SEBI has amended the Employees' Service Regulations, 2026 by introducing **Regulation 64A**, which provides relaxation from certain investment restrictions applicable to the family members of SEBI employees during their service period.

Key Changes:

- The restriction on investments by family members will **not apply** where the **spouse of a SEBI employee acquires equity shares under an Employee Stock Option Plan (ESOP)** that forms part of the spouse's compensation package.
- The relaxation also extends to the **sale or disposal of such equity shares** acquired through the ESOP.
- The amendment recognizes that ESOP allotments are employment-related benefits and not discretionary investment decisions.

Key Takeaway

The amendment provides a **practical compliance relaxation** by allowing spouses of SEBI employees to acquire and dispose of shares received under ESOPs as part of their employment benefits, without violating family investment restrictions applicable to SEBI employees. This helps remove unintended compliance hurdles while maintaining the integrity of SEBI's conflict-of-interest framework.