Highly Compensated Worker Exemption

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website (ctas.tennessee.edu). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the Tennessee Code Annotated and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

The University of Tennessee
County Technical Assistance Service
226 Anne Dallas Dudley Boulevard, Suite 400
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
615.532.3555 phone
615.532.3699 fax
www.ctas.tennessee.edu
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Highly Compensated Worker Exemption

Reference Number: CTAS-144
The regulations create a special category of exemption for employees who earn $132,964 or more per year, known as the “highly compensated worker” rule. An employee meets this exemption if he or she meets the following requirements:[1]

1. The employee earns total annual compensation of $132,964 or more, which includes at least $844 per week paid on a salary or fee basis;
2. The employee’s primary duty includes performing office or non-manual work; and
3. The employee customarily and regularly performs at least one of the exempt duties or responsibilities of an exempt executive, administrative or professional employee.

[1] The requirements are set out in 29 C.F.R. § 541.601.

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