MASCONOMET PARAPROFESSIONALS UNION
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
AFT Massachusetts
Local 6454

AFT MASSACHUSETTS POLICY ON LEGAL SERVICES

Whereas, the American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts adopted a program of providing certain legal services on a members only basis on the September 2018 Executive Board meeting to interested Locals;

Whereas, Masconomet Paraprofessionals Union, Local 6454, wishes to have the American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts Legal Department provide these legal services for qualified cases to the Local's members;

Whereas, Masconomet Paraprofessionals Union, Local 6454, wishes to conserve resources by not extending non-collective bargaining services to non-members;

Therefore,

We hereby adopt a policy of providing the listed legal services for qualified cases for members only:

1. Department of Child and Family Services (DCF) Appeals of support decisions of neglect and/or abuse under Chapter 119 §51A
2. Massachusetts Division of Administrative Law (DALA) Retirement appeals, excluding ordinary disability and accidental disability retirement
3. Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) Unemployment administrative appeals.

We adopt the American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts Members Legal Services program under the qualifying standards set forth in that program:

1. Must have been a member for one (1) entire calendar year from date when the event arose, or from start of employment if less.
2. Must remain a member throughout process, or through end of employment if applicable.
3. Retirement DALA Appeals: must have been a member at all times for last five (5) years.
4. AFT Massachusetts Legal Department will evaluate case to determine whether case qualifies for services. Cases will qualify for services only if substantial facts and legal standards support an appeal.

Adopted by a majority vote of the membership present at the General Membership Meeting on February 8, 2023.

Susan Sooaar, President
Masconomet Paraprofessionals Union