



# Employee Handbook

**Last Updated: 11-29-2015**

# **ABOUT THIS HANDBOOK / DISCLAIMER**

**We prepared this handbook to help employees find the answers to many questions that they may have regarding your employment with Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc.. Please take the necessary time to read it.**

**We do not expect this handbook to answer all questions. Supervisors and Human Resources also serve as a major source of information.**

**Neither this handbook nor any other verbal or written communication by a management representative is, nor should it be considered to be, an agreement, contract of employment, express or implied, or a promise of treatment in any particular manner in any given situation, nor does it confer any contractual rights whatsoever. Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc. adheres to the policy of employment at will, which permits the Company or the employee to end the employment relationship at any time, for any reason, with or without cause or notice.**

**No Company representative other than the President may modify at-will status and/or provide any special arrangement concerning terms or conditions of employment in an individual case or generally and any such modification must be in a signed writing.**

**Many matters covered by this handbook, such as benefit plan descriptions, are also described in separate Company documents. These Company documents are always controlling over any statement made in this handbook or by any member of management.**

**This handbook states only general Company guidelines. The Company may, at any time, in its sole discretion, modify or vary from anything stated in this handbook, with or without notice, except for the rights of the parties to end employment at will, which may only be modified by an express written agreement signed by the employee and the President.**

**This handbook supersedes all prior handbook.**

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# **Section 1 - Governing Principles of Employment**

## **1-1. Welcome Statement**

For employees who are commencing employment with Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc. ("Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc." or the "Company"), on behalf of Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc., let me extend a warm and sincere welcome.

For employees who have been with us, thanks for your past and continued service.

I extend my personal best wishes for success and happiness here at Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc. I want you to know that I welcome your comments, suggestions and concerns anytime in order to make your employment with MSD more rewarding and our relationship with our clients more successful for us and them.

We understand that it is our employees who provide the services that our customers rely upon, and who will enable us to create new opportunities in the years to come.

Dave W. Jordan, President

## **1-2. Equal Employment Opportunity**

Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer that does not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived race, creed, color, religion, alienage or national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, age, disability or handicap, sex, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation, genetic information, arrest record, or any other characteristic protected by applicable federal, state or local laws. Our management team is dedicated to this policy with respect to recruitment, hiring, placement, promotion, transfer, training, compensation, benefits, employee activities and general treatment during employment.

The Company will endeavor to make a reasonable accommodation to the known physical or mental limitations of qualified employees with disabilities unless the accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the operation of our business. If you need accommodations to perform your job duties because of a physical or mental condition, please let the President know.

The Company will endeavor to accommodate the sincere religious beliefs of its employees to the extent such accommodation does not pose an undue hardship on the Company's operations. If you wish to request such an accommodation, please speak to the President.

Any employees with questions or concerns about equal employment opportunities in the workplace are encouraged to bring these issues to the attention of the President. The Company will not allow any form of retaliation against individuals who raise issues of equal employment opportunity. Violation of this policy will lead to discipline, up to and including discharge. All employees must cooperate with all investigations.

## **1-3. Non-Harassment**

It is Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc.'s policy to prohibit intentional and unintentional harassment of any individual by another person on the basis of any protected classification including, but not limited to, race, color, national origin, disability, religion, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation or age. The purpose of this policy is not to regulate our employees' personal morality, but to ensure that in the workplace, no one harasses another individual.

If you feel that you have been subjected to conduct which violates this policy, you should immediately report the matter to any manager. If you are unable for any reason to contact this person, or if you have not received a satisfactory response within five (5) business days after reporting any incident of what you perceive to be harassment, please contact the President. If the person toward whom the complaint is directed is one of the individuals indicated above, you should contact any higher-level manager in your reporting hierarchy. Every report of perceived harassment will be fully investigated and corrective action will be taken where appropriate. Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action, up to and including discharge. All complaints will be kept confidential to the extent possible, but confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. In addition, the Company will not allow any form of retaliation against individuals who report unwelcome conduct to management or who cooperate in the investigations of such reports in accordance with this policy. Employees who make complaints in bad faith may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge. All employees must cooperate with all investigations.

## **1-4. Sexual Harassment**

It is Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc.'s policy to prohibit harassment of any employee by any Supervisor, employee, customer or vendor on the basis of sex or gender. The purpose of this policy is not to regulate personal morality within the Company. It is to ensure that at the Company all employees are free from sexual harassment. While it is not easy to define precisely what types of conduct could constitute sexual harassment, examples of prohibited behavior include unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, obscene gestures, displaying sexually graphic magazines, calendars or posters, sending sexually explicit e-mails, text messages and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, such as uninvited touching of a sexual nature or sexually related comments. Depending upon the circumstances, improper conduct also can include sexual joking, vulgar or offensive conversation or jokes, commenting about an employee's physical appearance, conversation about your own or someone else's sex life, or teasing or other conduct directed toward a person because of his or her gender which is sufficiently severe or pervasive to create an unprofessional and hostile working environment.

If the employee feels that he or she has been subjected to conduct which violates this policy, the employee should immediately report the matter to any manager. If unable for any reason to contact this person, or if the employee has not received a satisfactory response within five (5) business days after reporting any incident of perceived harassment, the employee should contact the President. If the person toward whom the complaint is directed is one of the individuals indicated above, the employee should contact any higher-level manager in his or her reporting hierarchy. Every report of perceived harassment will be fully investigated and corrective action will be taken where appropriate. Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action, up to and including discharge. All complaints will be kept confidential to the extent possible, but confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. In addition, the Company will not allow any form of retaliation against individuals who report

unwelcome conduct to management or who cooperate in the investigations of such reports in accordance with this policy. Employees who make complaints in bad faith may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge. All employees must cooperate with all investigations.

## **1-5. Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace**

To help ensure a safe, healthy and productive work environment for our employees and others, to protect Company property, and to ensure efficient operations, the Company has adopted a policy of maintaining a workplace free of drugs and alcohol. This policy applies to all employees and other individuals who perform work for the Company.

The unlawful or unauthorized use, abuse, solicitation, theft, possession, transfer, purchase, sale or distribution of controlled substances, drug paraphernalia or alcohol by an individual anywhere on Company premises, while on Company business (whether or not on Company premises) or while representing the Company, is strictly prohibited. Employees and other individuals who work for the Company also are prohibited from reporting to work or working while they are using or under the influence of alcohol or any controlled substances, which may impact an employee's ability to perform his or her job or otherwise pose safety concerns, except when the use is pursuant to a licensed medical practitioner's instructions and the licensed medical practitioner authorized the employee or individual to report to work. However, this does not extend any right to report to work under the influence of medical marijuana or to use medical marijuana as a defense to a positive drug test, to the extent an employee is subject to any drug testing requirement, to the extent permitted by and in accordance with applicable law. This restriction does not apply to responsible drinking of alcohol at business meetings and related social outings.

Employees must notify the Company within five calendar days if they are convicted of a criminal drug violation in the workplace. Within ten (10) days of such notification or other actual notice, the Company will advise the contracting agency of such conviction.

All employees are hereby advised that full compliance with the foregoing policy shall be a condition of employment at the Company.

Any employee who violates the foregoing drug-free workplace policy described above shall be subject to discipline up to and including immediate discharge.

In the discretion of the Company, any employee who violates the drug-free workplace policy may be required, in connection with or in lieu of disciplinary sanctions, to participate to the Company's satisfaction in an approved drug assistance or rehabilitation program.

In order to maintain a drug-free workplace, the Company has established a drug-free awareness program to educate employees on the dangers of drug abuse in the workplace, our drug-free workplace policy, the availability of any drug-free counseling, rehabilitation and employee assistance programs and the penalties that may be imposed for violations of our drug-free workplace policy. (Such education may include: (1) distribution of our drug-free workplace policy at the employment interview; (2) a discussion of our policy at the new employee orientation session; (3) distribution of a list of approved drug assistance agencies, organizations and clinics; (4) distribution of published educational materials regarding the dangers of drug abuse; (5) reorientation

of all involved employees in cases in which a drug-related accident or incident occurs; (6) inclusion of the policy in employee handbooks and any other personnel policy publications; (7) lectures or training by local drug abuse assistance experts; (8) discussion by the Company's safety experts on the hazards associated with drug abuse; and (9) video tape presentations on the hazards of drug abuse.)

## **1-6. Workplace Violence**

Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc. is strongly committed to providing a safe workplace. The purpose of this policy is to minimize the risk of personal injury to employees and damage to Company and personal property.

We do not expect employees to become experts in psychology or to physically subdue a threatening or violent individual. Indeed, we specifically discourage employees from engaging in any physical confrontation with a violent or potentially violent individual. However, we do expect and encourage employees to exercise reasonable judgment in identifying potentially dangerous situations.

Experts in the mental health profession state that prior to engaging in acts of violence, troubled individuals often exhibit one or more of the following behaviors or signs: over-resentment, anger and hostility; extreme agitation; making ominous threats such as bad things will happen to a particular person, or a catastrophic event will occur; sudden and significant decline in work performance; irresponsible, irrational, intimidating, aggressive or otherwise inappropriate behavior; reacting to questions with an antagonistic or overtly negative attitude; discussing weapons and their use, and/or brandishing weapons in the workplace; overreacting or reacting harshly to changes in Company policies and procedures; personality conflicts with co-workers; obsession or preoccupation with a co-worker or Supervisor; attempts to sabotage the work or equipment of a co-worker; blaming others for mistakes and circumstances; or demonstrating a propensity to behave and react irrationally.

### **Prohibited Conduct**

Threats, threatening language or any other acts of aggression or violence made toward or by any Company employee **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED**. For purposes of this policy, a threat includes any verbal or physical harassment or abuse, any attempt at intimidating or instilling fear in others, menacing gestures, flashing of weapons, stalking or any other hostile, aggressive, injurious or destructive action undertaken for the purpose of domination or intimidation. To the extent permitted by law, employees and visitors are prohibited from carrying weapons onto Company premises.

### **Procedures for Reporting a Threat**

All potentially dangerous situations, including threats by co-workers, should be reported immediately to any member of management with whom the employee feels comfortable. Reports of threats may be maintained confidential to the extent maintaining confidentiality does not impede our ability to investigate and respond to the complaints. All threats will be promptly investigated. All employees must cooperate with all investigations. No employee will be subjected to retaliation, intimidation or disciplinary action as a result of reporting a threat in good faith under this policy.

If the Company determines, after an appropriate good faith investigation, that someone has violated this policy, the Company will take swift and appropriate corrective action.



If an employee is the recipient of a threat made by an outside party, that employee should follow the steps detailed in this section. It is important for us to be aware of any potential danger in our offices. Indeed, we want to take effective measures to protect everyone from the threat of a violent act by an employee or by anyone else.

## Section 2 - Operational Policies

### 2-1. Employee Classifications

For purposes of this handbook, all employees fall within one of the classifications below.

**Full-Time Employees** - Employees who regularly work at least 37.5 hours per week who were not hired on a short-term basis.

**Part-Time Employees** - Employees who regularly work fewer than 37.5 hours per week who were not hired on a short-term basis.

**Short-Term Employees** - Employees who were hired for a specific short-term project, or on a temporary basis. Short-Term Employees generally are not eligible for Company benefits, but are eligible to receive statutory benefits.

In addition to the above classifications, employees are categorized as either "**exempt**" or "**non-exempt**" for purposes of federal and state wage and hour laws. Employees classified as exempt do not receive overtime pay; they generally receive the same weekly salary regardless of hours worked. Such salary may be paid less frequently than weekly. The employee will be informed of these classifications upon hire and informed of any subsequent changes to the classifications.

### 2-2. Employee Service Credit

"Length of service" refers to the length of time that our employees spend as active full-time or part-time employees with Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc.. Service begins on the day you become a full-time or part-time Employee.

Length of service may be used in determining certain employee benefits, such as time-off benefits. Employees will not lose credit for service with the Company provided their last day of service was within 30 days of again becoming an active employee. Human Resources will discuss this issue with any rehired employee upon hire.

### 2-3. Your Employment Records

In order to obtain their position, employees provided us with personal information, such as address and telephone number. This information is contained in the employee's personnel file.

The employee should keep his or her personnel file up to date by informing your Supervisor of any changes. The employee also should inform your Supervisor of any specialized training or skills he or she may acquire in the future, as well as any changes to any required visas. Unreported changes of address, marital status, etc. can affect withholding tax and benefit coverage. Further, an "out of date" emergency contact or an inability to reach the employee in a crisis could cause a severe health or safety risk or other significant problem.

## **2-4. Working Hours and Schedule**

Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc. normally is open for business from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The employee will be assigned a work schedule and will be expected to begin and end work according to the schedule. To accommodate the needs of our business, at some point we may need to change individual work schedules on either a short-term or long-term basis.

Employees will be provided meal and rest periods as required by law. A Supervisor will provide further details.

## **2-5. Timekeeping Procedures**

Employees must record their actual time worked for payroll and benefit purposes. Employees must also record the time work begins and ends, as well as the beginning and ending time of any departure from work for any non-work-related reason, on MSD's 3-part timesheet forms as provided by management.

Altering, falsifying or tampering with time records is prohibited and subjects the employee to discipline, up to and including discharge.

Exempt employees are required to record their daily work attendance and report full days of absence from work for reasons such as leaves of absence, sick leave or personal business.

Non-exempt employees may not start work until their scheduled starting time.

It is the employee's responsibility to sign time records to certify the accuracy of all time recorded. Employees working at client locations should have the approved Client Manager sign time sheets. Timesheets should be submitted to MSD in person or via facsimile at MSD's FAX number. Any errors in the time record should be reported immediately to a Supervisor, who will attempt to correct legitimate errors.

## **2-6. Overtime**

Like most successful companies, we experience periods of extremely high activity. During these busy periods, additional work is required from all of us. Supervisors are responsible for monitoring business activity and requesting overtime work if it is necessary. Effort will be made to provide employees with adequate advance notice in such situations.

Any non-exempt employee who works overtime will be compensated at the rate of one and one-half times (1.5) his/her normal hourly wage for all time worked in excess of forty (40) hours each week, unless otherwise required by law.

Employees may work overtime only with prior management authorization.

For purposes of calculating overtime for non-exempt employees, the workweek begins at 12 a.m. on Monday and ends 168 hours later at 12 a.m. on the following Monday.

## **2-7. Travel Time for Non-Exempt Employees**

### **Overnight, Out-of-Town Trips**

Non-exempt employees will be compensated for time spent traveling (except for meal periods) during their normal working hours, on days they are scheduled to work and on unscheduled work days (such as weekends). Non-exempt employees also will be paid for any time spent performing job duties during otherwise non-compensable travel time; however, such work should be limited absent advance management authorization.

### **Out-of-Town Trips for One Day**

Non-exempt employees who travel out of town for a one-day assignment will be paid for all travel time, except for, among other things: (i) time spent traveling between the employee's home and the local railroad, bus or plane terminal; and (ii) meal periods.

### **Local Travel**

Non-exempt employees will be compensated for time spent traveling from one job site to another job site during a workday. The trip home, however, is non-compensable when an employee goes directly home from his/her final job site, unless it is much longer than his/her regular commute home from the regular worksite. In such case, the portion of the trip home in excess of the regular commute is compensable.

### **Commuting Time**

Under the Portal to Portal Act, travel from home to work and from work to home is generally non-compensable. However, if a non-exempt employee regularly reports to a worksite near his/her home, but is required to report to a worksite farther away than the regular worksite, the additional time spent traveling is compensable.

If compensable travel time results in more than 40 hours worked by a non-exempt employee, the employee will be compensated at an overtime rate of one and one-half times the regular rate.

To the extent that applicable state law provides greater benefits, state law applies.

## **2-8. Safe Harbor Policy for Exempt Employees**

It is our policy and practice to accurately compensate employees and to do so in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws. To ensure proper payment and that no improper deductions are made, employees must review pay stubs promptly to identify and report all errors.

Employees classified as exempt salaried employees will receive a salary which is intended to compensate them for all hours they may work for the Company. This salary will be established at the time of hire or classification as an exempt employee. While it may be subject to review and modification from time to time, such as during salary review times, the salary will be a predetermined amount that will not be subject to deductions for variations in the quantity or quality of the work performed.

Under federal and state law, salary is subject to certain deductions. For example, unless state law requires otherwise, salary can be reduced for the following reasons:

- Full-day absences for personal reasons.
- Full-day absences for sickness or disability.
- Full-day disciplinary suspensions for infractions of our written policies and procedures.
- Family and Medical Leave absences (either full- or partial-day absences).
- To offset amounts received as payment from the court for jury and witness fees or from the military as military pay.
- The first or last week of employment in the event the employee works less than a full week.
- Any full work week in which the employee does not perform any work.

Salary may also be reduced for certain types of deductions such as a portion of health, dental or life insurance premiums; state, federal or local taxes; social security; or voluntary contributions to a 401(k) or pension plan.

In any work week in which the employee performed any work, salary will not be reduced for any of the following reasons:

- Partial day absences for personal reasons, sickness or disability.
- An absence because the employer has decided to close a facility on a scheduled work day.
- Absences for jury duty, attendance as a witness, or military leave in any week in which the employee performed any work (subject to any offsets as set forth above).
- Any other deductions prohibited by state or federal law.

However, unless state law provides otherwise, deductions may be made to accrued leave for full- or partial-day absences for personal reasons, sickness or disability.

If the employee believes he or she has been subject to any improper deductions, the employee should immediately report the matter to a supervisor. If the supervisor is unavailable or if the employee believes it would be inappropriate to contact that person (or if the employee has not received a prompt and fully acceptable reply), he or she should immediately contact the Office Manager or any other supervisor in the Company with whom the employee feels comfortable.

## **2-9. Your Paycheck**

The employee will be paid semi-monthly for all the time worked during the past pay period.

Payroll stubs itemize deductions made from gross earnings. By law, the Company is required to make deductions for Social Security, federal income tax and any other appropriate taxes. Appropriate deductions will be made for applicable employee contributions to benefit programs, such as retirement plans, health insurance, etc. These required deductions also may include any court-ordered garnishments. Payroll stubs also will differentiate between regular pay received and overtime pay received.

If there is an error in an employee's pay, the employee should bring the matter to the attention of his or her Office Manager immediately so the Company can resolve the matter quickly and amicably.

Paychecks will be given only to the employee, unless he or she requests that they be mailed, or authorize in writing another person to accept the check.

## **2-10. Direct Deposit**

Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc. strongly encourages employees to use direct deposit. Authorization forms are available from the President.

## **2-11. Salary Advances**

Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc. does not permit advances on paychecks or against accrued paid time off. Advance pay for vacation must be requested in writing at least two weeks prior to the vacation period.

## **2-12. Performance Reviews**

Depending on the employee's position and classification, Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc. endeavors to review performance every six months. However, a positive performance evaluation does not guarantee an increase in salary, a promotion, or continued employment. Compensation increases and the terms and conditions of employment, including job assignments, transfers, promotions, and demotions, are determined by and at the discretion of management.

In addition to these formal performance evaluations, the Company encourages employees and Supervisors to discuss job performance on a frequent and ongoing basis.

## **2-13. Record Retention**

The Company acknowledges its responsibility to preserve information relating to litigation, audits and investigations. Failure on the part of employees to follow this policy can result in possible civil and criminal sanctions against the Company and its employees and possible disciplinary action against responsible individuals (up to and including discharge of the employee). Each employee has an obligation to contact the President to inform him or her of potential or actual litigation, external audit, investigation or similar proceeding involving the Company that may have an impact on record retention protocols.

## **2-14. Job Postings**

The Company is dedicated to assisting employees in managing their careers and reaching their professional goals through promotion and transfer opportunities. This policy outlines the on-line job posting program which is in place for all employees. To be eligible to apply for an open position, employees must meet several requirements:

- should be a current, regular, full-time or part-time employee;
- been in the current position for at least six (6) months;
- maintain a performance rating of satisfactory or above;
- should not be on an employee conduct/performance-related probation or warning;
- must meet the job qualifications listed on the job posting; and

- provide the employee's manager with notice prior to applying for the position.

If the employee finds a position of interest on the job posting website and meets the eligibility requirements, an on-line job posting application must be completed in order to be considered for the position. Not all positions are guaranteed to be posted. The Company reserves the right to seek applicants solely from outside sources or to post positions internally and externally simultaneously.

For more specific information about the program, please contact the President.

## **Section 3 - Benefits**

### **3-1. Benefits Overview**

In addition to good working conditions and competitive pay, it is Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc.'s policy to provide benefits to all eligible employees. In keeping with this goal, each benefit program has been carefully devised. These benefits include time-off benefits, such as vacations and holidays, and insurance and other plan benefits. We are constantly studying and evaluating our benefits programs and policies to better meet present and future requirements. These policies have been developed over the years and continue to be refined to keep up with changing times and needs.

The next few pages contain a brief outline of the benefits programs Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc. provides employees and their families. Of course, the information presented here is intended to serve only as guidelines.

The descriptions of the insurance and other plan benefits merely highlight certain aspects of the applicable plans for general information only. The details of those plans are spelled out in the official plan documents, which are available for review upon request from President. Additionally, the provisions of the plans, including eligibility and benefits provisions, are summarized in the summary plan descriptions ("SPDs") for the plans (which may be revised from time to time). In the determination of benefits and all other matters under each plan, the terms of the official plan documents shall govern over the language of any descriptions of the plans, including the SPDs and this handbook.

Further, Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc. (including the officers and administrators who are responsible for administering the plans) retains full discretionary authority to interpret the terms of the plans, as well as full discretionary authority with regard to administrative matters arising in connection with the plans and all issues concerning benefit terms, eligibility and entitlement.

While the Company intends to maintain these employee benefits, it reserves the absolute right to modify, amend or terminate these benefits at any time and for any reason.

If employees have any questions regarding benefits, they should contact the President.

### **3-2. Holidays**

Full-time employees will be paid for the following holidays:

New Year's Day  
Independence Day  
Veterans' Day  
Thanksgiving Day  
Christmas Day

When holidays fall or are celebrated on a regular work day, eligible employees will receive one (1) day's pay at their regular straight-time rate. Eligible employees who are called in to work on a holiday will receive one (1)



day's pay at their regular straight-time rate, and an additional payment of straight-time for the actual time they work that day.

If a holiday falls within an eligible employee's approved vacation period, the eligible employee will be paid for the holiday (at the regular straight-time rate) in addition to the vacation day, or the eligible employee will receive an additional vacation day at the option of the Company.

If a holiday falls within a jury duty or bereavement leave, the eligible employee will be paid for the holiday (at the regular straight-time rate) in addition to the leave day, or the eligible employee will receive an additional day off at the option of the Company.

### **3-3. Sick Days**

Full-time employees are eligible to receive up to six (6) paid sick days each year. If an employee will be out of work due to illness, he or she must call in and notify his or her supervisor as early as possible, but at least by the start of the workday. If the employee calls in sick for three (3) or more consecutive days, he or she may be required to provide their supervisor with a doctor's note on the day he or she returns to work.

Sick days must be taken during the year they are received.

Sick days must be used in at least half-day increments.

While sick days are intended to cover only an employee's own illnesses, if required by applicable state or local law, sick days may be used to care for a family member's (including civil union partners') illness or for any other reason required by applicable state or local law.

Advanced but unaccrued sick days will be deducted from the final paycheck, to the extent permitted by state law.

### **3-4. Paid Time Off**

We know how hard you work and recognize the importance of providing you with time for rest and relaxation. We fully encourage you to get this rest by taking your paid time off. Time off under this policy includes extended time off, such as for a vacation, and incidental time due to sickness or to handle personal affairs.

Full-time employees accrue paid time off as follows:

During the first partial calendar year of employment and the first five full calendar years of employment, full-time employees accrue up to twenty (20) days of paid time off per year. Paid time off is accrued on a pro-rata basis throughout the year.

Thereafter, full-time employees accrue up to twenty-five (25) days of paid time off per year. Paid time off continues to be accrued on a pro-rata basis throughout the year.

The maximum paid time off entitlement for part-time employees is pro-rated based on hours worked.

Paid time off should be taken during the year received, unless otherwise required by law. Accrued, unused paid time off can be carried over to the following calendar year only if approved by President.

If you wish to use 3 or more full days of paid time off consecutively, you must submit a request to your manager at least 2 weeks in advance of your requested time off. Similar notice should be provided for planned time off of shorter duration. Every effort will be made to grant your request, consistent with our operating schedule. However, if too many people request the same period of time off, the Company reserves the right to choose who may take time off during that period. Individuals with the longest length of service generally will be given preference.

If you will be out of work due to illness or due any other emergency for which notice could not be provided, you must call in and notify your supervisor as early as possible, but at least by the start of your workday. If you call in sick for three (3) or more consecutive days, you may be required to provide your supervisor with a doctor's note on the day you return to work.

Paid time off may be used only in half-day increments.

Up to 10 days of accrued, unused paid time off is paid out upon separation, unless otherwise required by law.

Advanced but unaccrued paid time off will be deducted from your final paycheck, to the extent permitted by law.

### **3-5. Insurance Programs**

Full-time employees may participate in the Company's insurance programs. Under these plans, eligible employees will receive comprehensive health and other insurance coverage for themselves and their families, as well as other benefits.

Upon becoming eligible to participate in these plans, you will receive summary plan descriptions (SPDs) describing the benefits in greater detail. Please refer to the SPDs for detailed plan information. Of course, feel free to speak to Human Resources if you have any further questions.

### **3-6. Workers' Compensation**

On-the-job injuries are covered by our Workers' Compensation Insurance Policy, which is provided at no cost to employees. If employees are injured on the job, no matter how slightly, they should report the incident immediately to their Supervisor. Failure to follow Company procedures may affect the ability of the employee to receive Workers Compensation benefits.

This is solely a monetary benefit and not a leave of absence entitlement. Employees who need to miss work due to a workplace injury must also request a formal leave of absence. See the Leave of Absence sections of this handbook for more information.

### **3-7. Jury Duty Leave**

Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc. realizes that it is the obligation of all U.S. citizens to serve on a jury when summoned to do so. All employees will be allowed time off to perform such civic service as required by law. Employees are expected, however, to provide proper notice of a request to perform jury duty and verification of their service.

Employees also are expected to keep management informed of the expected length of jury duty service and to report to work for the major portion of the day if excused by the court. If the required absence presents a serious conflict for management, employees may be asked to try to postpone jury duty.

Employees on jury duty leave will be paid for their jury duty service in accordance with state law; however, exempt employees will be paid their full salary for any week in which time is missed due to jury duty if work is performed for the Company during such week.

### **3-8. Bereavement Leave**

We know the death of a family member is a time when employees wish to be with their families. If the employee is a full-time employee and loses a close relative, he or she will be allowed paid time off of up to two (2) days to assist in attending to his or her obligations and commitments. For the purposes of this policy, a close relative includes a spouse, domestic partner, child, parent, sibling or any other relation required by applicable law. Paid leave days only may be taken on regularly scheduled, consecutive workdays following the day of death. An employee must inform his or her supervisor prior to commencing bereavement leave. In administering this policy, the Company may require verification of death.

### **3-9. Voting Leave**

In the event an employee does not have sufficient time outside of working hours to vote in a statewide election, if required by state law, the employee may take off enough working time to vote. Such time will be paid if required by state law. This time should be taken at the beginning or end of the regular work schedule. Where possible, your Supervisor should be notified at least two days prior to the voting day.

### **3-10. Long-Term Disability**

Full-time employees are eligible to participate in the Long-Term Disability plan, subject to all terms and conditions of the agreement between the Company and the insurance carrier.

This is solely a monetary benefit and not a leave of absence. Employees who will be out of work must also request a formal leave of absence. See the Leave of Absence sections of this handbook for more information.

## **3-11. Salary Continuation**

Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc. provides enhanced monetary short-term disability benefits to full-time employees. These enhanced monetary benefits are inclusive of any monetary workers' compensation or statutory short-term disability benefits.

This is not a leave of absence provision. Employees who will be out of work must request a leave of absence. See the Leave of Absence sections of this handbook for more information. Employees will be required to submit medical certification as requested by the Company. Required medical certification under this policy may differ from the medical certification required for any leave of absence requested.

## **3-12. Employee Referral Awards**

The Company encourages all employees to refer qualified job applicants for available job openings. Other than managers in the line of authority and all Human Resources personnel, all employees are eligible to receive employee referral awards. When making referrals, instruct the applicant to list the employee's name on their employment application as the referral source. If the referral is hired and completes 6 months of service and the employee is still an employee of the Company, the employee is eligible to receive a monetary award. The reward is currently a gross amount of \$100 for regular part-time hires and \$250 for regular full-time hires.

## **3-13. Retirement Plan**

Eligible employees are able to participate in the Company's retirement plan. Plan participants may make pre-tax contributions to a retirement account.

Upon becoming eligible to participate in this plan, the employee will receive a Summary Plan Description (SPD) describing the plan in greater detail. Please refer to the SPD for detailed plan information. Of course, feel free to speak to President if there are any further questions.

## **Section 4 - Leaves of Absence**

### **4-1. Personal Leave**

If employees are ineligible for any other Company leave of absence, Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc., under certain circumstances, may grant a personal leave of absence without pay. A written request for a personal leave should be presented to management at least two (2) weeks before the anticipated start of the leave. If the leave is requested for medical reasons, medical certification also must be submitted. The request will be considered on the basis of staffing requirements and the reasons for the requested leave, as well as performance and attendance records. Normally, a leave of absence will be granted for a period of up to eight (8) weeks. However a personal leave may be extended if, prior to the end of leave, employees submit a written request for an extension to management and the request is granted. During the leave, employees will not earn vacation, personal days or sick days. We will continue health insurance coverage during the leave if employees submit their share of the monthly premium payments to the Company in a timely manner, subject to the terms of the plan documents.

When the employee anticipates returning to work, he or she should notify management of the expected return date. This notification should be made at least one week before the end of the leave.

Upon completion of the personal leave of absence, the Company will attempt to return employees to their original job or a similar position, subject to prevailing business considerations. Reinstatement, however, is not guaranteed.

Failure to advise management of availability to return to work, failure to return to work when notified or a continued absence from work beyond the time approved by the Company will be considered a voluntary resignation of employment.

Personal leave runs concurrently with any Company-provided Short-Term Disability Leave of Absence.

### **4-2. Military Leave**

If employees are called into active military service or enlist in the uniformed services, they will be eligible to receive an unpaid military leave of absence. To be eligible for military leave, employees must provide management with advance notice of service obligations unless they are prevented from providing such notice by military necessity or it is otherwise impossible or unreasonable to provide such notice. Provided the absence does not exceed applicable statutory limitations, employees will retain reemployment rights and accrue seniority and benefits in accordance with applicable federal and state laws. Employees should ask management for further information about eligibility for Military Leave.

If employees are required to attend yearly Reserves or National Guard duty, they can apply for an unpaid temporary military leave of absence not to exceed the number of days allowed by law (including travel). They should give management as much advance notice of their need for military leave as possible so that we can maintain proper coverage while employees are away.

## **Section 5 - General Standards of Conduct**

### **5-1. Workplace Conduct**

Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc. endeavors to maintain a positive work environment. Each employee plays a role in fostering this environment. Accordingly, we all must abide by certain rules of conduct, based on honesty, common sense and fair play.

Because everyone may not have the same idea about proper workplace conduct, it is helpful to adopt and enforce rules all can follow. Unacceptable conduct may subject the offender to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge, in the Company's sole discretion. The following are examples of some, but not all, conduct which can be considered unacceptable:

1. Obtaining employment on the basis of false or misleading information.
2. Stealing, removing or defacing Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc. property or a co-worker's property, and/or disclosure of confidential information.
3. Completing another employee's time records, unless doing so is an assigned duty of your job.
4. Violation of safety rules and policies.
5. Violation of Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc.'s Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace Policy.
6. Fighting, threatening or disrupting the work of others or other violations of Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc.'s Workplace Violence Policy.
7. Failure to follow lawful instructions of a supervisor.
8. Failure to perform assigned job duties.
9. Violation of the Punctuality and Attendance Policy, including but not limited to irregular attendance, habitual lateness or unexcused absences.
10. Gambling on Company property.
11. Willful or careless destruction or damage to Company assets or to the equipment or possessions of another employee.
12. Wasting work materials.
13. Performing work of a personal nature during working time.
14. Violation of the Solicitation and Distribution Policy.
15. Violation of Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc.'s Harassment or Equal Employment Opportunity Policies.
16. Violation of the Communication and Computer Systems Policy.
17. Unsatisfactory job performance.
18. Any other violation of Company policy.

Obviously, not every type of misconduct can be listed. Note that all employees are employed at-will, and Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc. reserves the right to impose whatever discipline it chooses, or none at all, in a particular instance. The Company will deal with each situation individually and nothing in this handbook should be construed as a promise of specific treatment in a given situation.

The observance of these rules will help to ensure that our workplace remains a safe and desirable place to work.

## **5-2. Punctuality and Attendance**

Employees are hired to perform important functions at Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc.. As with any group effort, operating effectively takes cooperation and commitment from everyone. Therefore, attendance and punctuality are very important. Unnecessary absences and lateness are expensive, disruptive and place an unfair burden on fellow employees and Supervisors. We expect excellent attendance from all employees. Excessive absenteeism or tardiness will result in disciplinary action up to and including discharge.

We do recognize, however, there are times when absences and tardiness cannot be avoided. In such cases, employees are expected to notify Supervisors as early as possible, but no later than the start of the work day. Asking another employee, friend or relative to give this notice is improper and constitutes grounds for disciplinary action, unless a true emergency situation makes it impossible for the employee to provide such notice. Employees should call, stating the nature of the illness and its expected duration, for every day of absenteeism.

Unreported absences of three (3) consecutive work days generally will be considered a voluntary resignation of employment with the Company.

## **5-3. Use of Communication and Computer Systems**

Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc.'s communication and computer systems are intended primarily for business purposes; however limited personal usage is permitted if it does not hinder performance of job duties or violate any other Company policy. This includes the voice mail, e-mail and Internet systems. Users have no legitimate expectation of privacy in regard to their use of the Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc. systems.

Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc. may access the voice mail and e-mail systems and obtain the communications within the systems, including past voice mail and e-mail messages, without notice to users of the system, in the ordinary course of business when the Company deems it appropriate to do so. The reasons for which the Company may obtain such access include, but are not limited to: maintaining the system; preventing or investigating allegations of system abuse or misuse; assuring compliance with software copyright laws; complying with legal and regulatory requests for information; and ensuring that Company operations continue appropriately during an employee's absence.

Further, Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc. may review Internet usage to ensure that such use with Company property, or communications sent via the Internet with Company property, are appropriate. The reasons for which the Company may review employees' use of the Internet with Company property include, but are not limited to: maintaining the system; preventing or investigating allegations of system abuse or misuse; assuring compliance with software copyright laws; complying with legal and regulatory requests for information; and ensuring that Company operations continue appropriately during an employee's absence.

The Company may store electronic communications for a period of time after the communication is created. From time to time, copies of communications may be deleted.

The Company's policies prohibiting harassment, in their entirety, apply to the use of Company's communication and computer systems. No one may use any communication or computer system in a manner that may be

construed by others as harassing or offensive based on race, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, religious beliefs or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local law.

Further, since the Company's communication and computer systems are intended for business use, all employees, upon request, must inform management of any private access codes or passwords.

Unauthorized duplication of copyrighted computer software violates the law and is strictly prohibited. Unauthorized downloading or installation of software or applications is also prohibited.

No employee may access, or attempt to obtain access to, another employee's computer systems without appropriate authorization.

Violators of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.

## **5-4. Use of Social Media**

Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc. respects the right of any employee to maintain a blog or web page or to participate in a social networking, Twitter or similar site, including but not limited to Facebook and LinkedIn. However, to protect Company interests and ensure employees focus on their job duties, employees must adhere to the following rules:

Employees may not post on a blog or web page or participate on a social networking platform, such as Twitter or similar site, during work time or at any time with Company equipment or property.

All rules regarding confidential and proprietary business information apply in full to blogs, web pages and social networking platforms, such as Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn or similar sites. Any information that cannot be disclosed through a conversation, a note or an e-mail also cannot be disclosed in a blog, web page or social networking site.

Whether an employee is posting something on his or her own blog, web page, social networking, Twitter or similar site or on someone else's, if the employee mentions the Company and also expresses either a political opinion or an opinion regarding the Company's actions, the poster must include a disclaimer. The poster should specifically state that the opinion expressed is his/her personal opinion and not the Company's position. This is necessary to preserve the Company's good will in the marketplace. Employees should understand that statements posted on blogs or social media by known employees can reflect on the Company even when the views expressed are those of the individual poster.

Any conduct that is impermissible under the law if expressed in any other form or forum is impermissible if expressed through a blog, web page, social networking, Twitter or similar site. For example, posted material that is discriminatory, obscene, defamatory, libelous or threatening is forbidden. Company policies apply equally to employee social media usage. Employees should review their Employee HANDBOOK for further guidance.

Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc. encourages all employees to keep in mind the speed and manner in which information posted on a blog, web page, and/or social networking site is received and often misunderstood by readers. Employees must use their best judgment. Employees with any questions should review the guidelines



above and/or consult with their manager. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in discipline, up to and including discharge.

## **5-5. Personal and Company-Provided Portable Communication Devices**

Company-provided portable communication devices (PCDs), including cell phones and personal digital assistants, should be used primarily for business purposes. Employees have no reasonable expectation of privacy in regard to the use of such devices, and all use is subject to monitoring, to the maximum extent permitted by applicable law. This includes as permitted the right to monitor personal communications as necessary.

Some employees may be authorized to use their own PCD for business purposes. These employees should work with the IT department to configure their PCD for business use. Communications sent via a personal PCD also may be subject to monitoring if sent through the Company's networks and the PCD must be provided for inspection and review upon request.

All conversations, text messages and e-mails must be professional. When sending a text message or using a PCD for business purposes, whether it is a Company-provided or personal device, employees must comply with applicable Company guidelines, including policies on sexual harassment, discrimination, conduct, confidentiality, equipment use and operation of vehicles. Using a Company-issued PCD to send or receive personal text messages is prohibited at all times and personal use during working hours should be limited to emergency situations.

If an employee who uses a personal PCD for business resigns or is discharged, the employee will be required to submit the device to the IT department for resetting on or before his or her last day of work. At that time, the IT department will reset and remove all information from the device, including but not limited to, Company information and personal data (such as contacts, e-mails and photographs). The IT department will make efforts to provide employees with the personal data in another form (e.g., on a disk) to the extent practicable; however, the employee may lose some or all personal data saved on the device.

Employees may not use their personal PCD for business unless they agree to submit the device to the IT department on or before their last day of work for resetting and removal of Company information. This is the only way currently possible to ensure that all Company information is removed from the device at the time of termination. The removal of Company information is crucial to ensure compliance with the Company's confidentiality and proprietary information policies and objectives.

Please note that whether employees use their personal PCD or a Company-issued device, the Company's electronic communications policies, including but not limited to, proper use of communications and computer systems, remain in effect.

### **Portable Communication Device Use While Driving**

Employees who drive on Company business must abide by all state or local laws prohibiting or limiting PCD (cell phone or personal digital assistant) use while driving. Further, even if usage is permitted, employees may choose to refrain from using any PCD while driving. "Use" includes, but is not limited to, talking or listening to another person or sending an electronic or text message via the PCD.

Regardless of the circumstances, including slow or stopped traffic, if any use is permitted while driving, employees should proceed to a safe location off the road and safely stop the vehicle before placing or accepting a call. If acceptance of a call is absolutely necessary while the employee is driving, and permitted by law, the employee must use a hands-free option and advise the caller that he/she is unable to speak at that time and will return the call shortly.

Under no circumstances should employees feel that they need to place themselves at risk to fulfill business needs.

Since this policy does not require any employee to use a cell phone while driving, employees who are charged with traffic violations resulting from the use of their PCDs while driving will be solely responsible for all liabilities that result from such actions.

Texting and e-mailing while driving is prohibited in all circumstances.

## **5-6. Camera Phones/Recording Devices**

Due to the potential for issues such as invasion of privacy, sexual harassment, and loss of productivity, no employee may use a camera phone function on any phone on company property or while performing work for the Company, except for authorized work purposes such as scanning, whiteboard archival, etc.

The use of tape recorders, dictaphones or other types of voice recording devices anywhere on Company property, including to record conversations or activities of other employees or management, or while performing work for the Company, is also strictly prohibited, unless the device was provided to you by the Company and is used solely for legitimate business purposes.

## **5-7. Inspections**

Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc. reserves the right to require employees while on Company property, or on client property, to agree to the inspection of their persons, personal possessions and property, personal vehicles parked on Company or client property, and work areas. This includes lockers, vehicles, desks, cabinets, work stations, packages, handbags, briefcases and other personal possessions or places of concealment, as well as personal mail sent to the Company or to its clients. Employees are expected to cooperate in the conduct of any search or inspection.

## **5-8. Smoking**

Smoking, including the use of e-cigarettes, is prohibited on Company premises and in all Company vehicles.

## **5-9. Personal Visits and Telephone Calls**

Disruptions during work time can lead to errors and delays. Therefore, we ask that personal telephone calls be kept to a minimum, and only be made or received after working time, or during lunch or break time.

For safety and security reasons, employees are prohibited from having personal guests visit or accompany them anywhere in our facilities other than the reception areas.

## **5-10. Solicitation and Distribution**

To avoid distractions, solicitation by an employee of another employee is prohibited while either employee is on work time. "Work time" is defined as the time an employee is engaged, or should be engaged, in performing his/her work tasks for Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc.. Solicitation of any kind by non-employees on Company premises is prohibited at all times.

Distribution of advertising material, handbills, printed or written literature of any kind in working areas of the Company is prohibited at all times. Distribution of literature by non-employees on Company premises is prohibited at all times.

## **5-11. Bulletin Boards**

Important notices and items of general interest are continually posted on our bulletin board. Employees should make it a practice to review it frequently. This will assist employees in keeping up with what is current at Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc.. To avoid confusion, employees should not post or remove any material from the bulletin board. Notices may also be posted via the company intranet, website or via Emails sent to employees.

## **5-12. Confidential Company Information**

During the course of work, an employee may become aware of confidential information about Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc.'s business, including but not limited to information regarding Company finances, pricing, products and new product development, software and computer programs, marketing strategies, suppliers, customers and potential customers, and knowledge, skills and abilities of personnel. An employee also may become aware of similar confidential information belonging to the Company's clients. It is extremely important that all such information remain confidential, and particularly not be disclosed to our competitors. Any employee who improperly copies, removes (whether physically or electronically), uses or discloses confidential information to anyone outside of the Company may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination. Employees may be required to sign non-disclosure and confidentiality agreements reiterating these obligations.

## **5-13. Conflict of Interest and Business Ethics**

It is Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc.'s policy that all employees avoid any conflict between their personal interests and those of the Company. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the Company's honesty and integrity, and therefore its reputation, are not compromised. The fundamental principle guiding this policy is that no employee should have, or appear to have, personal interests or relationships that actually or potentially conflict with the best interests of the Company.

It is not possible to give an exhaustive list of situations that might involve violations of this policy. However, the situations that would constitute a conflict in most cases include but are not limited to:

1. holding an interest in or accepting free or discounted goods from any organization that does, or is seeking to do, business with the Company, by any employee who is in a position to directly or indirectly influence either the Company's decision to do business, or the terms upon which business would be done with such organization;
2. holding any interest in an organization that competes with the Company;
3. being employed by (including as a consultant) or serving on the board of any organization which does, or is seeking to do, business with the Company or which competes with the Company and/or;
4. profiting personally, e.g., through commissions, loans, expense reimbursements or other payments, from any organization seeking to do business with the Company.

A conflict of interest would also exist when a member of an employee's immediate family is involved in situations such as those above.

This policy is not intended to prohibit the acceptance of modest courtesies, openly given and accepted as part of the usual business amenities, for example, occasional business-related meals or promotional items of nominal or minor value.

It is the employee's responsibility to report any actual or potential conflict that may exist between he or she (and the employee's immediate family) and the Company.

## **5-14. Use of Facilities, Equipment and Property, Including Intellectual Property**

Equipment essential in accomplishing job duties is often expensive and may be difficult to replace. When using property, employees are expected to exercise care, perform required maintenance, and follow all operating instructions, safety standards and guidelines.

Employees should notify their Supervisor if any equipment, machines, or tools appear to be damaged, defective, or in need of repair. Prompt reporting of loss, damages, defects, and the need for repairs could prevent deterioration of equipment and possible injury to employees or others. The Supervisor can answer any questions about an employee's responsibility for maintenance and care of equipment used on the job.

Employees also are prohibited from any unauthorized use of the Company's intellectual property, such as audio and video tapes, print materials and software.

Improper, careless, negligent, destructive, or unsafe use or operation of equipment can result in discipline, up to and including discharge.

Further, the Company is not responsible for any damage to employees' personal belongings unless the employee's Supervisor provided advance approval for the employee to bring the personal property to work.

## **5-15. Health and Safety**

The health and safety of employees and others on Company property are of critical concern to Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc.. The Company intends to comply with all health and safety laws applicable to our business.

To this end, we must rely upon employees to ensure that work areas are kept safe and free of hazardous conditions. Employees are required to be conscientious about workplace safety, including proper operating methods, and recognize dangerous conditions or hazards. Any unsafe conditions or potential hazards should be reported to management immediately, even if the problem appears to be corrected. Any suspicion of a concealed danger present on the Company's premises, or in a product, facility, piece of equipment, process or business practice for which the Company is responsible should be brought to the attention of management immediately.

Periodically, the Company may issue rules and guidelines governing workplace safety and health. The Company may also issue rules and guidelines regarding the handling and disposal of hazardous substances and waste. All employees should familiarize themselves with these rules and guidelines, as strict compliance will be expected.

Any workplace injury, accident, or illness must be reported to the employee's Supervisor as soon as possible, regardless of the severity of the injury or accident.

## **5-16. Hiring Relatives/Employee Relationships**

A familial relationship among employees can create an actual or at least a potential conflict of interest in the employment setting, especially where one relative supervises another relative. To avoid this problem, Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc. may refuse to hire or place a relative in a position where the potential for favoritism or conflict exists.

In other cases, such as personal relationships where a conflict or the potential for conflict arises, even if there is no supervisory relationship involved, the parties may be separated by reassignment or discharged from employment, at the discretion of the Company. Accordingly, all parties to any type of intimate personal relationship must inform management.

If two employees marry, become related, or enter into an intimate relationship, they may not remain in a reporting relationship or in positions where one individual may affect the compensation or other terms or conditions of employment of the other individual. The Company generally will attempt to identify other available positions, but if no alternate position is available, the Company retains the right to decide which employee will remain with the Company.

For the purposes of this policy, a relative is any person who is related by blood or marriage, or whose relationship with the employee is similar to that of persons who are related by blood or marriage.

## **5-17. Employee Dress and Personal Appearance**

You are expected to report to work well groomed, clean, and dressed according to the requirements of your position. Some employees may be required to wear uniforms or safety equipment/clothing. Please contact your Supervisor for specific information regarding acceptable attire for your position. If you report to work dressed or groomed inappropriately, you may be prevented from working until you return to work well groomed and wearing the proper attire.

## **5-18. Publicity/Statements to the Media**

All media inquiries regarding the position of the Company as to any issues must be referred to the President. Only the President is authorized to make or approve public statements on behalf of the Company. No employees, unless specifically designated by the President, are authorized to make those statements on behalf of Company. Any employee wishing to write and/or publish an article, paper, or other publication on behalf of the Company must first obtain approval from the President.

## **5-19. Operation of Vehicles**

All employees authorized to drive Company-owned or leased vehicles or personal vehicles in conducting Company business must possess a current, valid driver's license and an acceptable driving record. Any change in license status or driving record must be reported to management immediately.

An employee must have a valid driver's license in his or her possession while operating a vehicle off or on Company property. It is the responsibility of every employee to drive safely and obey all traffic, vehicle safety, and parking laws or regulations. Drivers must demonstrate safe driving habits at all times.

Company-owned or leased vehicles may be used only as authorized by management.

### **Portable Communication Device Use While Driving**

Employees who drive on Company business must abide by all state or local laws prohibiting or limiting portable communication device (PCD) use, including cell phones or personal digital assistants, while driving.

Regardless of the circumstances, including slow or stopped traffic, if any use is permitted while driving, employees should proceed to a safe location off the road and safely stop the vehicle before placing or accepting a call. If acceptance of a call is absolutely necessary while the employee is driving, and permitted by law, the employee must use a hands-free option and advise the caller that he/she is unable to speak at that time and will return the call shortly.

Under no circumstances should employees feel that they need to place themselves at risk to fulfill business needs.

Since this policy does not require any employee to use a PCD while driving, employees who are charged with traffic violations resulting from the use of their PCDs while driving will be solely responsible for all liabilities that result from such actions.

Texting and e-mailing while driving are prohibited in all circumstances.

## **5-20. Business Expense Reimbursement**

Employees will be reimbursed for reasonable approved expenses incurred in the course of business. These expenses must be approved by the employee's Supervisor, and may include air travel, hotels, motels, meals, cab

fare, rental vehicles, or gas and car mileage for personal vehicles. All expenses incurred should be submitted to the President along with the receipts within one month of the date the expense was incurred.

Employees are expected to exercise restraint and good judgment when incurring expenses. Employees should contact their Supervisor in advance if they have any questions about whether an expense will be reimbursed.

## **5-21. References**

Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc. will respond to reference requests through the Human Resources Department. The Company will provide general information concerning the employee such as date of hire, date of discharge, and positions held. Requests for reference information must be in writing, and responses will be in writing. Please refer all requests for references to the Human Resources Department.

**Only the Human Resources Department may provide references.**

## **5-22. If You Must Leave Us**

Should an employee decide to leave the Company, we ask that he or she provide a Supervisor with at least two (2) weeks advance notice of departure. Thoughtfulness will be appreciated.

All Company property including, but not limited to, keys, security cards, parking passes, laptop computers, fax machines, uniforms, etc., must be returned at separation. Employees also must return all of the Company's Confidential Information upon separation. To the extent permitted by law, employees will be required to repay the Company (through payroll deduction, if lawful) for any lost or damaged Company property.

As noted previously, all employees are employed at-will and nothing in this handbook changes that status.

## **5-23. Exit Interview**

Employees who resign are requested to participate in an exit interview with Human Resources, if possible.

## **5-24. A Few Closing Words**

This handbook is intended to give employees a broad summary of things they should know about Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc.. The information in this handbook is general in nature and, should questions arise, any member of management should be consulted for complete details. While we intend to continue the policies, rules and benefits described in this handbook, Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc., in its sole discretion, may always amend, add to, delete from or modify the provisions of this HANDBOOK and/or change its interpretation of any provision set forth in this handbook. Employees should not hesitate to speak to management if they have any questions about the Company or its personnel policies and practices.

# General Handbook Acknowledgment

This Employee Handbook is an important document intended to help you become acquainted with Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc.. This document is intended to provide guidelines and general descriptions only; it is not the final word in all cases. Individual circumstances may call for individual attention.

Because the Company's operations may change, the contents of this Handbook may be changed at any time, with or without notice, in an individual case or generally, at the sole discretion of management.

Please read the following statements and sign below to indicate your receipt and acknowledgment of this Employee Handbook.

**I have received and read a copy of Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc.'s Employee Handbook. I understand that the policies, rules and benefits described in it are subject to change at the sole discretion of the Company at any time.**

**I further understand that my employment is terminable at will, either by myself or the Company, with or without cause or notice, regardless of the length of my employment or the granting of benefits of any kind.**

**I understand that no representative of Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc. other than the President may alter "at will" status and any such modification must be in a signed writing.**

**I understand that my signature below indicates that I have read and understand the above statements and that I have received a copy of the Company's Employee Handbook.**

Employee's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Employee's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The signed original copy of this acknowledgment should be given to management - it will be filed in your personnel file.



## Receipt of Sexual Harassment Policy

It is Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc.'s policy to prohibit harassment of any employee by any Supervisor, employee, customer or vendor on the basis of sex or gender. The purpose of this policy is not to regulate personal morality within the Company. It is to ensure that at the Company all employees are free from sexual harassment. While it is not easy to define precisely what types of conduct could constitute sexual harassment, examples of prohibited behavior include unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, obscene gestures, displaying sexually graphic magazines, calendars or posters, sending sexually explicit e-mails, text messages and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, such as uninvited touching of a sexual nature or sexually related comments. Depending upon the circumstances, improper conduct also can include sexual joking, vulgar or offensive conversation or jokes, commenting about an employee's physical appearance, conversation about your own or someone else's sex life, or teasing or other conduct directed toward a person because of his or her gender which is sufficiently severe or pervasive to create an unprofessional and hostile working environment.

If the employee feels that he or she has been subjected to conduct which violates this policy, the employee should immediately report the matter to any manager. If unable for any reason to contact this person, or if the employee has not received a satisfactory response within five (5) business days after reporting any incident of perceived harassment, the employee should contact the President. If the person toward whom the complaint is directed is one of the individuals indicated above, the employee should contact any higher-level manager in his or her reporting hierarchy. Every report of perceived harassment will be fully investigated and corrective action will be taken where appropriate. Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action, up to and including discharge. All complaints will be kept confidential to the extent possible, but confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. In addition, the Company will not allow any form of retaliation against individuals who report unwelcome conduct to management or who cooperate in the investigations of such reports in accordance with this policy. Employees who make complaints in bad faith may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge. All employees must cooperate with all investigations.

I have read and I understand Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc.'s Sexual Harassment Policy.

Employee's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Employee's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The signed original copy of this receipt should be given to management - it will be filed in your personnel file.

## Receipt of Non-Harassment Policy

It is Meta-Systems Documentation, Inc.'s policy to prohibit intentional and unintentional harassment of any individual by another person on the basis of any protected classification including, but not limited to, race, color, national origin, disability, religion, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation or age. The purpose of this policy is not to regulate our employees' personal morality, but to ensure that in the workplace, no one harasses another individual.

If you feel that you have been subjected to conduct which violates this policy, you should immediately report the matter to any manager. If you are unable for any reason to contact this person, or if you have not received a satisfactory response within five (5) business days after reporting any incident of what you perceive to be harassment, please contact the President. If the person toward whom the complaint is directed is one of the individuals indicated above, you should contact any higher-level manager in your reporting hierarchy. Every report of perceived harassment will be fully investigated and corrective action will be taken where appropriate. Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action, up to and including discharge. All complaints will be kept confidential to the extent possible, but confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. In addition, the Company will not allow any form of retaliation against individuals who report unwelcome conduct to management or who cooperate in the investigations of such reports in accordance with this policy. Employees who make complaints in bad faith may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge. All employees must cooperate with all investigations.

Employee's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Employee's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The signed original copy of this receipt should be given to management - it will be filed in your personnel file.