

Newsflash

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Employment, Social Security and Immigration Law

10 days of paid leave for parents of hospitalised children

Parents, whose children are hospitalised, may in the future be entitled to 10 working days of paid leave per calendar year. That is at least the intention of a proposed bill that has been introduced in the Senate on 7 March 2008.

Every employee is now entitled to 10 days of so-called short leave which he/she can use when his/her child needs to be hospitalised. Consequently, the employee does not have to use a normal vacation days anymore. However, these days off are not paid. Within certain sectors or for certain companies, the employer continues to pay (a part of) the salary, but this regulation is not generally applicable.

The purpose of the bill is to grant parents 10 paid working days per calendar year which they may use to help their children, usually living with them at home, who are hospitalized.

As a result, the parents can receive an allowance which equals 75% of the capped salary they lost. This allowance will be dealt with by the RIZIV/INAMI. Sectors or companies can still foresee a complimentary sum so that the employee (nearly) retains his/her full salary.

It should be emphasised that this proposal is still being discussed.

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