The American Association for the Surgery of Trauma

Fellow Parental Wellness Guidelines

*Last revision date: Sept 6, 2023*

The American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST) requires all fellowship programs to develop a parental/family wellness policy for fellows. The policy will be reviewed at the site visit. We support individual institutions creating their own policy in compliance with existing policies for staff and residents in order to ensure consistency within each institution.

The policy should address the following at minimum: leave for pregnancy/birth/adoption, lactation, leave for loss of pregnancy, salary during leave, rotation/call schedule modifications, radiation exposure, pre-natal appointments.

The AAST requires 46 weeks of clinical service during the ACS Fellowship (typically the 2nd year). Fellows may choose to extend parental leave beyond 6 weeks but will have to make up the time to ensure 46 weeks of clinical service are completed. The AAST requires 52 call nights over the two years of the ACS fellowship, but this may be decreased to a minimum of 46 call nights over two years if required for leave. AAST case minimums must still be met regardless of duration of leave.

A sample policy is available to programs for review or use upon request.