



County Technical Assistance Service
INSTITUTE *for* PUBLIC SERVICE

May 01, 2025

Payment for Accrued Comp Time

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,

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Payment for Accrued Comp Time

Reference Number: CTAS-996

The FLSA permits an employer to “cash out” an employee’s accrued comp time at any time by paying the employee cash for the unused comp time. These payments are to be made at the regular rate of pay the employee was receiving at the time the payment is made.^[1]

Upon termination of employment, an employee with banked comp time must be paid for the banked comp time at the higher of:

1. The average rate received by the employee during the last three (3) years of employment, or
2. The final regular rate of pay.

The “last three (3) years of employment” means immediately prior to termination. If there is a break in service, the period of employment after the break is treated as a new period of service (so long as it was intended as permanent during the break, and accrued comp time was cashed out). Where the final period of service was less than three (3) years, the rate is calculated based on the rate in effect during the final period of service.^[2]

[1] 29 C.F.R. § 553.27(a).

[2] 29 C.F.R. § 553.27(b).

Source URL: <https://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/eli/payment-accrued-comp-time>