

Safety Leave

Starting January 1, 2026, Minnesota Paid Leave will offer payments and job protections so you won't have to choose between financial stability and taking care of yourself and those you love.

What is Safety Leave?

Safety Leave helps you take time away from work if you or a family member are affected by:

- Domestic violence
- Sexual assault
- Stalking

Who can apply for Safety Leave?

Anyone who needs time off work to respond to domestic abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

What can I take Safety Leave for?

You can take Safety Leave for any or all of the following reasons:

- Seek medical or mental healthcare
- Receive help from a victim services organization
- Attend counseling
- Move to a safer location
- Get legal help or attend court for related issues

How do I apply for Safety Leave?

- When filling out your application, choose Safety Leave as your leave type.
- You'll be asked to select the reason(s) you plan to use Safety Leave.
- Each week, you'll need to complete a short activity report and confirm which reason(s) you used Safety Leave for that week.
- You must complete this report every week to receive payment.

What documents do I need to be approved for Safety Leave?

You'll need a signed form or legal paperwork from someone who can confirm your need for Safety leave.

This person could be:

- A mental health or healthcare provider
- A domestic abuse or sexual assault advocate
- A victim's advocate from the courts

- A judge, court worker, prosecutor, or probation officer
- A Title IX coordinator (from a school or college)
- A police or peace officer

They must be acting in their professional role. Paid Leave will verify the identity and credentials of the certifier. You do *not* need to share personal or sensitive details about you or your family's experience.

Do I have to fill out weekly reports?

Yes. You must complete a weekly report of the hours you were on leave to continue receiving payments.

Will my employer see that I'm taking Safety Leave?

Safety Leave is a type of Family Leave. Your employer will only see that you are taking Family Leave. Your employer can request that you share a copy of your certifier documentation with them and you will need to provide it. Paid Leave will not share the form with your employer.

What does a "seven-day qualifying event" mean for Safety Leave?

Paid Leave provides time off for long-term needs. For any type of leave, you need to have a seven-day qualifying event. That means the thing you are taking leave to manage, whether it is Safety Leave or a surgery, must affect you for at least seven days. It does not mean you need to take seven days of leave in a row.

For more information, visit paidleave.mn.gov

