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## CAN YOUR EMPLOYER FORCE YOU TO RETURN TO THE OFFICE?

The emergence of remote work has reshaped how we view traditional workplace practices. It accelerated rapidly during the COVID-19 pandemic, offering employees flexibility and employers a chance to rethink their operational strategies. But since the world has returned to normalcy, many organizations are trying to summon workers back to the office. This raises an important question: can your employer legally require you to abandon remote work and return to inperson work?

The employment law attorneys at Barrett & Farahany can help remote workers understand the legal landscape around their situation and their rights as employees.



## REMOTE WORK POLICIES AND LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

While remote work may have become the norm for many, there's generally no federal law mandating employers to offer it. This means an organization has the right to reassess and adjust its remote work policies. However, fairness and clarity are crucial to maintaining employee trust and morale.

## Key points to consider:

- Disability Accommodations: Employees with disabilities could be protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) if returning to a physical office poses significant challenges. Employers may need to provide reasonable accommodations, such as continued remote work arrangements, where applicable.
- **State Laws:** Certain states might have statutes governing employment practices and remote work policies. Employers should review local laws before making sweeping changes.
- **Contractual Agreements:** If an employee's contract explicitly states they can work remotely, the employer must adhere to those terms unless both parties agree to new arrangements.

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