# Certified Leave Management Specialist (CLMS) Certification Practice Test (Sample)

**Study Guide** 



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## **Questions**



- 1. Which of the following statements is true regarding employees returning from FMLA leave?
  - A. They are guaranteed the same job
  - B. They may be assigned a different job with similar pay
  - C. They cannot be disciplined for any reason
  - D. They must provide a new job application
- 2. What are the repercussions if an employee fails to return to work after FMLA leave?
  - A. They may be granted an extension of leave
  - B. They could lose job protection
  - C. They will receive a warning letter only
  - D. There are no repercussions
- 3. What is the primary purpose of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)?
  - A. To ensure employees have guaranteed paid leave
  - B. To provide eligible employees with unpaid, job-protected leave for specified family and medical reasons
  - C. To offer full wages during any medical leave
  - D. To restrict employee leave to a maximum of 4 weeks
- 4. What are qualifying exigencies related to military service under FMLA?
  - A. Routine medical appointments
  - B. Events such as deployments
  - C. Annual performance reviews
  - D. Work-related injury claims
- 5. What is the maximum duration for military caregiver leave under FMLA?
  - A. 12 weeks
  - B. 24 weeks
  - C. 26 weeks
  - D. 30 weeks

- 6. What is considered an FMLA qualifying reason for leave?
  - A. Personal vacation plans
  - B. Car accidents
  - C. Serious health conditions
  - D. Employer conflict
- 7. Under what condition can an employer deny FMLA leave?
  - A. If the employee's performance is unsatisfactory
  - B. If the leave request violates company policy
  - C. If the employee is not eligible or does not meet qualifying reasons
  - D. If the employee fails to show up for work during leave
- 8. How much leave could an employee potentially qualify for under MA PFML after adopting a baby and subsequently needing to care for a mother-in-law?
  - A. 8 weeks of baby bonding; his mother-in-law is not an eligible family member
  - B. 8 weeks of baby bonding, plus 8 weeks of time to care for his mother-in-law
  - C. 8 weeks of baby bonding, plus the first 4 weeks of requested time to care for his mother-in-law
  - D. 8 weeks of care for his mother-in-law only
- 9. Is it justified for an employer to refuse to allow an employee back to work based on previous leave history of other employees?
  - A. True
  - **B.** False
  - C. Only if it is formally documented
  - D. Depends on the employee's job role
- 10. How does the ADA intersect with FMLA?
  - A. ADA provides lower standards of protection than FMLA.
  - B. ADA may provide additional rights for employees with disabilities, including leave as accommodation.
  - C. ADA and FMLA are completely independent laws.
  - D. ADA only applies to employees in certain job categories.

#### **Answers**



- 1. B 2. B 3. B

- 4. B 5. C 6. C 7. C 8. B
- 9. B 10. B



#### **Explanations**



## 1. Which of the following statements is true regarding employees returning from FMLA leave?

- A. They are guaranteed the same job
- B. They may be assigned a different job with similar pay
- C. They cannot be disciplined for any reason
- D. They must provide a new job application

The statement that employees returning from FMLA leave may be assigned a different job with similar pay is correct. Under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), when employees return from a leave of absence, they are entitled to be restored to either the same position they held prior to the leave or to an equivalent position. An equivalent position is defined as one that is virtually identical to the employee's original job in terms of pay, benefits, and working conditions. This provision ensures that employees do not face negative repercussions for taking FMLA leave while also allowing employers some flexibility in how they manage their workforce. The possibility of being assigned a different job does not equate to a violation of FMLA rights, as long as the new position is equivalent in terms of salary and benefits. This helps maintain a balance between the rights of employees to take necessary leave and the operational needs of the employer. Other options would not accurately reflect the provisions of the FMLA. For example, the guarantee of the same job presents a misunderstanding of the rights outlined, as alternative equivalent roles are acceptable. Similarly, employees cannot be shielded from disciplinary actions for misconduct unrelated to their FMLA leave, and requiring a new application would contradict the restoration rights set

### 2. What are the repercussions if an employee fails to return to work after FMLA leave?

- A. They may be granted an extension of leave
- B. They could lose job protection
- C. They will receive a warning letter only
- D. There are no repercussions

If an employee fails to return to work after taking leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), they could lose job protection. The FMLA entitles eligible employees to take unpaid leave for specified family and medical reasons without the fear of losing their job. However, this protection hinges on the employee returning to work upon the conclusion of their leave. If an employee does not return, they are no longer entitled to the protections afforded by the FMLA, enabling the employer to terminate their position or take other disciplinary action. An extension of leave may be possible under certain circumstances, but it is not guaranteed and is typically at the employer's discretion. Additionally, receiving a warning letter may not be a standard response in all situations where an employee fails to return; it depends on company policy and circumstances. Finally, claiming that there are no repercussions does not align with the FMLA's structure, which is designed specifically to protect the rights of both employees and employers. Thus, the correct articulation of possible consequences includes the loss of job protection, reinforcing the significance of adhering to the designated terms of leave.

## 3. What is the primary purpose of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)?

- A. To ensure employees have guaranteed paid leave
- B. To provide eligible employees with unpaid, job-protected leave for specified family and medical reasons
- C. To offer full wages during any medical leave
- D. To restrict employee leave to a maximum of 4 weeks

The primary purpose of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) is to provide eligible employees with unpaid, job-protected leave for specified family and medical reasons. This legislation is designed to help employees manage family and personal health emergencies without the fear of losing their jobs. Under FMLA, eligible employees can take up to 12 weeks of leave in a 12-month period for reasons such as the birth or adoption of a child, caring for a seriously ill family member, or addressing their own serious health issues. Importantly, job protection means that upon returning from leave, employees are entitled to be reinstated to their same or an equivalent position. The other options do not accurately reflect the provisions of the FMLA. For instance, FMLA does not guarantee paid leave, nor does it provide full wages during medical leave. Additionally, there are no restrictions limiting leave to a maximum of 4 weeks; in fact, the act allows for up to 12 weeks of leave. This understanding of the FMLA's function is crucial for any professional in leave management.

#### 4. What are qualifying exigencies related to military service under FMLA?

- A. Routine medical appointments
- **B.** Events such as deployments
- C. Annual performance reviews
- D. Work-related injury claims

Qualifying exigencies related to military service under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) specifically include situations that arise when an employee's family member is on active duty or has been notified of an impending call to active duty in the armed forces. These exigencies can encompass events such as deployments, which require the employee to attend to certain activities, such as short notice deployments, military ceremonies, and other related events. The focus of this provision is to support employees in dealing with the unique challenges and obligations that may arise when a family member is serving in the military. This includes making arrangements for alternative childcare, addressing issues resulting from the active duty service, and attending military events, which are all classified under qualifying exigencies. Other options, such as routine medical appointments, annual performance reviews, and work-related injury claims, do not fall under this specific category as they do not pertain to the military service context intended by the FMLA.

#### 5. What is the maximum duration for military caregiver leave under FMLA?

- A. 12 weeks
- B. 24 weeks
- C. 26 weeks
- D. 30 weeks

The maximum duration for military caregiver leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) is 26 weeks. This type of leave is specifically designed for eligible employees who need to care for a covered service member with a serious injury or illness. The 26-week allowance is significant because it recognizes the unique and often intense caregiving that may be required for service members who are recovering from service-related injuries or illnesses. This extended period of leave is essential to provide adequate time for caregivers to support their loved ones during critical recovery phases, reflecting the federal policy's commitment to the families of military personnel. In contrast, the standard FMLA leave for most other qualifying conditions is limited to 12 weeks, which is why understanding the distinctions between different types of leave under FMLA is important. The choices that present durations of 12 weeks, 24 weeks, and 30 weeks do not align with the specific provisions laid out for military caregiver leave.

#### 6. What is considered an FMLA qualifying reason for leave?

- A. Personal vacation plans
- B. Car accidents
- C. Serious health conditions
- D. Employer conflict

The correct answer highlights "serious health conditions" as a qualifying reason for leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). This federal law provides eligible employees with the right to take unpaid, job-protected leave for specific medical and family-related reasons. A serious health condition under FMLA is defined as an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves either inpatient care or continuing treatment by a healthcare provider. This category includes conditions that require hospitalization, long-term care, or chronic conditions that may require periodic treatment. The other choices do not meet the FMLA criteria: personal vacation plans do not qualify since they are not related to health or family emergencies; car accidents may not necessarily involve a serious health condition requiring prolonged care; and employer conflict is not a valid reason for FMLA leave, as the act is primarily focused on health and family matters. Thus, serious health conditions are the only option that aligns with the intent and regulations set forth in the FMLA.

- 7. Under what condition can an employer deny FMLA leave?
  - A. If the employee's performance is unsatisfactory
  - B. If the leave request violates company policy
  - C. If the employee is not eligible or does not meet qualifying reasons
  - D. If the employee fails to show up for work during leave

An employer can deny FMLA leave if the employee is not eligible or does not meet the qualifying reasons specified under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). Eligibility for FMLA leave depends on several factors including the employee's length of service, the number of hours worked in the previous year, and whether the employer is covered under the FMLA provisions. To qualify for FMLA, an employee generally must have worked for their employer for at least 12 months and have at least 1,250 hours of service during the 12 months preceding the leave. Additionally, the leave must be taken for qualifying reasons such as serious health conditions, caring for a family member with a serious health condition, or certain other situations defined by the law. If the employee does not meet these criteria, the employer is within their right to deny the leave request. Other options may involve considerations of company policy or performance, but they do not directly relate to the statutory rights established by the FMLA, which is focused on eligibility and the legitimate purposes for which leave can be taken.

- 8. How much leave could an employee potentially qualify for under MA PFML after adopting a baby and subsequently needing to care for a mother-in-law?
  - A. 8 weeks of baby bonding; his mother-in-law is not an eligible family member
  - B. 8 weeks of baby bonding, plus 8 weeks of time to care for his mother-in-law
  - C. 8 weeks of baby bonding, plus the first 4 weeks of requested time to care for his mother-in-law
  - D. 8 weeks of care for his mother-in-law only

The correct answer is based on the provisions of the Massachusetts Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) law, which allows employees to take leave for various family-related reasons, including both bonding with a new child and caring for certain family members. In this scenario, the employee qualifies for 8 weeks of leave for bonding with the newly adopted baby. The law also allows for additional leave to care for family members, which in this case includes the employee's mother-in-law, as she qualifies as an eligible family member under the law. However, there is a key detail regarding the care leave for a mother-in-law: while the employee may request time to care for her, the first four weeks of leave are treated differently under the regulations. The employee can take those first four weeks after the bonding time, depending on the specific circumstances that necessitate the leave. Therefore, the employee is eligible for all 8 weeks of bonding leave and can additionally take the first 4 weeks of leave to care for his mother-in-law, making this option the most accurate reflection of what the Massachusetts PFML allows.

- 9. Is it justified for an employer to refuse to allow an employee back to work based on previous leave history of other employees?
  - A. True
  - **B.** False
  - C. Only if it is formally documented
  - D. Depends on the employee's job role

Refusing to allow an employee back to work based on the previous leave history of other employees is not justified. Each employee's situation must be assessed individually based on their own circumstances, including the reasons for their leave and any relevant legal considerations, such as federal and state leave laws. Decisions about an employee's return to work should not be influenced by the leave patterns of others, as this could lead to discrimination and violate employees' rights under laws like the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) or the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Effective leave management requires that employers evaluate policies and procedures impartially while ensuring compliance with all legal obligations. It's essential for employers to create a fair and equitable workplace environment, where decisions are made based on objective criteria relevant to the individual employee rather than generalized assumptions based on the behaviors of past employees.

#### 10. How does the ADA intersect with FMLA?

- A. ADA provides lower standards of protection than FMLA.
- B. ADA may provide additional rights for employees with disabilities, including leave as accommodation.
- C. ADA and FMLA are completely independent laws.
- D. ADA only applies to employees in certain job categories.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) serve distinct but sometimes overlapping purposes in the realm of employee rights. The correct choice highlights that the ADA can indeed provide additional rights for employees with disabilities, which can include various forms of leave as a reasonable accommodation. Under the ADA, employers are mandated to provide reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities, as long as these accommodations do not impose an undue hardship on the operation of the business. This can mean extending additional leave beyond what is required under the FMLA, enabling employees with disabilities to address their health needs without fear of losing their job. This intersection allows for a more comprehensive support system for employees who face challenges related to their disabilities, enhancing their ability to maintain employment while managing their health. By contrast, while the ADA and FMLA may provide overlapping protections, they are not completely independent laws. They work in tandem to assure employees' rights, which is an important distinction. The ADA does not only provide lower standards of protection; it often complements the provisions of the FMLA for employees with disabilities. Moreover, the ADA applies to a broad range of job categories, not limited to specific definitions or classifications.