

Issue: Consolidation of grievances for a single hearing; Ruling Date: May 8, 2012; Ruling No. 2012-3343, 2012-3344; Agency: Virginia Commonwealth University; Outcome: Consolidation Granted.



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
**Department of Employment Dispute Resolution**  
**CONSOLIDATION RULING OF DIRECTOR**

In the matter of Virginia Commonwealth University  
Ruling Numbers 2012-3343, 2011-3344  
May 8, 2012

This ruling addresses the consolidation of the grievant's two grievances filed with Virginia Commonwealth University (the University). For the reasons discussed below, this Department finds that consolidation of these grievances into a single hearing is appropriate and practicable.

FACTS

The two grievances at issue, dated February 28, 2012 and March 20, 2012, concern two Written Notices issued to the grievant culminating in her termination. After the parties failed to resolve the grievances during the management resolution steps, the University has asked for appointment of a hearing officer in these matters and requested that the grievances be consolidated for a single hearing.

DISCUSSION

Approval by the Director of this Department or her designee in the form of a compliance ruling is required before two or more grievances may be consolidated in a single hearing. Moreover, EDR may consolidate grievances for hearing without a request from either party.<sup>1</sup> EDR strongly favors consolidation and will consolidate grievances when they involve the same parties, legal issues, policies, and/or factual background, unless there is a persuasive reason to process the grievances individually.<sup>2</sup>

This Department finds that consolidation of the grievant's February 28, 2012 and March 20, 2012 grievances is appropriate. These grievances involve the same grievant and could share common themes, claims, and witnesses. The grievances all relate to disciplinary actions issued to the grievant that led to her termination. Further, we find that consolidation is not impracticable in this instance. Therefore, the grievant's February 28, 2012 and March 20, 2012 grievances are consolidated for a single hearing. A hearing officer will be appointed in a forthcoming letter.

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<sup>1</sup> *Grievance Procedure Manual* § 8.5.

<sup>2</sup> *See id.*

This Department's rulings on compliance are final and nonappealable.<sup>3</sup>

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Claudia T. Farr  
Director

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<sup>3</sup> See Va. Code §§ 2.2-1001(5), 2.2-3003(G).