



FLRA NEWS

FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY - WASHINGTON, DC 20424

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FLRA's UPDATED OPERATING STATUS

At this time, the FLRA remains fully operational.

To ensure the health and safety of agency employees and the parties who practice before us, most FLRA employees are teleworking during the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to maximize telework flexibility, our office continues to receive filings by mail, facsimile, and the e-Filing system. The agency previously announced it would not accept in-person filings as of 5:00 p.m. Friday, March 20, 2020 through July 31, 2020. **The agency now extends the prohibition on in-person filings indefinitely.** Should this change, an announcement will be made.

In addition, the Federal Service Impasses Panel (FSIP) indefinitely suspends the requirement in its regulations [5 C.F.R. §§ 2471.5(a)(2) & (b)(2) and 2472.6(a)(2) & (b)(2)] that a party must obtain the permission of the other party before serving documents electronically on that person. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, electronic transmission shall be considered equivalent service to "registered mail, certified mail, regular mail, or commercial delivery" for purposes of these subsections.

At this time, all other statutory and regulatory requirements for filing and service continue in full effect and all parties and customers are encouraged to utilize the FLRA's eFiling system at <https://efile.flra.gov/>.

Parties are also encouraged to subscribe to the FLRA's free Really Simple Syndication ("RSS") feeds, which provide an easy way for keeping up with news and information from the FLRA. Information on how to subscribe is located at <https://www.flra.gov/feeds>.

Case Processing in the Authority

Consistent with applicable regulations, and during this time, parties may receive acknowledgement of case filings ("acknowledgement notices") from the Authority's Office of Case Intake and Publication (CIP) via electronic mail ("email"), rather than via certified mail. *See* 5 C.F.R. § 2429.24(k). Additionally, other outgoing CIP orders and Authority decisions may be served on parties via facsimile, rather than via certified mail. A courtesy copy of said orders and decisions may also be sent to parties via email, at the email address provided by parties using eFiling per 5 C.F.R. § 2429.24(j). Authority decisions are also posted online at <https://www.flra.gov/decisions/authority-decisions>. Please provide updated contact information for filed cases, including facsimile numbers and email addresses, directly to CIP. Pursuant to Authority Regulations, you may **not** file documents with the Authority via email.

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The Federal Labor Relations Authority administers the labor-management relations program for 2.1 million non-Postal federal employees worldwide, approximately 1.2 million of whom are represented in 2,200 bargaining units. The Authority is charged with resolving disputes under, and ensuring compliance with, the Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute. The Authority's mission is "Protecting rights and facilitating stable relationships among federal agencies, labor organizations, and employees while advancing an effective and efficient government through the administration of the statute."