

Discretionary Leave

The main difference between home service and discretionary leave are the objectives, though time frame may also be a factor. A discretionary leave has much more focused objectives, usually only one main focus, such as dealing with a medical issue, having a baby, raising support or working on an intensive course for a degree program. Because of the more narrow focus, the time frame is also generally shorter. If someone comes back for 6 weeks or less, this would probably also be a discretionary leave. Such a short length forces a narrowing of the objectives.

When a missionary returns to the US on a regular but shorter home service cycle (usually every two years for a 2-4 month home service), then each home service will be considered a normal home service. It is understood that some home service expectations are only required every five years (eg. Family conference, THA medical clearance, covenant signing) and so will only be included as an objective every other home service in these cases. When the FRC projection that was raised assumed a four year term, partner development might not be required on the middle home service, though this is at area leadership discretion. It is recommended however, that the faith promise list be reviewed each time even when partner development is not an objective in order to keep records up to date. Reconnect is recommended each time back because it helps to keep up with changes in the home office, stay current with debriefing and keep the home office staff current and connected to your ministry. However, for those coming on shorter home services every two years, it is allowed that a trip to Farmington every time might not be feasible.

When a member is being sent back in the middle of a term specifically because support is low and partner development is their primary or only focus and the time frame is short, then this should be considered a discretionary leave for partner development (DL-PD) rather than a home service. It goes back to intent for the assignment.

In summary, if a member is returning to the US for a specific, focused purpose then it is probably a discretionary leave. As such they remain on field salary and under field direction. Because they are under field direction a Member Care coach is not assigned, unless requested by the area leadership. In these cases, we only request the flight itinerary (which is also for IO security) and one form, a discretionary leave contact information form.

Current defined categories for discretionary leave(DL):

DL-MED	medical leave
DL-MAT	maternity leave
DL-PD	partner development
DL-ED	education
DL-FAM	family leave – usually for death or major illness in immediate family
DL-OTH	Other – in cases where the other categories don't apply