Family Leave Insurance Provisions of the N.J. Temporary Disability Benefits Law

Beginning July 1, 2009, New Jersey law will provide up to six (6) weeks of Family Leave Insurance benefits. Benefits are payable to covered employees from either the New Jersey State Plan or an approved employer-provided private plan to:

- **Bond with a child** during the first 12 months after the child’s birth, if the covered individual or the domestic partner or civil union partner of the covered individual is a biological parent of the child, or the first 12 months after the placement of the child for adoption with the covered individual.

- **Care for a family member with a serious health condition** supported by a certification provided by a health care provider. Claims may be filed for six consecutive weeks, for intermittent weeks or for 42 intermittent days during a 12 month period beginning with the first date of the claim.

  Family member means a child, spouse, domestic partner, civil union partner or parent of a covered individual.

  Child means a biological, adopted, or foster child, stepchild or legal ward of a covered individual, child of a domestic partner of the covered individual, or child of a civil union partner of the covered individual, who is less than 19 years of age or is 19 years of age or older but incapable of self-care because of mental or physical impairment.

**New Jersey State Plan**

Employees covered under the New Jersey State Plan can obtain information pertaining to the program and an application for Family Leave Insurance benefits (Form FL-1), after June 1, 2009, by visiting the Department of Labor and Workforce Development’s web site at www.nj.gov/labor, by telephoning the Division of Temporary Disability Insurance’s Customer Service Section at (609) 292-7060, or by writing to the Division of Temporary Disability Insurance, PO Box 387, Trenton, NJ 08625-0387.

If an employee is receiving State Plan temporary disability benefits for pregnancy, after the child is born, the Division will mail the employee information on how to file a claim for Family Leave Insurance benefits to bond with the newborn child. If a claim is filed to have Family Leave Insurance benefits begin immediately after the employee recovers from her pregnancy-related disability, she will be paid at the same weekly benefit amount as she was paid for her pregnancy-related disability claim and no waiting period will be required.

**Financing of the Program**

This program is financed by employee contributions. Beginning January 1, 2009, employers are authorized to deduct the contributions from employee wages for all employees covered under the State Plan. These deductions must be noted on the employee’s pay envelope, paycheck or on some other form of notice. The taxable wage base for Family Leave Insurance benefits is the same as the taxable wage base for Unemployment and Temporary Disability Insurance.