

## Article 6

# Grievance Procedures

### 6.1 Purpose

- A. This grievance procedure shall be used to process and resolve grievances arising under this Contract and employment-related complaints.
- B. The purposes of this procedure are:
  - 1. To resolve grievances informally at the lowest possible level.
  - 2. To provide an orderly procedure for reviewing and resolving grievances promptly.

### 6.2 Definitions

- A. A grievance is a dispute of one or more employees, or a dispute between the State and the Union, involving the interpretation, application, or enforcement of the express terms of this Contract.
- B. A complaint is a dispute of one or more employees involving the application or interpretation of a written rule or policy not covered by this Contract and not under the jurisdiction of the SPB. Complaints shall only be processed as far as the department head or designee.
- C. As used in this procedure, the term “immediate supervisor” means the individual identified by the department head.
- D. As used in this procedure, the term “party” means the Union, an employee, or the State.
- E. A “Union representative” refers to a Union steward or staff representative or a bargaining unit council representative.

### 6.3 Time Limits

Each party involved in a grievance shall act quickly so that the grievance may be resolved promptly. Every effort should be made to complete action within the time limits contained in the grievance procedure. However, with the mutual consent of the parties, the time limitation for any step may be extended.

### 6.4 Waiver of Steps

The parties may mutually agree to waive any step of the grievance procedure.

### 6.10 Response

If the State fails to respond to a grievance within the time limits specified for any step, the grievant shall have the right to appeal to the next step.

### 6.11 Formal Grievance – Step 4

- A. If the grievance is not resolved at Step 3, within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of the third level response, the Union shall have the right to submit the grievance to arbitration. If the grievance is not submitted to arbitration within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of the third level response, it shall be considered withdrawn.
- B. Within fifteen (15) calendar days after the notice requesting arbitration has been served on the State, the Union shall contact the State to mutually select an arbitrator. If the parties cannot mutually agree upon an arbitrator

within thirty (30) calendar days after the request to select an arbitrator has been served, the Union may request the State Conciliation and Mediation Service or the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service to submit to both parties a panel of nine (9) arbitrators. Within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt of the panel of arbitrators from the State Conciliation and Mediation Service or the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, the Union shall contact the State in writing and request to strike names from the panel. The parties shall have ten (10) business days to meet and alternately strike names until only one name remains and this person shall be the arbitrator.

- C. The arbitration hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the Voluntary Labor Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association. The cost of arbitration shall be borne equally between the parties, unless the parties mutually agree to a different arrangement.
- D. An arbitrator may, upon request of the Union and the State, issue his/her decision, opinion, or award orally upon submission of the arbitration. Either party may request that the arbitrator put his/her decision, opinion, or award in writing and that a copy be provided.
- E. The arbitrator shall not have the power to add to, subtract from, or modify this Contract. Only grievances as defined in section 6.2(A) of this article shall be subject to arbitration. In all arbitration cases, the award of the arbitrator shall be final and binding upon the parties.