



CLOSURE NOTICE

October 2, 2023

Please note that, because of a lapse in appropriations, the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights (OCWR) is closed. OCWR staff, hearing officers, mediators, and court reporters are not available to respond to inquiries. Any requests for information, training, or other activity requiring an OCWR staff person to respond will not be handled while the OCWR is closed due to a lapse in appropriations.

Parties to a pending claim filed with the OCWR on or before September 25, 2023, have received an order or notice from the OCWR hearing officer or mediator handling the claim addressing scheduling, deadlines, or any other matters as they may be impacted by the lapse in funding and closure of the OCWR.

Parties to a claim filed with the OCWR on or after September 26, 2023, should note that no hearing officer has been appointed to handle the claim and, therefore, no OCWR procedural deadlines have been triggered. Upon the restoration of funding for the OCWR, the OCWR will process the claim and further guidance will be forthcoming after that time. **Any statutory deadline unrelated to proceedings before the OCWR, however, cannot be and have not been modified by the OCWR, including any deadlines related to filing an action in a United States District Court or appealing an OCWR Board decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.**

For legislative branch employees who may have a claim to file with the OCWR under the Congressional Accountability Act but have not yet filed their claim, please note that the statutory deadline for filing a claim may not and has not been extended or waived by the OCWR. During a lapse in appropriations and resulting closure of the OCWR office, covered employees may continue to file claims with the Clerk of the OCWR via electronic mail, postal mail, or facsimile. Because the OCWR office is closed, it will not be possible for a claimant to hand deliver a claim form during a lapse in appropriations. Similarly, to avoid any loss of data or other property, claimants will not be able to file a claim through SOCRATES, the OCWR's online filing system, during a lapse in appropriations.