



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RELATIONS
19 STANIFORD STREET, 1ST FLOOR
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114
Telephone: (617) 626-7132
FAX: (617) 626-7157
www.mass.gov/dlr

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

ERICA F. CRYSTAL
DIRECTOR

COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT
RELATIONS BOARD
MARJORIE F. WITNER
CHAIR
ELIZABETH NEUMEIER
BOARD MEMBER
HARRIS FREEMAN
BOARD MEMBER

NOTICE OF NEW ARBITRATION PROCEDURES

Starting June 10 2013, the DLR changed its arbitration scheduling procedure as outlined below to enhance its arbitration service. These changes will not impact the expedited arbitration hearing process we already offer.

Arbitrations will be scheduled on a priority system, in much the same way as the DLR processes its unfair labor practice cases. This will enable the DLR to provide more efficient scheduling to parties that use our arbitration services.

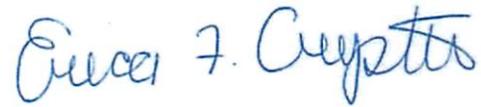
Priority cases are those involving terminations, suspensions of five (5) days or more, layoffs, class action cases, and any case affecting the health and safety of employees. These cases will be scheduled for hearing within one to three months, depending on the level of urgency, and it is anticipated that the decision will issue within one month from the date that the parties' briefs are received. The remaining cases will be scheduled within three to six months and it is anticipated that the decision will issue within three months from the time that the parties' briefs are received.

A mediator will be assigned to all priority cases. In addition, after the DLR sets the hearing date, a mediator will contact the parties to discuss mediation. Mediators will also be available for the remaining arbitration cases at the request of the parties.

Although these changes are prospective, if the parties believe that there is a pending arbitration case that should be prioritized and mediated, the parties should submit such a request in writing. The Director will make every effort to accommodate such requests.

Please direct any questions you might have to the Director, Erica Crystal at (617) 626-6923 or Chief Arbitrator, Tim Hatfield (617) 626-6926.

Very truly yours,
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RELATIONS

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erica F. Crystal". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "E" and "C".

Erica F. Crystal
Director