

Exhibit A

From: CHCO Council

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 12:48 PM

Subject: Follow up: CHCO Council Special Session

CHCOs and Deputy CHCOs,

Thank you for your time today.

This message clarifies immediate next steps for probationary employees.

Over the past several days, agencies have worked to review, clean up, and finalize their lists of probationary employees they wish to keep, and wish to terminate, and begin taking action.

We have asked that you separate probationary employees that you have not identified as mission-critical no later than end of the day Monday, 2/17. We have attached a template letter. The separation date should be as soon as possible that is consistent with applicable agency policies (including those in CBAs).

[Guidance](#) from the Office of Personnel Management (“OPM”) states, “An appointment is not final until the probationary period is over,” and the probationary period is part of “the hiring process for employees.” A probationer is still an applicant for a finalized appointment to a particular position as well as to the Federal service. “Until the probationary period has been completed,” a probationer [has](#) “the burden to demonstrate why it is in the public interest for the Government to finalize an appointment to the civil service for this particular individual.” Thus, the probationary period is part of the federal hiring process; there is currently a [hiring freeze](#); and a probationer has no right to continued employment in the federal government.

An employee’s performance must be measured in light of the existing needs and interests of government. OPM has [emphasized](#) that individual employee performance measurement should be “aligned with and support organizational goals” and “focus[] employee efforts on achieving organizational and group goals.” An employee’s performance must be viewed through the current needs and best interest of the government, in light of the President’s [directive](#) to dramatically reduce the size of the federal workforce.

Through the exemptions process, agencies have identified the highest-performing probationers in mission critical areas. Regulations on probationary periods state: “The agency shall utilize the

probationary period as fully as possible to determine the fitness of the employee and shall terminate his or her services during this period if the employee fails to demonstrate fully his or her qualifications for continued employment.” 5 CFR 315.803. OPM believes “qualifications for continued employment” in the current context means that only the highest-performing probationers in mission-critical areas should be retained.

After actioning, please update the previous probationary employee spreadsheet you’ve sent us to include the information below. **Please resend the updated version to tracking@opm.gov with Amanda Scales and Jamie Sullivan on cc by 8:00pm EST Monday.** This tracker should include:

- Which probationary employees have been terminated and which you plan to keep. For those you plan to keep, provide an explanation of why.
- For each probationary employee, indicate if they have opted into the deferred resignation program or not. This can be done by cross-checking the latest submissions sent to you via tracking@opm.gov. Please also indicate whether you have signed a written deferred resignation agreement with them or not.
- Probation end date.

Please continue providing these reports daily through at least the end of next week.

We have also attached a template Probationary tracker for your reports today.

Thank you,
OPM

[DATE], 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR [EMPLOYEE], [TITLE], [ORGANIZATION]

FROM: [NAME]
[TITLE]

SUBJECT: Notification of Termination During Probationary Period

REFERENCES: 5 U.S.C. § 7511
[5 U.S.C. § 3321(a)]
[5 C.F.R. §§ 315.803 and 804]
[5 C.F.R. § 316.304]
[INSERT AGENCY POLICY]

This is to provide notification that the Agency is removing you from your position of [TITLE] and federal service during your probationary/trial period consistent with the above references.

On [INSERT DATE OF APPOINTMENT], the Agency appointed you to the position of [TITLE]. As documented on your appointment Standard Form 50 (SF-50), your appointment is subject to a probationary/trial period. [The agency also informed you of this requirement in the job opportunity announcement for the position.]

Guidance from the Office of Personnel Management (“OPM”) states, “An appointment is not final until the probationary period is over,” and the probationary period is part of “the hiring process for employees.”¹ “A probationer is still an applicant for a finalized appointment to a particular position as well as to the Federal service.”² “Until the probationary period has been completed,” a probationer has “the burden to demonstrate why it is in the public interest for the Government to finalize an appointment to the civil service for this particular individual.”³ Furthermore, OPM has emphasized that individual employee performance measurement should be aligned with and support organizational goals and focus employee efforts on achieving organizational and group goals. In addition, OPM has instructed Agencies to consider whether an employee’s performance is in the best interest of the government, in light of the President’s directive to dramatically reduce the size of the federal workforce.

Based on the OPM guidance referenced above, the Agency finds, based on your performance, that you have not demonstrated that your further employment at the Agency would be in the public interest. For this reason, the Agency informs you that the Agency is removing you from your position of [TITLE] with the Agency and the federal civil service effective [insert date and time, if necessary].

¹ OPM, *Practical Tips for Supervisors of Probationers*.

² See U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board Report to the President and Congress, *The Probationary Period: A Critical Assessment Opportunity* (August 2005)

³ *Id.*

You may have a right to file an appeal with the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) on the limited grounds set forth in 5 C.F.R. § 315.806. Any such appeal must be filed within 30 days of the effective date of this notice or 30 days after the date of your receipt of this notice, whichever is later. You should review MSPB regulations at 5 C.F.R. §§ 1201.14 and 1201.24 for instructions on how to file an electronic appeal and content requirements of the appeal, respectively. For more information, please visit www.mspb.gov or contact your local MSPB regional or field office at: [INSERT MSPB REGIONAL OR FIELD OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION].

We appreciate your service to the Agency and wish you the greatest of success in your future endeavors. If you have any questions, please contact [CONTACT].

[INSERT NAME OF AGENCY OFFICIAL]
[INSERT TITLE OF AGENCY OFFICIAL]