

Termination of Employment

(HC17)

POLICY STATEMENT

The New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (RTA) maintains a productive work force, retaining the most qualified employees to fulfill its mission. Employment at RTA may be terminated by either the employee or RTA, through resignation, retirement, abandonment of position, discharge, reduction-in-force, death, or expiration of leave of absence.

PURPOSE

This policy specifies the steps to follow when the employment relationship between an employee and RTA terminates.

APPLICATION

APPROVED.

This policy applies to all RTA applicants and employees. If a conflict occurs between this policy and a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), the CBA will prevail.

AIT NOVED.		
ADOPTED: Board Chair	Chief Executive Officer	¥.
	Effective Date:	
	Date of Last Review:	



1.0 PROCEDURES

1.1 Processing an Employee Termination STEP 1 – Receive or Issue Notice of Termination

1.1.1 Resignation

RTA requests at least two weeks advance notice prior to their final day of work, from employees who intend to resign from RTA service. If the notice of intent to resign is given verbally to the supervisor, without the requested written notice, the supervisor must issue a letter to the employee acknowledging the resignation in writing. The supervisor should forward a copy of the resignation notice to the department head and the Chief Human Resources Officer, Human Capital.

1.1.2 Retirement

Retirement is a voluntary termination from active service. There is no mandatory retirement age.

An employee should give written notice 90 days prior to the last day of work to the supervisor, respective department head, and the Human Capital Department. If the employee only gives the notice of retirement verbally to the supervisor, the supervisor must issue a letter to the employee acknowledging the retirement with a copy sent to the respective department head and the Chief Human Resources Officer, Human Capital.

1.1.3 Abandonment of Position

An employee is considered to have abandoned his/her position after an absence of three consecutive working days without contacting the supervisor to request leave and may include:

- failing to return from a leave as scheduled;
- being absent without approval; or
- failing to notify supervisor in cases of unplanned and unauthorized absences in a timely manner.

On the fourth day of the employee's unauthorized absence, the department must send the employee a certified letter of Notice of Proposed Disciplinary Action in compliance with the Progressive Discipline (HC25) policy, if recommended by the Chief Human Resources Officer or his/her designee.

Note: Prior to termination proceedings, the employee's supervisor will make reasonable attempts to contact the employee and/or employee's emergency contact per the Attendance and Work Schedule (HC1) policy. This will allow the supervisor to determine



whether an employee was incapacitated at the time of absence, and unable to call in due to a medical emergency.

1.1.4 Discharge

Employees may be discharged as a result of:

- misconduct:
- violations of law or RTA policies, procedures, and work rules;
- conduct that discredits RTA or the employee's position; or
- unsatisfactory job performance.

If the employee is being discharged, the supervisor must comply with the Progressive Discipline (HC25) policy, or the applicable collective bargaining agreement. A written notice of termination must be issued to the employee prior to his/her last day.

The manager or supervisor must consult with the Chief Human Resources Officer prior to discharging an employee.

1.1.5 Reduction in Force

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) may require a reduction in staff due to budgetary constraints. If employees are laid-off, supervisors will receive specific instructions regarding lay-off procedures.

1.1.6 Death

Upon the death of an employee, the supervisor should notify the Chief Human Resources Officer for immediate processing.

1.1.7 Expiration of Medical Leave

A certified letter of Notice of Proposed Termination of Employment will be sent to employees who have been granted a leave of absence and are unable to return to work by the expiration date of the leave of absence.

1.1.8 Termed-Out of Employment

Non-regular employees such as project employees, interns, etc., may not exceed a defined term of employment, and will terminate at the end of that tenure.

STEP 2 - Provide the Employee with the "Checklist for Employees Terminating from RTA"

Employees must complete the tasks listed on the Checklist for Employees Terminating from RTA (Attachment 1), prior to their last day of work. Supervisors must provide this list to the employee, with whom the supervisor should review the termination process.



STEP 3 – Complete an Employee Action Form (EAF)

Once the supervisor receives or issues a termination letter, the department's staff should complete a EAF (Attachment 2) for the employee, indicating the:

- Effective Date of Termination
- Reason for Termination
- Eligibility for Rehire
- Last Day Worked

STEP 4 – Complete the Clearance Order

The supervisor or his/her designee must follow the instructions outlined in the Addendum to this policy, Instructions for Completing a Clearance Order (Attachment 3) to complete the Clearance Order (Attachment 4), as well as manually complete a payroll timesheet for the terminating employee.

STEP 5 – Prepare Personnel Record and Medical Record Files for Delivery to Talent Acquisition

The employee's Personnel Record File and Medical Record File must be prepared for delivery to Human Capital in conformance with the standards specified in RTA's Personnel Records (HC6) policy.

STEP 6 – Deliver to Human Capital

On, or immediately following the employee's last day of work, the following materials must be hand-delivered, or mailed as one complete package to the Human Capital Department located at 2817 Canal St New Orleans, LA 70119.

- Notice of Termination
- Employee Action Form (EAF)
- Personnel Record and Medical Record Files
- Clearance Order
- Employee ID Badge/Transportation Pass and Dependent Transportation Pass(es)

STEP 7 – Notifying Contract Administrators

If the terminating employee was a contracted Project Manager (PM) that PM's supervising department must notify the assigned Contract Administrator with the name of the replacing PM, as needed.

1.2 Exit Interview

Upon an employee's voluntary separation from RTA employment, Human Capital will mail a letter with exit interview questionnaire. The exit interview is an optional and anonymous survey providing employees an opportunity to assess their experiences



working at RTA. Information gathered by Human Capital will be used to assess and modify/improve the RTA work environment, as needed; to improve employee retention; and aid in recruitment and retention efforts.

Employees who terminate will receive their final checks on the regular payday of the payroll period in which they terminate. For this reason, the above materials must be received by Human Capital no later than the end of the pay period.

Employees who have been terminated may not extend their RTA service by using accrued leave per the PTO Sick Leave (HC20) policy.

2.0 DEFINITION OF TERMS

Accrued Leave - Includes vacation, sick, frozen sick and frozen vacation, paid sick time, Paid Time Off (PTO), and Compensatory Time Off (CTO).

Discharge - An employee's involuntary separation from RTA resulting from disciplinary or performance reasons.

Earned Leave – Leave that has been earned, but not yet placed in employee's leave bank.

Resignation – A voluntary, employee-initiated separation from RTA.

Termination - The cessation of the employment relationship between RTA and an employee, either by resignation or business necessity.

3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

Department Heads are responsible for signing Clearance Orders.

Employees are responsible for providing advance notice to their supervisor of their resignation or retirement and for completing all tasks outlined on Checklist for Employees Terminating from RTA (Attachment 1). These tasks include returning all RTA property/equipment, Identification Badge/Transportation Pass and Dependents Passes and paying any outstanding financial obligations to RTA.

Supervisors are responsible for completing all the termination processing tasks outlined in this policy and its Addendum and for consulting with Employee & Labor Relations in Human Capital prior to making a final determination with respect to discharging a non-represented employee.



Human Capital/Talent Acquisition has overall responsibility for the administration of this policy.

4.0 FLOWCHART

N/A

5.0 REFERENCES

- Employee Code of Conduct
- Policies:
 - Progressive Discipline (HC25)
 - Employment Status (HC34)
 - Transportation Passes (HC19)
 - Medical Leave (HC39)
 - Employee Personnel File (HC6)
 - PTO Sick Leave (HC20)

6.0 ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Checklist for Employees Terminating from RTA
- 2. Employee Action Form (EAF)
- 3. Addendum to Termination of Employment Policy, Section 1.1, Step 4 Instructions for Completing the Clearance Order
- 4. Clearance Order
- 5. Supervisor's Termination Processing Checklist

7.0 PROCEDURE HISTORY

N/A

8.0 SPONSOR DEPARTMENT

Human Capital



CHECKLIST FOR EMPLOYEES RETIRING OR TERMINATING FROM RTA

This checklist is intended to help you complete the retirement or termination process.

Employees terminating their employment with RTA are responsible for completing a variety of tasks on or before their last day of work. Please ensure that you complete the various tasks outlined below before you leave RTA. If you have questions, please speak with your immediate supervisor or contact the Human Capital Department.

NOTE: Failure to return property to RTA or the removal of property may be construed as theft and appropriate legal action may be taken if property is not recovered. RTA will deduct from the employee's final check for the value of any unreturned property.

Tasks to Complete	Completed
1. If you are voluntarily resigning from RTA, proved your supervisor	
written notice of your intent to resign at least two (2) weeks prior to	
your last day of work. If you are retiring, provide written notice of your	
intent to retire at least 90 days in advance of your last day of work.	
2. Turn in the following items to your immediate supervisor or other	
appropriate party on or before your last day of work:	
 Transportation Pass and Dependent Passes. Employee 	
will be charged a fee equivalent to the fee charged for	
lost or stolen passes for each unreturned Transportation	
Pass and Dependent Pass	
Keys	
 All Tools, property, equipment, manuals and other RTA 	
property in your possession	
Other items issued to you	
3. If you are voluntarily resigning or retiring, your department will	
provide you with an Exit Interview Questionnaire to complete before	
your last day of work. You are encouraged to complete this	
Questionnaire and to send it to the Human Capital Department in the	
pre-addressed stamped confidential envelope that is provided.	
4. Settle any and all other outstand financial matters/obligations to RTA	
not indicated above with the Payroll Department.	
5. Turn in Purchase Card (P-Card) if applicable.	
6. Provide your department with your forwarding mailing address.	
Miscellaneous Task to Do (For Employee's use)	



OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TERMINATING FROM RTA

Final Check: Your final check will be issued to you on the next scheduled payday of the payroll period in which you are terminating. It will include unpaid wages, earned and accrued vacation time or PTO, frozen or banked vacation, and any unused compensatory time off (CTO). If you are retiring, you will also receive up to 100% (is this union and if not unaware that we pay any sick leave, but I'm willing to pay 25% of sick hours for retirement only) of your sick time/frozen sick time, depending on your union affiliation or non-union affiliation. Your final check may also reflect deductions for the value of any property/equipment that you have not returned to RTA or any outstanding balances that you owe RTA.

Arrange with your department to have your final check:

- 1. Mailed to you or
- 2. Available for pick-up on payday at RTA's payroll department located at 2817 Canal Street New Orleans, LA 70119

Benefits: After you leave RTA, you will be notified by mail of optional COBRAcontinued health coverage benefits by RTA's Pension and Benefits Department.

The Human Capital Department is available to answer any questions you might have regarding the termination process. You may contact a Human Capital Coordinator for assistance.



EMPLOYEE ACTION FORM

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EMPLOYEE ACTION FORM INSTRUCTIONS

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	Transaction Type – Choose from the drop down list (ie. Separation) – REQUIRED FOR ALL ACTIONS Reason – Provide the reason for the transaction REQUIRED FOR ALL ACTIONS
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NEW HIRE	Personal Information Update – New Hire Information Section
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	 Complete all fields For hire dates, used Adjusted Hire Date to give service credit for prior Company Service (ie:
	Veolia, Transdev, etc.)
	Job Information Section
	Complete left side of this section
	Complete left side of this section Location Name – name of property
	o Payroll Dept – enter Payroll Dept # o Union Name – if union employee provide union code or name
	o Job Title – name of position
	o File # - This is auto assigned when employee is entered into ADP
	o Employee Type – Select one in each category: Hourly or Salary, Temp or Perm, FT or PT
	o Standard Hours – enter hours scheduled to work per week
	Salary Changes Section Salary Changes Section
	Complete left side of this section House Pote if house application and the section is a section in the se
	Hourly Rate – if hourly employee provide hourly rate
	o Annual Rate – if salaried employee provide annual rate
	Bonus Target % - if employee is bonus eligible provide bonus target Date of Last Increase – enter hire date
	Signatures Section – obtain appropriate signature for new hire transaction
	Signatures Section – obtain appropriate signature for new nire transaction
JOB CHANGE	Job Information Section
JOB CHANGE	
	Current Job Data (left side of section) Complete entire section with current job information
	Proposed Job changes – ALL PAY GROUP TRANSFERS MUST GO THROUGH Human
	Resources/Human Capital
	Enter Effective Date of Proposed Change
	Complete entire section with new job information
	o If employee is transferring pay groups, new File # will be assigned for employee upon entry into
	ADP.
	Salary Changes Section
	Provide current salary information (left side of section)
	Hourly Rate – if hourly employee provide current hourly rate
	o Annual Rate – if salary employee provide current annual rate
	o Bonus Target % - if bonus eligible provide current bonus target
	Provide increase information (right side of section)
	o Enter Effective Date of Proposed Change
	Review Rating – provide employee's latest review rating
	o Increase Total \$ - provide amount of increase in dollars
	 Enter % of increase – Merit, Promotion or Adjustment (form will automatically calculate total%)
	o Enter new hourly or annual rate & bonus target (if applicable)
	Signatures Section – Obtain appropriate signature for job change transaction
LEAVE OF ABSENCE	First Day of LOA - Provide first day employee missed work due to leave
	Expected LOA Return – Provide date employee is expected to return to work
	Actual LOA Return Date – Provide date employee returned to work
	Actual LOA Return Date – Provide date employee returned to work Signatures Section – Obtain appropriate signature for leave of absence transaction
SEPARATION	
SEPARATION	Signatures Section – Obtain appropriate signature for leave of absence transaction
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SEPARATION	Signatures Section – Obtain appropriate signature for leave of absence transaction Separation Date – Provide date of employee separated Last Day Worked – Provide date employee was last at work Severance – Select Yes or No if the employee is eligible for Severance Pay Thru Date – Provide date the employee should be paid thru
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SEPARATION	Signatures Section – Obtain appropriate signature for leave of absence transaction Separation Date – Provide date of employee separated Last Day Worked – Provide date employee was last at work Severance – Select Yes or No if the employee is eligible for Severance Pay Thru Date – Provide date the employee should be paid thru Hours Owed – Provide number of vacation, floating holidays and/or sick hours employee is owed (if any) Also include any other time due as part of a Collective Bargaining Agreement (i.e. PTO).
SEPARATION NAME / ADDRESS CHANGE	Signatures Section – Obtain appropriate signature for leave of absence transaction Separation Date – Provide date of employee separated Last Day Worked – Provide date employee was last at work Severance – Select Yes or No if the employee is eligible for Severance Pay Thru Date – Provide date the employee should be paid thru Hours Owed – Provide number of vacation, floating holidays and/or sick hours employee is owed (if any) Also includes



Addendum to Retirement and Termination of Employment Policy INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING A CLEARANCE

The following is a detailed description order associated with completing the RTA Clearance Order.

The Clearance Order is completed by the department in which the terminating employee is paid. Supervisors or their designee (s) are responsible for completing each section of the Clearance Order as indicated below. When all information on the Clearance Order has been completed, the Department Head must sign the Clearance Order.

Please read and follow the instructions below. You may also utilize the **Supervisor's Termination Processing Checklist** to assist you in keeping track of the various tasks which need to be completed.

If you have any questions regarding completing this Clearance Order or the termination process in general, please contact the Human Capital Department.

- 1. Final Paycheck Wages and Accrued/Earned Leave Banks An employee who terminates from RTA is entitled to any unpaid wages, earned and accrued vacation time or PTO, or frozen or banked vacation, and any unused compensatory time off (CTO). If retiring, an employee is entitled up to 100% of his/her accrued sick/frozen sick time. Charges for equipment/property not returned and any outstanding financial obligations to RTA will be deducted from the employee's final paycheck.
 - In order to pay the employee his/her final wages, a Payroll Timesheet should be completed for the employee and attached to the Clearance Order.
 - The Payroll Department will be responsible for indicating all other accrued/earned hours in the employee's final check.
 - The employee's final check will be issued by the Payroll's office on payday
 of the normal payroll cycle. Given this new practice, the use of the
 Manager's Check to pay final unpaid wages is prohibited.
 - Arrange with the employee to receive his/her final check either by: 1) U.S. mail, or 2) pick up on payday at the payroll office located at 2817 Canal St New Orleans, La 70119. Make sure the employee provides his/her correct forwarding mailing address.



- 2. RTA Equipment/Property Ensure that the employee has returned all required RTA equipment/property issued to him/her upon termination. The Clearance Order provides a detailed list of this equipment/property. Indicate on the Clearance Order the amount to be deducted from the employee's final check for the replacement value of any unreturned equipment/property or other fees owed.
- 3. Transportation Pass and Dependent Passes Per the Transportation Pass Policy HC19, upon termination, all employees must turn in their Transportation Pass and family Dependent Pass(es). Contact the Human Capital Department to determine the number of Dependent Passes that have been issued to the employee's family members. These passes are to be collected from the employee upon termination. Note on the Clearance Order the number of passes that have <u>not</u> been turned in by the employee. The employee will be charged for each employee and/or dependent Transportation Pass not turned in, in the amount charged for the replacement of a lost or stolen Transportation Pass. The Human Capital Department will calculate the specific amount that will be deducted from the employee's final check. All Returned passes are to be submitted to the Human Capital Department along with the employee's Personnel File, EAF, and Clearance Order and Timesheet.

4. Keys

5. Exit Interview Questionnaire: When an employee notifies you of his/her intention to voluntarily resign or retire, provide the employee with an Exit Interview Questionnaire Packet before his/her last day of work. Encourage the employee to complete the voluntary Exit Interview Questionnaire and assure the employee of the confidentiality of the information. Only the chief Human Resources Officer will review the Exit Interview Questionnaire responses. Advise the employee to send the completed Questionnaire directly to the Human Capital Department or through the U.S. mail in the pre-addressed stamped envelope provided.

Exit Interview Questionnaires may be obtained from the Human Capital Department.



- 6. Post-Employment Restrictions The supervisor must inform the employee that upon termination from RTA the employee must comply with all post employment restrictions outlined in RTA's Employee Code of Conduct, Section "5-15-210 Restrictions Upon Leaving the RTA".
- 7. Purchase (P) Cards When a Cardholder terminates employment at RTA, the P-card must be canceled prior to departure. Ensure that the card is returned to the Business Unit Coordinator immediately, for forwarding to the Agency Program Coordinator (APC). The Approving Official (AO) should notify the APC by e-mail, with a copy to the Business Unit Coordinator, to request immediate cancellation of the P-Card. The AO must process a Purchase Card Revisions and Cancellation form.

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^{*}Employees are entitled to wages, accrued and earned vacation time or TOWP, frozen/banked vacation, unused Compensatory Time Off (CTO), and if retiring, up to

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SUPERVISOR'S RETIREMENT/TERMINATION PROCESSING CHECKLIST

Tasks To Complete	Completed
Step 1 - Receive or Issue Employee's Notice of Retirement/Termination	
Step 2 - Provide employee Checklist for Employee Retiring/Terminating from RTA	
Step 3 - Complete Employee Action Form (EAF)	
Step 4 - Complete Clearance Order	
Step 5 - Prepare Employee's Personnel Record and Medical Records Files for delivery to the Human Capital Department	
Step 6 - Deliver all the above materials along with employee Transportation Pass and family Dependent Badges to the Human Capital, Records Room, or immediately after the employee's last day of work and before the end of the pay period.	
Clearance Order Checklist	
1. Final Check - Have the employee complete a Payroll Timesheet for unpaid wages and attach to the Clearance Order. Note on the Clearance Order the number of work hours the employee should be paid for. Employees will receive their final check in conjunction with the normal payroll cycle.	
Make arrangements for employee to receive his/her final check by one of the following options: 1) U.S. mail, or 2) pick up at the RTA's payroll office located at 2817 Canal St New Orleans, LA 70119. Ensure employee's forwarding mailing address is accurate.	
2. RTA Equipment/Property - Collect all RTA property/equipment from employee.	
Transportation Pass and Dependent Passes - Collect all passes from employee. Issue retirement pass to retiree and eligible dependents.	
4. Keys – Ensure that all keys that have been issued to employee are returned to immediate supervisor.	
5. Exit Interview Questionnaire - If employee is voluntarily resigning or	
retiring, provide Exit Interview Questionnaire packet for him/her to complete which may obtained from the Human Capital Department.	



Regional Transit Authority

6. Post-Employment Restrictions – Refer employee RTA's Code of Conduct, "Restrictions Upon Leaving the RTA" regarding employees' post-employment restrictions.	
7. Purchase (P) Cards - Ensure that employee has returned P-Card, if applicable	