

**THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**BEFORE**

**THE OFFICE OF EMPLOYEE APPEALS**

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In the Matter of: )  
)  
Robert Gillespie ) OEA Matter No. 2401-0186-09  
Employee )  
) Date of Issuance: October 1, 2010  
v. )  
) Senior Administrative Judge  
D.C. Public Schools ) Joseph E. Lim, Esq.  
Agency )  
\_\_\_\_\_)

Robert Gillespie, Employee *pro se*  
Sarah White, Esq., Agency Representative

**INITIAL DECISION**

PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS OF FACT

On August 5, 2009, Employee, a Supervisory Custodian, SW-1 Step 8, filed a petition for appeal with this Office from Agency's final decision separating him from his position due to a Reduction-in-Force (RIF). The matter was assigned to the undersigned judge on May 3, 2010. I issued an Order directing the parties to submit a Prehearing Statement by June 1, 2010, and to attend a June 4, 2010, Prehearing Conference. Despite prior warnings that failure to comply could result in sanctions, including dismissal; Employee failed to attend the conference. I issued a Show Cause Order to Employee asking him to explain his non-compliance by June 18, 2010. Employee failed to respond. The record is closed.

JURISDICTION

The Office has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 1-606.03 (2001).

ISSUE

Whether this appeal should be dismissed for failure to prosecute.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

OEA Rule § 622.3, 46 D.C. Reg. 9313 (1999) provides as follows:

If a party fails to take reasonable steps to prosecute or defend an appeal, the Administrative Judge, in the exercise of sound discretion, may dismiss the action or rule for the appellant.” Failure of a party to prosecute or defend an appeal includes,

but is not limited to, a failure to:

- (a) Appear at a scheduled proceeding after receiving notice;
- (b) Submit required documents after being provided with a deadline for such submission; or
- (c) Inform this Office of a change of address which results in correspondence being returned.

The employee was warned in each order that failure to comply could result in sanctions including dismissal. Despite being given another chance to appear or submit medical documentation of her illness, the employee never complied. Employee's behavior constitutes a failure to prosecute her appeal and that is sound cause for dismissal.

ORDER

It is hereby ORDERED that the petition in this matter is dismissed for failure to prosecute.

FOR THE OFFICE:

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JOSEPH E. LIM, Esq.  
Senior Administrative Judge