(n) the maximum amount of leave permitted under the FMLA and/or NJFLA, the request for continuation of the leave must be submitted 30 days in advance of the expiration of the FMLA or NJFLA leave. The Department Director can waive these notice requirements in their sole discretion and without precedential effect, depending upon the circumstances for the request for the leave.*

Reasons for a Leave of Absence Personal leaves of absence may be granted for medical or educational reasons, family circumstances, or other good cause. An employee requesting a leave of absence without pay due to personal illness or to care for a family member should refer to the County's *Family and Medical Leave Act Policy*.

Personal leaves are not granted for the purpose of seeking or accepting employment with another employer, or for extended vacation time. Employees must use leaves of absence for the purpose it was granted. The failure to use a leave of absence for the purpose for which it was granted may provide grounds for disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

Accrual of Leave Time Employees will accrue paid time off (i.e., personal leave, vacation leave, sick leave) while using accrued time toward a personal leave of absence. Employees who have exhausted all of their available time do not accrue leave time during unpaid leave.

An employee on leave of absence without pay status for 15 working days during any month will not accrue any sick, vacation, or other leave time for that month.

Health benefits may also be impacted. An employee on a leave of absence without pay should contact their department personnel liaison for information regarding medical benefits during such leave.

Confirmation of Return to Work

An employee granted a leave of absence without pay must, in writing either confirm the date of return or request an extension. For leaves of six months or more in duration, written notification of intent must be submitted four weeks before the leave expires. For leaves of less than six

months, written notification must be submitted on the date agreed upon at the time the leave was granted.

Consequences of Failing to Return to Work

A personal leave is granted with the understanding that the employee intends to return to work for the County. If the employee fails to return within five (5) business days after the expiration of the leave, the employee shall be considered to have voluntarily resigned.

N. FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE

The County provides family and medical leaves in accordance with applicable law, including the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993; the New Jersey Family Leave Act and New Jersey Family Leave Insurance. Please consult the County's *Family and Medical Leave Act Policy* or contact the Division of Personnel for more information.

Non-Accrual of time during Leave

Employees do not earn/accrue additional sick leave, personal time and vacation time during an unpaid family or medical leave.

(See Resolution No. 81-99 adopted 1/21/99)

O. FURLOUGH (VOLUNTARY LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITHOUT PAY)

The purpose of a voluntary furlough program is to lessen the need for reductions in force by allowing an employee to take unpaid leave with accrual of leave time, anniversary dates, and seniority as if the employee were in pay status. Any employee wishing to take a voluntary leave of absence without pay may take such a leave for up to three consecutive weeks (fifteen working days) with the approval of his or her Department Head. Any exception to this policy requires the approval of the County Manager's Office. These leaves of absence will include the maintenance of certain benefits not generally available for unpaid leaves:

1. All health, dental and prescription insurance coverage;
2. Maintenance of all seniority rights;
3. Accrual of all sick, vacation and personnel time; and
4. Maintenance of all pension benefits through buy-back of time deductions made in the weeks succeeding the leave period.

P. RETURN TO PAY STATUS FROM LEAVE

Upon return from leave without pay, the employee should check with appropriate individuals in order to confirm activation of pay and all other related benefits, which may have been affected by the leave. Failure to do so may result in a delay to full pay status and it may cause unnecessary hardship for the employee.

VIII - HEALTH BENEFITS

A. HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS

Availability of health benefit plans is subject to any applicable specific collective negotiations agreement. Additionally, each employee should carefully review plan literature and payroll deduction schedule for specific information about each plan.

Eligibility. An employee becomes eligible to participate in the health benefits program on the first day of the first month following the completion of sixty days of employment. A part-time employee must be hired to work a minimum of twenty hours per week, fifty-two weeks of the year, to be considered eligible for benefits. A plan enrollment form and a payroll deduction sheet must be completed by each employee at the time of hire.

A County employee may select from several comprehensive health benefit options for their medical coverage. An employee should exercise careful consideration as to his or her family's specific medical needs and thoroughly review plan literature prior to the election of a health benefits plan. The health benefits program provides medical benefits for an eligible employee, his or her spouse, and dependent children. Deductions apply to all employees and can vary as to the type of coverage and plan chosen. Please contact the Health Benefits Unit of the Division of Personnel for details. .

All plans offered provide a comprehensive range of benefits, including hospital, surgical, diagnostic and out-patient services. Physician access and networks vary from plan to plan. General outlines of the plans and specific details are available from the Health Benefits Unit of the Division of Personnel .

Once a health benefits plan is selected, the employee must remain in that plan until the next scheduled open enrollment. Open enrollments are scheduled yearly for each program offered. Information as to the exact dates of open enrollments can be obtained from Health Benefits Unit of the Division of Personnel. When an employee has a change in his or her family status due to marriage, death, divorce, birth/adoption of a child, a child obtaining the age of twenty-six (26) years, or any other change in family status that could impact employee and dependent insurance coverage or COBRA benefits, it is necessary to report the event within thirty days (30) of the

occurrence on the correct enrollment/change form to the Division of Personnel. Please also refer to plan literature regarding specific reporting requirements. Failure to do so could result in a loss of coverage until the next scheduled open enrollment period. Identification cards and plan information will be forwarded to an employee at the time of eligibility.

Voluntary Health Benefit Buyout. Employees with medical coverage from another source may wish to participate in the Voluntary Health Insurance Buy Out Program. Details of the program may be obtained from the Health Benefits Unit of the Division of Personnel. Employees who take advantage of the Health Benefit Buy Out Option retain the right to re-enter the County's Health Benefit Programs on a monthly basis should they lose coverage from another source.

Upon termination from employment, coverage under the health plan ceases at the end of a thirty-day grace period. Retirees may elect to continue coverage under the health plan but in accordance with specific criteria as provided by Personnel. Please contact your respective Health Benefits Unit of the Division of Personnel for details.

Health Insurance Contributions

On June 28, 2011 the State of New Jersey passed Pension and Health Benefit Reform (Chapter 78, P.L. 2011). The law significantly changes how public employees contribute towards their health insurance.

The State-Mandated changes will be phased in over four steps. Until fully implemented, employees will pay the greater of either their current health care contribution of 1.5% of salary, or the calculation based on the new law. Under the new calculation employees pay a percentage of their health care premiums which now include health insurance, prescription, base dental and base vision.

The law took effect on July 1, 2011. However it permitted local governments additional time to develop systems to administer these changes. Hence, "Year 1" began on January 1, 2012. Regardless of when the County begins collecting "Year 1" contributions, the law requires "Year 2" contributions to begin on the anniversary date of the law, July 1, 2012.

Additional information about Chapter 78 is available on the State's Website at: www.state.nj.us/dca/lgs/research/reschmenu.shtml#health.

B. MEDICARE

The Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982 (TEFRA) requires that an active employee, age 65 and over be given the opportunity to select either the employer's group health coverage or the Medicare program as the primary coverage. The Deficit Reduction Act of 1984 (DEFRA), effective January 1, 1985, modifies TEFRA by expanding the scope of the working

aged provision. Under DEFRA, the spouse of an employee, age 65 and over, also has a choice between the group's regular health coverage or the Medicare program as the primary coverage.

Unless otherwise specified by the employee, it is the County's customary practice to designate the employee/spouse as TEFRA/DEFRA eligible, thereby maintaining the County's group plans as the primary health benefits provider.

If an employee or eligible dependent elects Medicare as primary before retirement, the County plan will terminate.

Medicare and Retirement

When an employee who is age 65 or over retires, or retires under age 65 and becomes Medicare eligible due to age or a disabling condition, the Medicare program becomes the primary coverage. This also applies to dependents of retirees who qualify for Medicare. Three months before retirement, the employee and /or the eligible spouse must go to his or her Social Security Office and sign up for Medicare, Parts A and B.

Please note that the health plan will process claims for retirees age 65 or over as if Medicare is in place.

C. DENTAL PLAN

Availability of dental plans varies based on the employee's specific collective negotiation agreements. Plans also vary according to dental networks. To review dental networks, verify availability of plans under specific collective negotiation agreements or determine the amount of payroll deduction contact the Health Benefits Unit of the Division of Personnel .

Eligibility - An employee becomes eligible to participate in the Dental program on the first day of the first month following the completion of sixty days of employment. For P.B.A. members, *i.e.*, officers of the corrections, sheriffs, and police departments, eligibility begins on the first day of the first month following the completion of ninety days of employment. A plan selection form and a payroll deduction sheet must be completed by an employee at the time of hire.

Changes in family status due to divorce, death, marriage or any other change in family status that could impact coverage must be reported to the Personnel Division within thirty (30) days of the event to adjust the benefits accordingly. Failure to do so may result in loss of coverage until the next scheduled open enrollment period. Employees should also review their specific plan literature for notification requirements.

An open enrollment period is offered once annually. During this time, an employee is given a choice to remain with his or her current selection or switch to one of the other plans offered.

Coverage under the dental plans ceases on the last day of the month following the day of termination from employment.

Certain plan selections require payroll deductions from the employee.

Upon termination of employment, dental coverage ends on the last day of the month in which the termination occurs.

D. PRESCRIPTION PLAN

Eligibility The County of Union provides to an eligible employee, his or her spouse, and dependents to age 26 years, medical prescription drug benefits. An employee becomes eligible to participate in the plan following the completion of sixty (60) days of employment.

A detailed co-payment schedule can be obtained in union contracts or from the Division of Personnel.

Mail Order Program. For enhanced prescription drug benefits, the County offers its employees and dependents the advantage of mail order service. The mail order program is ideal for those individuals who take prescription medication on an on-going basis. The mail order advantage is that there is a lower co-payment for the prescription and it provides a 90 day supply. Mail order forms and directions for use are mailed to each eligible County employee with his or her ID cards. For additional forms or more information contact Health Benefits Unit of the Division of Personnel.

E. VISION SERVICE PLAN

Eye care coverage, which includes a yearly exam with a certified ophthalmologist and funds toward eyewear, is provided. Dependents may be added during a qualifying event, or during the yearly open enrollment for a minimal bi-weekly payroll deduction.

F. TEMPORARY DISABILITY PLAN

The County does not participate in the temporary disability portion of the New Jersey State Unemployment Insurance Program. Contractual employees should refer to their collective negotiation agreements pertaining to temporary disability plan offerings. However, non-contractual (exclusionary) employees may chose to purchase insurance through the Voluntary Based Plan. Please see the **Optional Employee Benefits** section on page 63 for more information.

Benefits While on Leave of Absence

Employees on approved leave of absences **with pay** continue to enjoy their health benefits without interruption.

Employees granted a leave **without pay** for any reason are covered under the health benefits plan (according to timeframe list below) as long as they continue to pay their bi-weekly contributions toward their health benefit:

Health Insurance – Thirty days

Dental Insurance – End of the month from the last date of pay

Prescription Coverage - The last day on the payroll

VSP Eye Care Plan – End of the month from the last day of pay

Certain types of leave without pay maintain health benefits intact for up to twelve weeks within a two-year period. Please contact the Division of Personnel for details.

Additionally, employees may be eligible to maintain all health benefits plans at the premium rate paid by the employer for a period of up to nine months.

When employees return to full employment, health benefits are reinstated as follows:

Health Insurance – The first month following the return to work

Dental Insurance - The first of the month following the return to work

Prescription Coverage – The day of returning to work

VSP Eye Care Plan – The first of the month following the return to work

Please review any applicable collective negotiation agreement, and call the Health Benefits Unit of the Division of Personnel for additional information concerning your health insurance while on leave without pay.

IX - MANDATORY EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

A. CONSOLIDATED OMNIBUS BUDGET RECONCILIATION ACT (COBRA)

(See 29 U.S.C. §1161 et seq.)

The County of Union complies with COBRA and all applicable amendments. Covered employees and their dependents who lose insurance coverage for any of the following reasons are eligible to continue their coverage through COBRA: termination, reduction in working hours, divorce or legal separation, death of the employee, eligibility for Medicare or loss of dependent child status under the insurance plan. All administrative rules and processes as well as changes in plan benefits and premiums apply to those on continuation coverage.

In the event of divorce or legal separation, or the loss of dependent child status under the plan, a covered employee or dependent must notify the Division of Personnel within 60 days to maintain the right to continue coverage. At that time, the Division of Personnel and/or the County's COBRA Administrator will provide enrollment materials to the employee or covered dependent within 14 days of such notification.

The covered employee or dependent has 60 days to elect continuation of coverage from either the date that coverage would ordinarily have ended under the plan by reason of a qualifying event or the date of notification, whichever comes later. Election of continuation of coverage is established by completing and returning enrollment materials to Human Resources.

COBRA premiums will be billed by our COBRA Administrator, and the first premium will be due within 45 days of the date of election. Subsequent premiums must be received within the terms set forth by the provider. Failure to make timely payments will result in termination of coverage without notice.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 reduces the COBRA premium in some cases. The premium reduction is available to certain individuals who experience a qualifying event that is an involuntary termination of employment during the period beginning with September 1, 2008 and ending with May 31, 2010. In some cases, employees who experienced a reduction in hours before their termination may also be eligible for the subsidy. If an employee qualifies for the premium reduction, the employee pays 35 percent of the COBRA premium otherwise due to the plan. This premium reduction is available for up to fifteen months. If an employee's COBRA continuation coverage lasts for more than fifteen months, the employee will be required to pay the full amount to continue COBRA continuation coverage. See Human Resources for more details, restrictions, and obligations as well as the forms necessary to establish eligibility.

The law requires that an employee be afforded the opportunity to maintain continuation coverage for three years unless the employee lost group health coverage because of a termination of employment or reduction in hours. In that case, the required continuation coverage period is eighteen (18) months, unless the Social Security Administration determines that the employee was disabled at the time of termination or reduction of hours and the employee informs the Human Resources before the end of the eighteen (18) month period, in which case coverage may be extended up to twenty nine (29) months. If during the eighteen (18) months another event takes place that also entitles the employee to coverage, coverage may be extended. The total amount of continued coverage is limited to thirty six (36) months.

COBRA continuation coverage will end for any of the following reasons: The County of Union discontinues its insurance plan, the premium payment is not made in a timely fashion, and the

person who elected continuation of coverage becomes covered under another insurance plan or Medicare.

B. HEALTH INSURANCE AND PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1996 (HIPAA)

HIPAA has important consequences for individuals who move from one job to another or who have pre-existing medical conditions. Essentially, HIPAA limits the exclusion period under a new insurance policy for a pre-existing medical condition to 12 months (or 18 months for late enrollment). Additionally, if the individual can demonstrate that he or she had previous insurance coverage (without a break of 63 days or more), the individual can reduce the period of exclusion by the number of months of previous coverage. Proof of prior coverage is through a Certificate of Creditable Coverage, which is provided to an insured when participation in a health benefits plan terminates. HIPAA also prohibits discrimination in enrollment and premiums against employees and their dependents based on health status, and provides for the strict confidentiality of all medical information. For more information please contact the Division of Personnel.

C. PENSION - PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (PERS)

Mandated by the State Pension System, it is a **condition** of employment that the employees join the retirement system if:

1. The employee has permanent or unclassified status, or
2. The employee is on the payroll for one year (12 continuous months) with a temporary or provisional status. A temporary or provisional employee who is receiving a salary for one (1) year **must** enroll, (including prior time if transferred from another Union County Department).

The only exceptions to this enrollment policy are:

1. Newly elected officials as of 7/1/07 are ineligible for PERS membership. They must enroll in Defined Contribution Retirement Program (DCRP). Additionally appointed individuals are to be enrolled in DCRP. To enroll the employee must earn at least \$5,000.
2. Seasonal employees.
3. Provisional or temporary employees covered by Civil Service with less than 12 months of continuous service.

4. Employees who earn less than \$1,500 annually (applies to employees enrolled *prior to July 1, 2007* or were eligible to enroll *on or after July 1, 2007 and prior to November 2, 2008*).
5. Employees who earn less than \$7,700 annually (applies to employees enrolled *on or after November 2, 2008 and on or before May 21, 2010*). Enrollment in DCRP is mandatory for those earning \$5,000 or more.
6. Employees enrolled after May 21, 2010 work less than the minimum requirement of at least 32 hours per week.
7. A Workforce Investment Act employee.
8. A PFRS eligible employee or an employee in a PBA or FOP bargaining unit.

The enrollment application is filed online by the County. An employee will receive a Division of Pensions Certification of Payroll Deductions from the County. The Certification will list both the enrollment date and date that deductions will begin.

Enrollment rules and regulations are described in general terms in this handbook and may not cover all situations. If you have specific questions please refer to the *State of New Jersey Public Employees' Retirement System Plan Handbook*, The State of New Jersey Pension's website www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions, or contact the Department of Finance, Pension Administrator at (908) 527-4058.

If any information described herein conflicts with any official literature from the New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits, the State information will control.

D. LIFE INSURANCE - PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Upon enrollment into the Public Employees Retirement System ("PERS"), eligible employees are insured for what is called Non-Contributory Group Life Insurance. Non-Contributory Group Life Insurance is free, and valued at 1½ times the annual salary of the member in the event of death while actively employed.

In addition to the Non-Contributory insurance, most PERS members are offered Contributory Life Insurance; which is also valued at 1½ times the annual salary. It is compulsory to participate in the Contributory portion of the Group Life Insurance plan for a period of one year from date of pension enrollment. After the first 12 months, the employee may discontinue the Contributory Insurance coverage by completing the appropriate form. The benefits of Non-Contributory Life

Insurance and Contributory Life Insurance currently offer a combined death benefit of three times a participant's annual salary.

The calculation for this Contributory Insurance deduction is based on a flat rate of .50% (.0050) of salary, paid for by the employee, through bi-weekly payroll deductions.

This rider for life insurance policy is mailed directly to the member by the New Jersey Division of Pensions at approximately the same time pension deductions begin.

If any information described herein conflicts with any official literature from the New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits, the State information will control.

E. SOCIAL SECURITY

Social Security deductions are listed on the paycheck stub as "OASDI" (Old Age Survivor Disability Insurance) and the Medicare portion of Social Security as "MEDIC." All deductions are paid directly to the Social Security Administration.

Every three years, an employee should obtain a historical printout of eligible Social Security earnings. This printout will date back to the first year of work. It will allow an employee to see if his or her account has been properly credited. Call the local office of the Social Security Administration for necessary forms.

F. UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

The County participates in the New Jersey State Unemployment Insurance Program. Each employee must contribute at the rate established by the New Jersey Unemployment Board. If an employee becomes totally or partially unemployed, he or she should file a claim for benefits at the nearest Unemployment Insurance Claim Office on the first working day following unemployment. Eligibility requirements are determined by the State of New Jersey, not the County of Union. **Please note:** The County of Union **does not** participate in the temporary disability portion of the New Jersey State Unemployment Insurance Program. However it does participate in the paid family leave portion pursuant to the New Jersey Paid Family Leave Insurance, for further information or to apply on line, please see refer to the state website at www.nj.gov/labor directly.

X - OPTIONAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Union County offers eligible employees a voluntary benefits package to help round out and fill in gaps in core coverage, as well as providing protection during difficult times in life. Every year during the annual enrollment period, the following individually owned benefits are offered:

- UNUM Whole Life- Provides both living and death benefits and accumulates cash value.
- UNUM American Critical Illness- Provides a lump-sum cash benefit for covered illnesses as well as a health screening benefit.
- UNUM Short Term Disability- Provides replacement income during time off from work for medical disability.
- UNUM Accident- Provides benefit payments for accident and injury care.

These voluntary benefits are customized to suit the employee's needs and can be taken with the employee when the employee leaves or retire from Union County.

Also, all year around, PetFirst Pet Insurance and the SmartSavings Discount Marketplace are available. You can find information on these plans, as well as many tools and additional benefits information on the SmartWay Benefits Portal at www.smartway.motivano.com. Click on "New User" and enter (Username)UnionCounty1, (Password) Smartway1. If you are already registered, click on the "Existing User" tab and enter your information.

Union County benefits include savings on **auto and home insurance** through Liberty Mutual's Group Savings Plus® program. This program offers employees to purchase high-quality auto, home and renters insurance at discounted group rates.

Program features include:

- Up to a 10% discount off Liberty Mutual's standard rates
- Convenient payment options- including payroll deduction, electronic funds transfer or direct bill at home
- Individualized service from local representatives
- Guaranteed rates for 12 months
- Highly rated, 24-hour claims service

For a free no-obligation quote, please call:

Anthony Minicozzi
908-464-1506 x51135
Anthony.Minicozzi@LibertyMutual.com

Peter Rullan
908-454-3062 x53233
Peter.Rullan@LibertyMutual.com

A. ADULT DAY CARE

Union County offers its employees information about adult day care services, some at reduced rates, at various centers throughout the County. For more information, please contact the Department of Human Services, Office of the Director, at (908) 527-4890.

B. CHILD CARE

Union County offers its employees information about an assortment of state licensed childcare services, some at reduced rates, at various centers throughout the County. Services vary from newborn day care to after school care according to agency. For more information, please contact the Department of Human Services, Office of the Director at (908)527-4890.

C. ANNUITY PROGRAM

All contributing members to the public pension systems (PERS or PFRS) are eligible to participate in the Supplemental Annuity Program, and may do so at any time throughout employment by completing the appropriate form. Supplemental Annuity Collective Trust ("SACT") is a mutual fund, which is administered and controlled by the State Investment Council through the Division of Investment. Interested parties may contact the Department of Finance, 5th floor, Administration Building.

D. CREDIT UNION

The Union County Federal Credit Union is operated for the benefit of its members. Its objective is to meet the members' financial needs at the lowest possible cost, and to avoid unnecessary risk while serving the borrowing needs of its members. The Credit Union, located on the 3rd Floor in the Old Courthouse, is open for walk-in business Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., except the last working day of the month when the hours are 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The phone line, (908)527-4015, is available Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Credit Union is closed the last working day of the year.

The Runnells Hospital Employee Federal Credit Union also offers Credit Union Services for its employees. It is located on the Ground Floor of Runnells Hospital and is open for business Tuesday to Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mondays are by appointment only. The phone line, (908)771-5872, is available via an answering machine 24 hours a day.

E. DEFERRED COMPENSATION

An eligible County employee may join, on a voluntary basis, the Union County Deferred Compensation Plan from The Hartford. This plan is supervised by the National Association of Counties (NACO).

This plan allows an employee to defer part of his or her income until retirement. The deferred portion of an employee's salary will be deducted from each paycheck. . The Federal Income Tax (FIT) will not apply to this portion of salary until retirement and/or withdrawal. For more information, please contact the Department of Finance at (908)527-4085.

The withholding funds may, at the employee's option, be deferred into a guaranteed interest fund or into one of several equity funds, which will be explained fully to the employee upon application to participate in the plan. For more information, please call the Finance Department at (908)527-4088, or The Hartford Customer Service at (800)528-9009 ext. 2 .

F. FLEX SPENDING ACCOUNT

Allows the employee to set aside "pre-tax" dollars to pay for Unreimbursed Medical expenses for medical, dental, vision, or hearing expenses for the employee and their dependents. The Dependant Care Spending Account reimburses the employee with pre-tax dollars for dependant daycare expenses. For more information, please contact the Finance Department at (908) 527-4088.

G. DIRECT DEPOSIT

The County offers employees the opportunity to have their bi-weekly paycheck directly deposited into private accounts. For more information, please contact the Payroll Unit of the Department of Finance at (908) 527-4082.

H. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Kean University Kean University, in cooperation with the County of Union, offers Undergraduate Certificate in Public Management, Graduate Certificate in Public Management, Graduate Certificate in Public Management Enhancement and Certificate in Emergency Management Programs. Selection of employees eligible to participate in these programs will be made by the County Manager. Reimbursement is 50% (exclusive of books and other miscellaneous expenses) for participation in the program. An employee interested in more information on any of the Certificate Programs should contact the Division of Personnel .

Certificate in Public Administration (Undergraduate Program) This Program consists of fifteen (15) credits, lending to a Certificate in the area of Public Administration. The County will provide the qualified employee with 50% assistance in the cost of the tuition and course fees, excluding books and miscellaneous expenses, at an annual maximum not to exceed \$2,500.00 per employee.

Certificate in Public Management (Graduate Program) This Program consist of 12 credits and is geared toward giving the student a broad theoretical base for understanding public policy and administration as well as the practical skills required of a good manager. The County will provide the qualified employee with 50% assistance in the cost of the tuition and course fees, excluding books and miscellaneous expenses, at an annual maximum not to exceed \$4,500.00 per employee.

Certificate in Public Management Enhancement Program (Master's Program) This program is geared towards employees who have completed the Graduate Program in Public Management and wish to pursue a Master's Degree in Public Administration. The County will provide the qualified employee at the rate of 75% for credits 13-30 and 100% for credits 31-42 towards the cost of the tuition and course fees, excluding books and miscellaneous expenses, at an annual maximum not to exceed \$6,000.00 per employee.

Certificate in Emergency Management. This program is New Jersey's first and only program that helps public and private officials in all areas of government and business prepare for, and more importantly help prevent, threats to our state and our nation's security. The Certificate program will expand understanding in areas such as intelligence gathering, bioterrorism, and public health policy and crisis communications. Participants earn up to 15 credits toward a Master of Public Administration of a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice or Public Administration.

To be eligible for the Kean University Tuition Reimbursement Program employees must meet the following criteria:

1. Complete two or more years of consecutive full-time employment;
2. Be in good standing with a satisfactory performance record and receive approval from the County Manager in conjunction with Kean University's Administration;
3. Complete the Tuition Reimbursement Application;
4. Sign a Tuition Reimbursement Repayment Agreement , whereby the qualified employee must agree in writing to repay the County of Union the amount of the tuition received within two (2) years prior to their termination for cause or voluntary termination date;

5. Provide a Request for Reimbursement of Tuition, with evidence of satisfactory grade, and an itemized receipt for tuition per semester.

Graduate and Undergraduate Education.

Assistance may be available in the form of education leave with or without stipend, tuition reimbursement or tuition aid. An employee should refer to his or her collective negotiations agreement (if applicable) to see if he or she is eligible.

I. LOANS

After being a contributing member in PERS or PFRS for a minimum of three years, an employee may be eligible to borrow from the pension system. Loan applications are available in the Department of Finance or in the respective department and, normally, processing takes the Division of Pension in Trenton three to four weeks. Two loans per year are permitted. For more information refer to the Automated Information System (AIS) at (609) 777-1777.

J. REIMBURSEMENT FOR UNUSED SICK LEAVE AT RETIREMENT

An employee who retires with at least twenty-five (25) years of service solely with Union County and who has at least one hundred accumulated sick days to his or her credit upon the effective date of retirement may be eligible for this benefit. Employees may review the complete regulations relative to this benefit in the Division of Personnel.

An employee represented by a union or association should consult his or her union representative or the collective negotiation agreement applicable to his or her bargaining unit.

K. REIMBURSEMENT FOR UNUSED VACATION LEAVE AT RETIREMENT

An employee who is retiring on a pension based on length of service will be entitled to the full vacation for the calendar year in which he or she retires. An employee represented by a union or association should consult his or her union representative or the applicable collective negotiations agreement.

XI - OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND ILLNESSES

A. WORKERS' COMPENSATION

All employees are covered by workers' compensation insurance provided by the County, for medical care and temporary disability benefits if an employee is disabled, either through injury or illness, as a result of or arising from employment.

B. ACCIDENT REPORTING PROCEDURES

When an employee suffers an injury or illness arising out of and during the course of his or her employment, the employee is to immediately notify his or her Supervisor or Superior that he or she has sustained a workplace injury/illness. The Supervisor should refer the injured employee to one of the County's approved workers' compensation care providers. An employee who is injured during the course of employment or who suffers an occupationally related disease must receive medical treatment from an approved workers' compensation care provider. Injuries that require first aid only are not to be reported.

-The Supervisor referring the employee should complete a Medical Services Authorization to Treat form and fax it to the medical facility. In addition, the employee should advise the emergency center that he or she is a County of Union employee and that the employee is requesting treatment for a work-related injury.

In the event of an **emergency** or if an approved workers' compensation facility is not conveniently located, and in the best judgment of the Supervisor the employee needs immediate medical care, the employee should be sent to the nearest hospital. Again, the employee should advise the emergency center that he or she is a County of Union employee and that the employee is requesting treatment for a work-related injury.

The injured employee's Supervisor must complete and sign the State of New Jersey Employer's *First Report of Accidental Injury Or Occupational Illness* and forward it to:

Department of Administrative Services
Division of Personnel Management and Labor Relations
Union County Administration Building, Sixth Floor
Elizabethtown Plaza
Elizabeth, NJ 07207

It is essential that this office receive the First Report of Injury Form within twenty-four (24) hours of the occurrence. Occupational injuries which occur on weekends must be received by the following day or next business day.

The names of witnesses should be included with the First Report of Injury Form, and a detailed explanation of all factors related to the incident should be attached. The County of Union Accident Investigation Report must also be completed and submitted at this time.

The treating physician will complete an Injury Visit Report Form. This form will indicate information regarding medical treatment provided, follow-up care (if necessary), and any limitations on the employee's work ability. The employee will receive the original copy of this form, which must be sent to the Division of Personnel upon his or her return to work. The Department should keep a copy of this form for its records.

The care facility may confer directly with an employee's Supervisor on any return to Modified/Light duty activities. In addition, an employee's Supervisor may contact the care facility directly regarding any concerns with an employee's return to work status. Any questions regarding an on-the-job accident and/or medical treatment provided should be referred to the Division of Personnel .

When an employee is scheduled for treatment by the insurance company's authorized physician or medical center during the employee's regular hours of work, the employee's attendance at the doctor's office or medical center will not be charged to the employee's sick leave accumulation, provided that upon completion of the visit, the employee returns to work if there is still time remaining in the regular hours of work.

C. FOLLOW UP VISITS

After every visit to the doctor or hospital, the employee will receive a medical report. The original copies of all medical reports must be turned in to the employee's supervisor and promptly forwarded to the Division of Personnel. It is imperative that an employee keep all scheduled appointments. All time lost from work due to occupational injury including consecutive or broken time must be reported to the Division of Personnel . It is especially important to immediately advise when the status of an injured employee changes (*e.g.*, light duty to full duty). Prompt notification will ensure that workers' compensation payments due the employee will commence without undue delay.

Additionally, when an employee is medically authorized by the treating physician to return to work following occupational injury, his or her supervisor must notify the Division of Personnel within twenty-four (24) hours of the authorization.

Please note that an employee must have written medical authorization for change in work status and/or return to work. An employee on light duty cannot return to full duty without medical authorization. In addition, an employee cannot be released from treatment and his or her case cannot be “closed,” until the employee submits medical discharge papers to his or her Department.

Telephone requests from an employee and/or his or her Supervisor for return to full duty and/or discharge will not be honored by the treating facility. An employee must have written medical authorization for change in work status and/or return to work.

By State statute, an employer is to provide medical treatment to an occupationally injured employee. As such, the employee is treated by the County’s workers’ compensation medical providers. This remains unchanged even when treatment has been completed and the employee has returned to work, but subsequently experiences a recurrence of similar injury (weeks or even months later). Further treatment must be requested by contacting the Division of Personnel. The Division of Personnel will make the request of the County’s insurance carrier. The County will not pay for unauthorized physicians, hospitals, diagnostic centers, physical therapy and similar medical providers and services with the exception of an emergency situation as described in this Policy.

A regular County employee who is on temporary assignment at Runnells and who receives treatment at the hospital Employee’s Clinic for injuries incurred while working at the hospital should advise his or her regular Supervisor immediately of the circumstances. It is the responsibility of the employee’s regular Supervisor to file the required first report of injury and follow procedures outlined in the preceding paragraphs.

Should any problem arise, or should there be any questions as to procedure, the Supervisor should immediately call the Division of Personnel at (908) 527 4160.

D. WORKERS’ COMPENSATION PAYMENT

If the County’s workers’ compensation carrier does not dispute the causal relationship between employment and an injury or illness, benefits are available as follows. An employee will receive his or her full pay when medically authorized for the first ninety (90) calendar days if the injury or illness arises out of the employee’s employment when such injury is not one that has been deliberately inflicted by a third party. An employee will receive his or her full pay when medically authorized for the first one hundred eighty (180) calendar days (three hundred sixty five (365) calendar days for Correction Officers) if the injury has been deliberately inflicted on the employee by any person or persons arising out of the employee’s employment. In either case, no charge will be made to the employee’s sick leave accumulation provided the employee turns over to the County any checks received for temporary compensation benefits from the County’s workers’ compensation carrier.

Failure to turn over workers' compensation checks will cause the employee's sick leave to be charged and will further result in the County taking such action as it deems appropriate to recover said monies.

After using the first ninety (90) calendar days or first one hundred eighty (180) calendar days (three hundred sixty five (365) calendar days for Correction Officers) as defined above, and if the employee remains absent under authorized medical treatment, the employee will have the option of retaining a workers' compensation check (less than full pay), not receiving any additional monies from the County, and not have any charge made to sick leave accumulation. **Alternatively**, if the employee wishes to receive full pay and charge sick leave accumulation, he or she will be permitted to do the same, provided the employee turns over to the County any workers' compensation checks received from the County's workers' compensation carrier.

E. RUNNELLS SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES

An employee at Runnells Hospital must report any work-related injury, accident, and/or illness to his or her Supervisor. The Supervisor will complete an Employee Clinic Card, which the employee will take to the hospital clinic. The employee will also complete and sign an Accident History in his or her own words. If the injury, accident, or illness is of an extreme or urgent nature, the affected person will be escorted to the clinic directly by responsible personnel on the scene.

Clinic personnel will fill out an Employee Accident Report Form and the *State of New Jersey Employer's First Report of Accidental Injury or Occupational Illness*. This does not apply to injuries requiring first aid only.

Prior to or after the employee's arrival at the clinic, the hospital physician will be contacted by the clinic nurse or the administrative nurse. The physician will make the determination regarding initial treatment and referral for further care, if necessary. If further care is required, the injured worker will be redirected to an approved workers' compensation medical facility.

In situations where the severity of the problem demands **immediate** attention, the employee will be referred to the nearest acute care hospital or emergency room.

All injuries which occur on the third shift, if urgent, should be referred to the nearest acute care hospital or emergency.

Following the initial treatment, an employee will be required to provide his or her own transportation for any further medical follow-up visits and/or other treatment.

All other County workers' compensation procedures will apply to Runnells Specialized Hospital employees.

F. MODIFIED OR LIGHT DUTY

The County of Union has established a Modified and Light Duty Program for employees who sustain on-the-job injuries and who, after a medical examination, are determined to be unable to perform their regular duties, but can perform duties with restrictions. In certain instances, these temporary assignments could involve “out-of-title” work for a period not to exceed 90 working days or the equivalent of up to 3 months. Modified or light duty assignments are not permanent.

Modified or light duty assignments are authorized at the discretion of the employee’s Department Head or designated agent. In all cases, efforts will be made to place an employee in a modified or light duty assignment status within an employee’s own Department or Division. Preference will be given to assignments within an employee’s classification, followed by assignments in other classifications.

If the employee and/or the employee's Supervisor believes that a modified or light duty assignment cannot be performed due to a medical reason related to the workers’ compensation illness or injury, a medical reexamination will be scheduled. The examining physician will have the final decision on the employee’s medical ability to perform a modified or light duty assignment. If the employee and/or the employee's Supervisor believes that a non-medical circumstance exists which prevents an employee from placement in modified or light duty assignment, the final decision on the employee's ability to perform the duty will rest with the employee’s Department Head and the Division of Personnel .

An employee assigned to a modified or light duty assignment will be considered to be working in a temporary assignment. The workdays and hours will conform to the position assigned in the respective area. Should an employee be assigned to work in another area, it will be the employee’s responsibility to provide transportation to that work site. The employee will be compensated at the employee's regular rate while in the modified or light duty assignment and still accrue benefits and seniority accordingly.

Any time off taken while on modified or light duty will be charged accordingly (*i.e.*, vacation, sick, personal business, etc.).

If an employee requests a sick day due to the work-related injury while on modified or light duty, he or she must contact his or her supervisor and the treating care facility immediately. The medical facility will reexamine the employee at that time to determine if there is any additional medical problem.

Should the examining physician determine that the current illness is work related, time off will be charged to workers' compensation. If the illness is not work related, the employee will be charged accordingly.

If an employee does not visit the care facility when required and scheduled, the absence will be charged to the employee's sick time and the employee may be subject to disciplinary action. Follow-up visits and/or other treatment, relative to the work related injury, will be scheduled early morning or late afternoon in order not to interfere with an employee's work schedule. Any time lost due to these appointments will **not** be charged against an employee's time.

Employees are prohibited from engaging in any outside employment for which they are expected to perform functions that interfere with their restrictions, whether or not the employee is on light or modified duty, or determined to be incapacitated by the medical provider. An employee is required to disclose to his or her Department Head or designee any secondary employment. The employee will be informed as to whether or not the employee can continue such employment while on workers' compensation. An employee's failure to follow this procedure may jeopardize the employee's worker's compensation claim.

EMPLOYEE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Employee's Name:

This Handbook is the property of the County of Union (the "County"). I, _____, acknowledge receipt of this Handbook on _____, 20____. I understand that this Handbook explains the County's policies, and that it is furnished to me for my information. I also understand that this Handbook supersedes any prior understandings I may have had regarding the County's employment policies. I acknowledge my responsibility to read and become familiar with the contents of this Handbook.

I understand that the County may amend, supplement, or terminate the policies stated in this Handbook without advance notice to me. I also understand that, except as provided by a collective bargaining agreement or applicable law, all employees are employees at-will. This means that either the County or I may terminate my employment at any time for any reason, with or without cause, and with or without notice.

I also understand that, where applicable, the personnel policies contained in this Handbook are not intended to void, replace, or conflict with negotiated union or association contracts. As to unionized employees, to the extent a collective bargaining agreement conflicts with these personnel policies and procedures, the collective bargaining agreement supersedes and/or modifies these personnel policies and procedures.

Upon separation from employment with the County, this Handbook and any updates shall be returned to the County.

Employee's signature

Date: _____

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders



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