

**NOTICE REGARDING SABBATICAL LEAVE
and
PERMANENT FUND DIVIDEND ELIGIBILITY**

University of Alaska faculty who are absent from Alaska on approved sabbatical leave are considered on an allowable absence under the laws that govern the Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) program if the individual is otherwise eligible.

AS 43.23.008(a)(11) allows an otherwise eligible individual who is absent from the state during the qualifying year to remain eligible for a current year dividend if the individual was absent “serving as an employee of the state in a field office or other location.”

15 AAC 23.993(a)(14) defined “serving as an employee of the state of Alaska” as “active compensated employment in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of state government or the University of Alaska; the phrase does not include employment by a political subdivision of the state of Alaska.”

AS 43.23.008(a)(17)(C) allows absences for any reason consistent with the individual’s intent to remain a state resident provided the absence or cumulative absences do not exceed “45 days in addition to any absence or cumulative absences claimed under (1) – (15) of this subsection if the individual is not claiming an absence under (4) – (15) of this subsection.”

15 AAC 23.163(j) states: “The department will count whole days when determining the number of days an individual was absent from Alaska. The department will count the day an individual arrives or returns to Alaska as a day absent unless the individual previously left Alaska that same day. The department will count the day an individual leaves Alaska as a day an individual was in Alaska, unless the individual previously arrived or returned to Alaska that same day.”

The University provides the PFD Division with the “official” contract dates for the sabbatical leave when requested by the PFD Division, and the PFD Division applies the contract dates when determining the number of specifically allowed days of absence under AS 43.23.008(a)(11).

Any other days of absence are considered under AS 43.23.008(a)(17)(C) and cannot exceed 45 days in addition to the days allowed under AS 43.23.008(a)(11) unless otherwise specifically allowed by law.

For purposes of “active compensated employment” the sabbatical leave is either fully or partially paid.

If you have any questions regarding PFD eligibility, you should go to the PFD Divisions’ web site at www.pfd.alaska.gov or contact a PFD office in Anchorage, Fairbanks or Juneau.