

Rule 2. Filling Positions

The method used to fill a position is dependent upon the type of position and the type of appointment to be made. Classified and exempt positions may be filled by a competitive or non-competitive process into one of the following:

A. Permanent Positions

A permanent position is one for which the duties and responsibilities are expected to occur on an ongoing basis and which is funded with recurring funds. The term permanent does not mean that the position cannot evolve or be eliminated. A permanent position may be a classified position or an exempt position.

Unless the position is excluded from the provisions of Florida Statutes Chapter 295, individuals who are eligible for Veterans' Preference in accordance with Chapter 295, Florida Statutes shall be provided a preference in each step of the hiring process.

1. Exempt Positions

- a. Exempt positions are filled at the pleasure of the Appointing Authority.
- b. The selection process used to fill a position is at the discretion of the Appointing Authority.
- c. At the request of the Appointing Authority, the Human Resources Department will assist in the design and/or execution of a selection plan to fill an exempt position.

2. Classified Positions

Classified positions will be filled by new hire, promotion, demotion, lateral, or transfer. Except as provided below, all permanent classified positions will be filled by a competitive process with the selection of a candidate from a list of eligible candidates (eligible register) provided by the Human Resources Department. Qualified employees shall be given an employee preference by requiring the hiring manager to review the qualification of the employee. All employees filling permanent classified positions must serve an initial one year probationary period unless shortened by the Appointing Authority.

a. Eligible Register and Recruitment

The Human Resources Department is responsible for the design and administration of the selection plan for the construction of the eligible register and will use fair and valid selection criteria in accordance with established professional standards and practices. The Human Resources Department shall make the final determination as to whether an individual meets the minimum qualifications of the job classification to be placed on the eligible register.

The method of recruitment and posting to fill vacant classified positions will be determined by the Appointing Authority or designee in consultation with the Human Resources Department. The recruitment may be:

- i. **External** – recruitment open to all interested individuals including the general public and all employees.
- ii. **Internal** – recruitment open to all interested employees in permanent positions within a designated area of the Unified Personnel System. Such recruitment

may be open to all Unified Personnel System employees or limited to employees within a designated department or division. Members of the public and temporary employees are not eligible for consideration.

- iii. **Reduction in Force** - recruitment during a reduction in force limited to classified employees, exempt employees who are to be impacted by the reduction in force, and former classified and exempt employees who have been separated from County service through layoff and whose separation date is less than six months from the closing date of the recruitment.
- iv. **Restricted** – recruitment resulting from the reclassification of an unspecified position will be limited to all interested employees in designated permanent positions. The designation of the positions will be made as part of the reclassification recommendation made by the Director of Human Resources and approved by the Appointing Authority and the Unified Personnel Board.

b. Types of Appointment

i. New Hire

- a) If the individual selected to fill the position is not currently in a permanent position within the Unified Personnel System, the appointment will be considered a new hire and the appointee required to serve a probationary period.
- b) The probationary period is an integral part of the selection process and shall be utilized to evaluate the employee's performance on the job as well as for dismissing an employee who does not meet required standards of performance or behavior.
- c) The probationary period shall be for one year from date of appointment.
- d) Employees absent for a period in excess of 10 consecutive working days during the probationary period shall have their probationary period extended for the amount of time that such absences exceed the 10 day limit.
- e) A new hire may be given up to six months credit for time worked toward the probationary period for immediate prior temporary service if hired into a permanent position in the same department in the same or a lower related job classification.
- f) An employee whose services are deemed unsatisfactory may be dismissed at any time prior to the expiration of the probationary period. If satisfactory, or if the Appointing Authority fails to furnish notice to the Director of Human Resources prior to expiration of the probationary period, the probationary period shall be deemed to be satisfactorily completed and the individual will become a member of the regular service. At any point prior to the end of the employee's probationary period, the Appointing Authority may remove the employee from probationary status. The determination of the Appointing Authority in either of these matters shall be final.
- g) Starting pay will be determined in accordance with Rule 3.

ii. Promotion

- a) If the individual selected to fill the position is currently in a permanent position within the Unified Personnel System and the maximum of the pay rate for the

new position is higher than that of the employee's current pay grade, the filling of the position will be considered to be a promotion.

- b) Any increase in pay shall be awarded in accordance with Rule 3.
- c) With the approval of the Appointing Authority and the Director of Human Resources, a classified employee promoted to fill a classified position who is unable to satisfactorily perform the job related requirements of the position during the first six months following the promotion shall be returned to a position in the employee's former job classification. Pay rate and probationary period, if any, shall be adjusted to correspond to what normally would have been attained had there not been a promotion. Any employee who is displaced by demotion of a promoted employee in accordance with the above procedure shall be subject to the provisions outlined in Personnel Rule 5, Reduction in Force. The determination of the Appointing Authority in this matter shall be final. After the first six months following the promotion, an inability to satisfactorily perform the job related requirements must be dealt with through the disciplinary process.
- d) An exempt employee promoted into a classified position will serve a one year probationary period. If the services of the employee are deemed unsatisfactory, the employee may be dismissed at any time prior to the expiration of the probationary period. If satisfactory, or if the Appointing Authority fails to furnish notice to the Director of Human Resources prior to expiration of the probationary period, the probationary period shall be deemed to be satisfactorily completed and the employee will become a member of the regular service. At any point prior to the end of the employee's probationary period, the Appointing Authority may remove the employee from probationary status. The determination of the Appointing Authority in either of these matters shall be final.
- e) A classified employee promoted to fill a classified position and currently serving in the first six months following the promotion who wishes to voluntarily return to the previous job classification shall make such a request in writing and, with the approval of the Appointing Authority, may be demoted in accordance with the provisions described in the Rule 2.A.2.b.ii.c. above. An exempt employee promoted to fill a classified position and currently serving a probationary period who wishes to voluntarily return to the previous job classification shall make such a request in writing and the return of the individual to the exempt service is at the Appointing Authority's discretion.

iii. Transfer/Lateral

- a) If the individual selected to fill a position is currently in a permanent classified position within the Unified Personnel System in the same job classification, it will be considered a transfer. If the individual selected is currently in a permanent classified position within the Unified Personnel System and is in a different job classification but in the same pay grade, it will be considered to be a lateral.
- b) Normally there is no adjustment in pay. However any change in pay shall be made in accordance with Rule 3.C. Base Pay Adjustments.
- c) A classified employee taking such a transfer or lateral will not serve an additional probationary period.

iv. Demotion

- a) If the individual selected to fill a position is currently in a permanent position within the Unified Personnel System and the maximum of the pay rate for the new position is lower than that of the employee's current pay grade, the filling of the position will be considered to be a voluntary demotion.
- b) Any decrease in pay shall be awarded in accordance with Rule 3.
- c) A classified employee demoted to fill a classified position will not serve an additional probationary period.
- d) An exempt employee demoted to fill a classified position will serve a one year probationary period. An Appointing Authority, prior to the expiration of the probationary period, shall notify the Director of Human Resources in writing whether the services of the employee have been satisfactory or unsatisfactory. An exempt employee demoted to a classified position whose services are deemed unsatisfactory may be dismissed at any time prior to the expiration of the probationary period. If satisfactory, or if the Appointing Authority fails to furnish notice to the Director of Human Resources prior to expiration of the probationary period, the probationary period shall be deemed to be satisfactorily completed and the employee will become a member of the regular service. At any point prior to the end of the employee's probationary period, the Appointing Authority may determine that the employee has successfully satisfied the job related requirements of the position and may remove the employee from probationary status. The determination of the Appointing Authority in either of these matters shall be final.

v. Exceptions

The following are the exceptions whereby a classified position may be filled without the use of an eligible register.

a) Career Ladder Promotion

A classified employee may be career ladder promoted without use of an eligible register to a higher level position within the established career ladder if:

- i) The position has been designated a career ladder position, by the Unified Personnel Board;
- ii) The department has a genuine need for the higher level work; and
- iii) The employee meets the criteria for advancement within the career ladder.

Any pay changes will be made in accordance with Rule 3.

b) Transfer/Lateral (Non-competitive)

With the approval of the Appointing Authority(ies) concerned and the Director of Human Resources, a regular status or probationary classified employee may be transferred to another position in the same job classification or another job classification with the same pay grade and substantially similar duties and responsibilities at the written request of the employee or the

discretion of the Appointing Authority. Such transfer shall not change the employee's pay grade, pay rate, or regular/probationary status.

c) Non-competitive Demotion

i. Voluntary

A regular status or probationary employee may, based on written request of the employee, be demoted to a job classification with a lower maximum pay rate in the pay grade assigned to the encumbered job classification. Such demotion shall occur with the approval of the Appointing Authority and the Director of Human Resources.

Any changes in pay will be made in accordance with Rule 3.

Upon such demotion, a probationary employee will serve the balance of the probationary period but a regular status employee will not be required to serve another probationary period.

ii. Exempt Service Returned to Classified Service

An exempt employee may, at the discretion of the Appointing Authority, return to the classified service to a position and pay grade comparable to that which the employee had attained prior to promotion to an exempt position. Any such return to the classified system shall require the approval of the Unified Personnel Board.

Upon such return, a one year probationary period will be served. The Appointing Authority, prior to the expiration of the probationary period, shall notify the Director of Human Resources in writing whether the services of the employee have been satisfactory or unsatisfactory. An exempt employee demoted to a classified position whose services are deemed unsatisfactory may be dismissed at any time prior to the expiration of the probationary period. If satisfactory, or if the Appointing Authority fails to furnish notice to the Director of Human Resources prior to expiration of the probationary period, the probationary period shall be deemed to be satisfactorily completed and the employee will become a member of the regular service. At any point prior to the end of the employee's probationary period, the Appointing Authority may determine that the employee has successfully satisfied the job related requirements of the position and may remove the employee from probationary status. The determination of the Appointing Authority in either of these matters shall be final.

Any adjustments to pay will be made in accordance with Rule 3.

d) Temporary Appointments to Permanent Positions

An Appointing Authority may assign any regular status employee under the Authority's jurisdiction to any duties as long as such duties are within the same classification encumbered by the employee. When it is necessary to temporarily assign duties of a higher classification to a regular status employee for more than 30 consecutive calendar days because of a vacancy in a permanent position or the extended absence of the employee who encumbers the position, a temporary appointment to the position shall be made.

The employee's pay shall be adjusted in accordance with Rule 3. Upon conclusion of the appointment, the employee shall be returned to the permanent position held immediately prior to this reassignment and the employee's pay rate shall be adjusted to the pay rate that would have normally been attained had there not been a promotion to the higher assignment.

e) Reduction in Force

Placements into vacant positions which are at the same or a lower pay grade and/or displacements made in accordance with Rule 5 – Reduction in Force may be made with the approval of the Appointing Authority and the concurrence of the Director of Human Resources.

f) Provisional Appointment

An Appointing Authority may make an appointment to a classified permanent position in the absence of an eligible register. Such appointment will not exceed six months from the date of its start or 45 days following the establishment of an eligible register for the position, whichever is less. Such an appointment requires approval of the Director of Human Resources. Provisional employees may not avail themselves of the grievance procedure and have no appeal rights to the Unified Personnel Board.

Pay rate will be established in accordance with Rule 3.

g) Substitute Appointments

Such appointments may be allowed to fill a permanent, vacant position open due to extended leave of absence. Such appointments shall be made from appropriate eligible registers, or in the case of a promotional position, from the lower related class. The substitute appointment shall confer no status, appeal, or related provision under the Personnel Rules. The initial substitute appointment shall not exceed six months. The substitute appointment may be extended for an additional six months upon approval of the Director of Human Resources. In the case of a vacant position open due to military leave that exceeds one year, the substitute appointment may be extended for the duration of the military leave upon approval of the Director of Human Resources, providing the approval is sought in six month intervals.

h) Double Encumbering

An Appointing Authority may double encumber a position with the approval of the Director of Human Resources. Double encumbering may be done competitively or non-competitively. There are occasions when departments may double encumber positions. These circumstances include situations where there is a need to train successors when retirement, resignation etc. is on the horizon. Other circumstances include but are not limited to situations when an employee is on an extended leave of absence and the position is encumbered by another employee during that time, and the use of job sharing between two employees occupying the same position.

Pay rate will be established in accordance with Rule 3.

B. Temporary Positions (excluding intern positions)

A temporary position is one for which the duties and responsibilities are expected to occur for a short time frame or occur on a seasonal basis. An employee hired to fill this position is considered a temporary employee. The respective Appointing Authority makes appointment to this classification, subject to concurrence of the Director of Human Resources. The initial appointment may be for up to six months. The appointment may be extended for up to an additional six months with the approval of the Unified Personnel Board. Temporary employees may not avail themselves of the grievance procedure and have no appeal rights to the Unified Personnel Board.

A temporary position intended to exist for more than six months requires mandatory Florida Retirement System participation from the inception of the position.

Pay rate will be established in accordance with Rule 3.

C. Other Types of Positions

1. Special Projects

A position created for a specific project(s) and for a specific amount of time only. An employee hired to fill this position is considered a temporary employee and accrues County benefits as such. The respective Appointing Authority makes the appointment to this classification, subject to approval of the Director of Human Resources. The appointment may not exceed the length of the project(s), with extension of the original appointment to be granted by the Appointing Authority with the approval of the Director of Human Resources.

Pay rate will be established in accordance with Rule 3.

2. Grant Worker Positions

A position created for a specific grant(s) only. An employee hired to fill a classified Grant Worker position will serve the same initial one year probationary employee describe in New Hire Rule 2.A.2.b.i. and will be considered a regular service employee. The respective Appointing Authority makes appointment to this classification, subject to concurrence of the Director of Human Resources. The appointment may not exceed the length of the grant, with extension of the original appointment to be granted by the Appointing Authority with the concurrence of the Director of Human Resources. Employees in this classification are excluded from the reduction in force provisions in Rule 5, Reduction in Force, and may not appeal terminations resulting from the end of the grant under which they are working or conclusion of their appointment. An employee hired to fill an exempt Grant Worker position will treated as any other appointment to an Exempt position.

Pay rate will be established in accordance with Rule 3.

3. Intern Position

An intern position is a temporary position with emphasis on on-the-job training rather than just employment. Persons appointed to these positions acquire no rights under the County Service by virtue of such appointment, and said appointment shall terminate immediately upon completion of the training program or completion of 1,040 working hours, whichever occurs first, unless an extension of such period of temporary employment is granted by the Personnel Board. Intern positions may be paid or unpaid. If a paid position, pay rate will be established in accordance with Rule 3.