



**NOTE:** If your layoff involves only probational employees please refer to Civil Service Rule 17.11. Use [Notification of Layoff Affecting Only Probational Employees - Layoff Template #5](#) for this purpose. The hyperlinked templates and forms referenced below can be found in Chapter 17 Job Aids & Resources.

This guide is designed to be used in conjunction with the [Layoff Checklist](#). Review the information below to help identify the target completion dates for each step of the layoff process. These guidelines pertain to layoffs involving permanent employees. Agencies are strongly encouraged to work with their HR departments and their HR Program Support Consultant when planning to implement a reduction in force.

### **1. Consultation with State Civil Service**

Agency HR Offices should make immediate contact with their HR Program Support Consultant to discuss the agency's proposal for layoff or layoff avoidance measures. The HR Program Support Consultant is available to help HR staff review layoff analysis with proposed organizational units, career fields, positions (job title and salary level), geographic areas, employees, employee adjusted service dates, and proposed targets. This consultation provides an opportunity to address varied scenarios and questions early in the process depicting potential layoff and relocation of incumbents. This allows the HR staff to provide relative information to appointing authorities to help with layoff decision making.

### **2. Submit Required Documentation to the Office of Planning and Budget (OPB)**

Unless you are a quasi-state entity and your budget process is completely independent of the Division of Administration, the Division requires you to submit a [Personnel Action Fiscal Impact Statement](#) (provided by OPB – copy attached) along with certain relevant information required by the Commissioner of Administration to your agency's OPB Analyst at the Office of Planning and Budget, Division of Administration. Any questions concerning the Fiscal Impact Statement should be directed to your agency's OPB Analyst. The OPB documentation must be submitted 5 working days prior to posting the general notice of layoff.

### **3. Posting the General Notice of Impending Layoff**

Post the "[General Notice of Impending Layoff](#)" (Template #2), which includes the contents of Civil Service [Rule 17.19](#) – Responsibilities of Employees Affected in a Layoff. The general notice may be posted on your agency website, agency bulletin boards in a general location where all employees have access to, etc. It is recommended that the General Notice is posted as soon as the agency knows there might be a layoff possible.

### **4. Verify Adjusted Service Dates**

Adjusted service dates for employees are required to be verified using Civil Service's Adjusted Service and Leave Date calculator found in the HR Info Portal, for determining the adjusted service date of impacted employees before a layoff plan has been submitted to SCS for review and approval (Per [General Circular 2016-015](#)). This tool assists the agency with verifying and maintaining HR records as employees are hired.

and as their employment circumstances change for both Adjust Service Date and Leave Service Date. Agencies are recommended to use the Prior State Service Questionnaire to collect prior service information. See [Adjusted Service Date – General Information](#), [Adjusted Service Date Notification Form](#), [Prior State Service Questionnaire](#) and [SCS HR Info Portal - Home Page](#).

## 5. Draft Your Layoff Plan

Agencies should begin by identifying positions to be abolished or vacated such as those for which there is currently no available work and/or funding. To help with this determination, agencies should generate a Layoff Determination Report to identify all of the classified employees in the affected career field, as well as other information that is pertinent to the layoff process, such as the Adjusted Service Date. LA Gov HCM agencies can generate the ZP12, Layoff Determination Report, and non-LA Gov agencies may review the information that is available to them in their human resource systems. If there is more than one position in an affected organizational unit, career field, and commuting area, then the agency will determine the employees in the affected organizational unit, career field, and commuting area with the least amount of service. Those employees will be laid off, creating vacancies that will be offered to the employees with a higher adjusted service date who occupy the targeted positions. The appointing authority must decide how those employees will be placed in the vacancies created by the layoff and document the rational business reason for making those determinations. As part of this process, the agency will determine if they will use any exemptions or request any exceptions to the regular rules. All of this information must be documented in the plan in accordance with Civil Service [Rule 17.14](#). See [Layoff Template #3](#).

Any employee who received an overall performance evaluation rating of Needs Improvement or Unsuccessful shall be included in the layoff if the employee is within the affected organizational unit, career field, and commuting area as outlined in the layoff plan. An agency may expand the layoff plan uniformly to include those employees who received a Needs Improvement or Unsuccessful evaluation rating that are within the defined organizational unit only. The overall performance evaluation rating that was rendered fewer than 60 days prior to the effective date of the layoff cannot be used (*refer to PES Evaluation as of 7/1/2024*). Positions that are affected under this rule are not required to be abolished.

The timeframes suggested in the checklist assume that the effective date of your layoff will be six weeks (42 calendar days) after completing steps 1 through 4 if all elements are completed and agreed upon. Please contact your HR Program Support Consultant as soon as you draft your plan, especially when a shorter time frame is needed.

## 6. Issue the Individual Notices of Layoff

Notify affected employees. A complete notice will contain:

- Individual Notification of Pending Layoff ([Layoff Template #4](#))
- The proposed layoff plan signed by the appointing authority
- Copy of [Rule 17.19](#) – Responsibilities of Employees Affected by Layoff
- Civil Service application to be used for DPRL purposes

The layoff plan cannot be approved until the comment period expires, which lasts five (5) calendar days after the last employee's notice is delivered. Delivery may be accomplished by hand or mail. If the notice is mailed to employees, you must allow seven (7) days for mail delivery to the employee and an additional reasonable period of time for employees to return comments (the 5-day comment period). During this

five (5) day window, the agency and Civil Service will be receiving employee comments on the proposed layoff plan.

*Civil Service does NOT recommend that you use certified mail when mailing these notices. Place the notices in the regular mail, or mail the notices at the post office and get a “certificate of mailing”.*

### **7. SCS Approval of the Plan**

The earliest date that the SCS Director can approve the plan is after the 5-day comment period has expired. The comment period begins when the last individual notice is delivered if such notice was hand-delivered to employees. If the agency chooses to mail individual notices, the timeline is 7 days presumed mailing, plus 5 days for the comment period. SCS will notify the agency if/when the plan is approved. The appointment freeze as required in [Rule 17.20](#) begins on the date of approval and remains in effect until the Department Preferred Reemployment List is established. This rule imposes a hiring freeze on layoff affected job titles and career fields within the commuting areas identified in the layoff plan.

### **8. Deliver memos and forms to employees who are being laid off or relocated**

Deliver memos, forms, and approved layoff plan to employees who are being relocated and/or laid off. Select appropriate memos and forms from the templates provided. Relocation offers should be made in writing and include the pay that the employee will make. (If you need assistance in implementing your relocation process, please contact your HR Program Support Consultant).

- PERMANENT employees without relocation offers ([Template #6](#)) and ([Template #9](#)).
- PERMANENT employees with relocation offer to a lower job title ([Template #7](#)), ([Template #8](#)), and ([Template #9](#)).
- PERMANENT employees with relocation offer to a lateral job title ([Template #7](#)) and ([Template #8](#))

The effective date of the layoff cannot occur before six (6) calendar days following the day that the last employee has been given final notification of the layoff per [Rule 17.12\(e\)](#). Document the date that the last relocation offer was made and/or if no relocation offers were made, the date that the last notice of layoff was given will start the clock for the effective date of the layoff. This period exists to give employees a chance to bring any possible layoff rule violations, etc. to the attention of the appointing authority and/or Civil Service prior to the effective date of the layoff.

### **10. Implement the Layoff**

Record all layoff related actions in the appropriate HRIS system and report all such transactions in the agency’s regular reporting format for personnel transactions as provided for in the Documentation and Reporting Requirements.

### **11. Submit Post Layoff Report**

Submit Post-Layoff Summary Report and Detail Report ([Template #10](#) and [Template #11](#)) to SCS no later than 15 calendar days after the effective date of the layoff per [Rule 17.22](#). This template contains the information required to finalize SCS layoff records and create the Department Preferred Reemployment List. Agencies who would like to submit the report electronically should contact their HR Program Support Consultant for more information on this option.

## **12. DPRL List is Established**

SCS establishes a Department Preferred Reemployment List. The effective date of this list is the end of the appointment freeze that is enacted in [Rule 17.20](#). Employees will stay on this list in accordance with [Rule 17.23](#).