

CHAPTER 2

Definitions

Allocation

The assignment of a position to its appropriate class in relation to duties performed.

Anniversary Date

The date on which an employee is appointed to start in a merit position. The anniversary date for public safety employees can change based on promotion dates, with exceptions noted in chapter four of these regulations.

Appeal

An application or procedure for review of an alleged grievance submitted or instituted by an employee to the Civil Service Commission or to other higher authority.

Appointing Authority

The officer, board, commission, person, or group of persons having the power by virtue of state law or County ordinance to make appointments. The appointing authority is generally responsible for personnel administration within a given department. As used in these regulations, the term “appointing authority” is synonymous with the term “department head.”

Appointment

The offer to and acceptance by a person of a position.

Assembled Examination

An examination for which applicants are required to appear at a specific place for the purpose of taking a test.

Break in Service

Any separation from the service of Fairfax County whether by resignation, lay-off, dismissal, unsatisfactory service, disability, retirement, or absence without leave of three days or more when the employee is subsequently reemployed. An authorized leave without pay shall not be considered as constituting a "break in service."

Bullying

Bullying occurs when an individual or group attempts to or does intimidate, humiliate, demean, dehumanize, or otherwise cause harm to another individual or group. Bullying can be physical

conduct, verbal conduct or non-verbal conduct, and includes cyberbullying. A determination of whether conduct constitutes bullying is based on factors such as the context, the frequency, and the severity, particularly when the conduct involves a single incident. Bullying is different from discrimination and harassment based on someone's protected status (e.g., race, gender), and from workplace violence.

Business Day

Calendar days exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays.

Class

A group of positions, which are sufficiently alike in general duties and responsibilities to warrant the use of the same title, specification and pay range.

Class Series

A number of classes of positions which are substantially similar as to the types of work involved and differ only in rank as determined by the importance of the duties and degree of responsibility involved and the amount of training and experience required. Such classes constitute a series and each is usually given a designation either by Roman numerals, beginning with the lowest level as I, next level II, or by rank adjectives such as the junior, intermediate or senior level, etc.

Class Specification

A written description of a class consisting of a class title, a general statement of the level of work, a statement of the distinguishing features of work, some examples of work, and the minimum qualifications for the class.

Classification

The grouping of positions in regard to: (a) kinds of duties performed and responsibilities; (b) level of duties performed; (c) requirements as to education, knowledge and experience and ability; (d) tests of fitness; (e) ranges of pay.

Classification Review or Reclassification Review

An evaluation of the duties and responsibilities of a position performed by the Department of Human Resources to determine the appropriateness of the present class. Appropriateness will be determined on the basis of: (a) kinds of duties performed and responsibilities; (b) level of duties performed; (c) requirements as to education, knowledge and experience and ability; (d) tests of fitness; (e) ranges of pay. The review will result in the position retaining its present class assignment; or being assigned to an existing lower class, or being assigned to an existing higher class; or being assigned to a new class created by amendment to the Classification and Compensation Plans.

Classification Plan

The official or approved system of grouping positions into appropriate classes, consisting of three parts: (1) a schematic index to the class specifications; (2) the class specifications; and (3) rules for administering the classification plan.

Compensation

The standard rates of pay, which have been established for the respective classes of work, as set forth in the compensation plan.

Compensation Plan

The official schedule of pay approved by the Board of Supervisors assigning one or more rates of pay to each pay grade.

Compensatory Leave

Time off in lieu of monetary payment for overtime worked.

Compensatory Time Eligible

Employees in pay grades S-26, P/O/C-27, F-31 or above and L-02 or above, excluding any classes designated as exceptions in a procedural memorandum issued by the Human Resources Director.

Competitive Promotion

A promotion based on a competitive examination with appointment to the higher-level position restricted to a specific number of persons receiving the highest ratings.

Competitive Service

All officers and positions in the service of Fairfax County as defined in the Merit System Ordinance.

Continuous Service

Employment without interruption, including merit service with the Fairfax County School System, except for absences on approved leave or absences to serve in the Armed Forces of the United States, or absences of less than one calendar year when followed by reemployment or reinstatement. Service prior to normal or early retirement from a County retirement system shall not be counted.

Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP)

An option in lieu of immediate retirement in which an employee remains employed by his/her department, but no longer contributes to his/her respective retirement system and must retire within 3 years of election to DROP. DROP participants retain the rights and privileges of merit employees.

Definition of Duties

The work requirements for each position in terms of the importance, difficulty, and extent of supervision and responsibility attaching thereto.

Demotion

Assignment of an employee from one class to another, which has a lower maximum rate of pay.

Department

An administrative branch including a line of work and a group of employees under the immediate charge of a chief executive officer or officers of a department, institution, court, board, or commission of the County government, which latter officer or officers shall be known as the department head.

Department Head

An employee appointed by the Board of Supervisors to oversee, direct or manage a major functional division of County government, whether formally known as a department or not, under the general direction of the County Executive, and to act as the appointing authority for the positions assigned to that organization. As used in these regulations, the term “department head” is synonymous with the term “appointing authority.”

Deputy

One or more individuals authorized to act in specific functional areas for the department head.

Eligible

A person who has successfully met required qualifications for a particular class.

Eligible List

An eligible list is a list of applicants who meet the minimum qualifications for the class for which they applied, as determined under the provisions of Chapter 5.

Employee

An individual who is legally employed by the County and is compensated through the County payroll for his services. Individuals or groups compensated on a fee basis are not included.

Examination

The process of testing, evaluating or investigating the fitness and qualifications of applicants.

Exempt Service

Those positions not included in the competitive service as defined in the Merit System Ordinance.

Extended Family Including Household Member

Includes employee's spouse, son, daughter, parents, parent in-laws, siblings, stepsister, stepbrother, stepchild, stepparent, grandparents, grandchildren, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, employee's respective in-laws, first cousin, or children for whom the employee has legal guardianship or is designated as primary caregiver, and any person who resides in the employee's home.

Fire Protection Personnel

24-hour shift employees in the Fire and Rescue Department who perform suppression and rescue duties as defined in the Fair Labor Standards Act (29 CFR Sec. 553.3).

Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)

Legislation originally enacted by Congress in 1938, which establishes requirements with respect to minimum wage, overtime, compensation and record keeping.

FLSA Eligible (FLSA Non-exempt)

An employee who holds a position covered by the minimum wage, mandatory overtime, or recordkeeping provisions of the FLSA. FLSA Eligible employees must be compensated with overtime pay or compensatory time for all hours worked over the FLSA threshold for overtime, as outlined in the definition of overtime. FLSA Eligible employees are in pay grades S-21, P-23, O/C-21, F-27 and below. Exceptions are noted in a procedural memorandum issued by the Human Resources Director.

FLSA Exempt

An employee who holds a position that is not covered by the mandatory overtime provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Full-Time Employee

Any employee who is regularly scheduled to work at least 2,080 hours in 12 consecutive months, or fire protection personnel regularly scheduled to work at least 2,912 hours in 12 consecutive months.

Full-Time Position

Any position which is authorized to be filled for at least 2,080 hours in 12 consecutive months or fire protection personnel position authorized for at least 2,912 hours in 12 consecutive months.

Hourly Rate of Pay

The hourly rate of pay is shown on the County pay plans for the minimum, midpoint, and maximum of each pay range. Public safety pay plans shall include such intermediate rates as deemed appropriate. Hourly rates are carried out to four places after the decimal. The hourly rate is derived by dividing annual salary by 2,080, which is the number of scheduled hours for a full time employee. The hourly rate for fire protection personnel assigned to a 24-hour shift is derived by dividing the annual salary by 2,912, which is the number of scheduled hours for a full time fire protection employee.

Immediate Family Including Household Member

Includes employee's spouse, son, daughter, parents, parents-in-law, siblings, grandparents, children for whom the employee has legal guardianship or is designated as primary caregiver, and any person who resides in the employee's home.

Incumbent

An employee occupying a position in the County service.

Law Enforcement Personnel

Sworn employees of the Police Department (including animal protection police officers), Fire and Rescue Department, and Office of the Sheriff who are empowered to enforce laws, have the power of arrest and have undergone (or will be undergoing) on-the-job training or similar instruction as defined in the Fair Labor Standards Act (29 CFR Sec. 553.4). The term also includes security personnel in correctional institutions.

Longevity Pay Increment

An increase in compensation established in the compensation plan as a reward for long and faithful service for public safety employees. Longevity pay increments are granted in accordance with the conditions specified in Chapter 4 of the Personnel Regulations and are subject to Board of Supervisors appropriation.

Merit Employee

Any employee in the competitive service, as defined in the Merit System Ordinance.

Merit System

The system of personnel administration applicable to the competitive service. It includes the Merit System Ordinance, any applicable provisions of other County ordinances, Personnel Regulations, and all applicable and lawful personnel management directives of the Board of Supervisors, County Executive, or Human Resources Director.

Military Status

Means status as (i) a member of the uniformed forces, as defined in 10 U.S.C. § 101(a)(5), of the United States or a reserve component thereof named under 10 U.S.C. § 10101, (ii) a veteran as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(2), or (iii) a dependent as defined in 50 U.S.C. § 3911(4) except that the support provided by the service member to the individual shall have been provided 180 days immediately preceding an alleged action that if proven true would constitute unlawful discrimination under this section instead of 180 days immediately preceding an application for relief under 50 U.S.C. Chapter 50.

Minimum Wage

The minimum hourly wage to be paid to employees as designated by the United States Department of Labor, or Commonwealth of Virginia (whichever is higher).

Multi Rater Option

The use of feedback from persons in addition to the immediate supervisor as part of the performance review process.

Negative Time Reporting

The time and attendance reporting method for employees only required to report exceptions to scheduled hours.

Open Examination

An examination open to the public and not limited to applicants in County service.

Overtime (FLSA)

Time worked or on paid leave by an employee (excluding employees in law enforcement and fire protection as defined herein) in excess of 40 hours during his/her seven consecutive days work period. Overtime for law enforcement personnel shall be time worked or on paid leave in excess of 86 hours (80 hours for sworn Police Officers, Animal Protection Police Officers, and Deputy Sheriffs scheduled to work a 40-hour week) during his/her 14-consecutive day work period. Overtime for fire protection personnel shall be time worked or on paid leave in excess of 212 hours during his/her 28-consecutive day work period.

Non-FLSA overtime includes hours worked in excess of the employee's scheduled hours but less than the eligibility requirement for FLSA overtime stated above.

Overtime Pay

Compensation paid to an employee for overtime work performed in accordance with these rules. The rate of pay for overtime compensation will be either 1 times the hourly rate or 1 and 1/2 times the regular rate of pay as prescribed in Section 4.15 of these rules.

Part-Time Employee

An employee who is not regularly scheduled to work at least 2,080 hours in 12 consecutive months, or fire protection personnel not regularly scheduled to work at least 2, 912 hours in 12 consecutive months.

Part-Time Position

Any position, which does not meet the definition of full-time position.

Pay Grade

A combination of letter and number symbol indicating the pay range on a county pay schedule assigned to one or more classes in the Compensation Plan.

Pay Grade Reallocation Review

An evaluation of a class performed by the Department of Human Resources to determine the appropriateness of the present pay grade. The review will result in the class retaining its present pay grade assignment; or being assigned a higher or lower pay grade requiring amendment to the Compensation Plan. Such a review may include but is not limited to pay factors including prevailing area levels of pay, internal evaluation of the relative worth of the class and economic and related fiscal concerns.

Pay Period

The 14-consecutive calendar day period utilized for the calculation of paychecks and the crediting of leave earned.

Pay Range

Rates of pay assigned to a pay grade on a County pay schedule in the Compensation Plan. For non-public safety employee classes, a pay range shall consist of the minimum and maximum rates of pay and the mid-point of the range. Pay ranges assigned to grades allocated to classes of public safety employees shall consist of the minimum (step 1) and maximum rates of pay (step 9) as well as intermediate and longevity steps.

Pay Rate

A specific dollar amount expressed as an annual rate, a bi-weekly rate, or an hourly rate, as shown in a County Pay Plan.

Pay Status

Any period in which an employee is actually working or using paid leave.

Performance Pay Increase

An increase in compensation, which may be granted to an employee by his/her department head or designee for performance that meets the requirements specified for such pay increases.

Performance Pay Increase (PPI) Date

The date an employee's performance pay increase is effective. The PPI date for non-uniformed public safety employees will be at the start of the first full pay period at the beginning of the fiscal year, during years when performance pay increases are granted by the Board of Supervisors. Public safety employees' PPI dates will be the beginning of the first full pay period following the incumbent's anniversary date, during years when performance pay increases are granted.

Performance Review Period

The 12-month performance evaluation review period for non-uniformed public safety employees begins July 1 and concludes on June 30, each year. Review periods for public safety staff correspond to each incumbent's anniversary date.

Position

Any office or employment, whether occupied or vacant, full-time or part-time, consisting of duties and responsibilities assigned to one individual by competent authority.

Positive Time Reporting

The time and attendance reporting method for employees required to report all absences and hours worked.

Primary Position

When an employee holds more than one position with the County, one of the positions is designated as the primary and the other as the secondary for the purpose of calculating pay and benefits and tracking employment history. If the two positions are equal in pay and scheduled hours, the primary position is the one the employee occupied first. Otherwise, the primary position is the position with higher pay and/or hours.

Probationary Period

The working test or trial period of employment beginning with the date of appointment to a particular class.

Promotion

Assignment of an employee from one class to another, which has a higher maximum rate of pay.

Promotional Examination

A competitive examination restricted to persons who are on regular appointment in the County classified service or to persons who are eligible to reinstatement thereto.

Public Safety Employees

For the purposes of these regulations, public safety employees include all uniformed employees in the Police Department, Fire and Rescue Department and the Office of the Sheriff. It also includes all other job classes that are included on P/O/C/F pay scales.

Qualifications

The minimum educational, experience and personal requirements, which must be fulfilled by a person preliminary to appointment or promotion.

Reduction in Rank

Assignment of an employee from one class to another class, which has a lower maximum rate of pay. Same as demotion.

Reemployment

Reappointment of a former merit employee, who had completed the probationary period and was separated in good standing but did not retire, which is not considered a reinstatement as defined herein.

Reemployment List

A list of names of former County employees with a break in service of less than one calendar year, arranged in order of their right to reinstatement as defined in Section 2.60, or reemployment in lower classes of the same or similar series as that in which the employee was serving at the time of termination.

Regular Rate of Pay

The rate of pay to be utilized for the calculation of overtime pay in accordance with FLSA requirements. The regular rate is derived by dividing the total amount of eligible pay for the work period (including the hourly rate and shift differential) by the number of hours worked during the work period.

Reinstatement

Reappointment of a former merit employee who had completed the probationary period and was separated in good standing, but did not retire, after a break in service of less than one calendar year to the position or class formerly held.

Restoration

A return to a position in a class in which status was formerly held where there has been no break in service.

Scheduled Hours

The number of hours that an employee is scheduled to work on a recurring basis as reflected in the personnel record for the position occupied. Scheduled hours serve as the basis for planning and budgeting activities as well as leave calculation rules as specified in Chapter 10 of the Personnel Regulations.

Self-Assessment

The completion of a performance evaluation form by the employee to provide his/her assessment of their performance during the review period.

Separation

Leaving a position for any of the following reasons:

- Resignation
- Lay-Off (Separation of an employee from a position to which s/he was legally certified and appointed as a result of the abolition of a position, lack of work, or lack of funds.)
- Dismissal for Cause referred to as simply Dismissal (Separation from County employment for cause. This designation is the most severe form of discipline and bars the individual from further employment with Fairfax County Government.)
- Unsatisfactory Service Separation (A department head may separate an employee for unsatisfactory service whenever the work habits, attitudes, production or personal conduct of an employee falls below the desirable standards for continued employment. A resignation initiated by an employee may be designated as unsatisfactory service by a department head if adequate grounds exist. Reasons for unsatisfactory service separations shall include but are not limited to: insufficient advance notice prior to resignation; unsatisfactory performance in the duties of the position; separation during the initial probationary period; and undesirable behavior or other similar reasons not of a degree warranting dismissal. This designation does not automatically bar the individual from employment with Fairfax County Government.
- Disability
- Death

Straight Pay Eligible

Employees in pay grades S-22 to S-25, P-24 to P-26, O-22 to O-26, C-22 to C-26, F-29 and L-01. Exceptions are noted in a procedural memorandum issued by the Human Resources Director.

Suspension

An enforced leave of absence without pay for disciplinary purposes or pending investigation of charges made against an employee.

Transfer

Assignment of an employee from one position to another position. Transfers can take place within a department, between departments, between positions of the same pay range, between positions of different pay ranges, between positions of the same class or between positions of different classes.

Unassembled Examination

An examination in which qualifications are evaluated on the basis of records or education and experience submitted by the applicants, supplemented by any information obtained by an investigation.

Vacancy

A position which has been newly established or which has been rendered vacant by the resignation, death or other removal of the previous incumbent.

Veteran

Any person who has received an honorable discharge and has (i) provided more than 180 consecutive days of full-time, active duty service in the armed forces of the United States or reserve components thereof, including the National Guard, or (ii) has a service-connected disability rating fixed by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Workday

Days of the week and number of hours an employee is scheduled to work. Work schedules vary by operation and agency.

Workweek

The seven-consecutive day period beginning at 12:00 a.m. Saturday and ending the following Friday at 11:59 p.m. during which an employee (excluding law enforcement and fire protection personnel as defined herein) is scheduled to work.

Work Period

The period during which an employee is scheduled to work. For all employees except law enforcement and fire protection personnel as defined herein, the work period shall be the work week which comprises one half of a pay period. The work period for fire protection personnel shall be a 28-consecutive calendar day period beginning at 12:00 a.m. Saturday and ending at 11:59 p.m. Friday and covering two pay periods. The work period for law enforcement personnel shall be a 14-consecutive calendar day period beginning at 12:00 a.m. Saturday, ending at 11:59 p.m. Friday, and covering one pay period.