

American Federation of Government Employees

AFFILIATED WITH THE AFL-CIO

Local 2505

Ralph C. de Juliis
President



Carol A. Lewis
Executive Vice President

19 February 2008

Ms Ramona J. Schuenemeyer
Regional Commissioner - Dallas Region
Social Security Administration
1301 Young St., STE 130
Dallas, Texas 75202

BY FAX: (214) 767-4259

Dear Regional Commissioner Schuenemeyer:

By this letter, AFGE Local 2505 files a Section 10 grievance on the failure of SSA managers in various Field Offices in Oklahoma to provide administrative leave in accordance with Article 9 of the AFGE National Agreement.

Article 9, Section 6 reads in part:

The Administration will attempt to locate low cost/no cost local medical providers for services such as cholesterol, blood pressure and dental screenings, mammograms and will make such information available to employees.

The management interpretation to the language in Article 9, Section 6 (starting on page 9-8) reads in relevant part:

Employees are entitled to a reasonable amount of administrative leave to receive the services covered in this subsection. The use of administrative leave refers to Management initiated services only. This does not apply to routine visits to an employee's individual physician.

c/o Social Security Administration
4750 South Garnett Road ♦ Tulsa, Oklahoma 74146-5233
VOICE: (918) 641-2409 Ext. 2923 ♦ CELL: (918) 781-3096 ♦ FAX: (918) 641-2446
SSA E-mail: ralph.dejuliis@ssa.gov ♦ Internet E-mail: ralph.de.juliis@sbcglobal.net

SSA has failed and refused to even make a good faith attempt to locate such services -- despite its written acknowledgment of such an obligation in the management interpretation to the language in Article 9, Section 6 (on page 9) which reads in relevant part, "... a good faith attempt to locate these services should be made."

As a result, SSA has violated Article 3, Section 2 and Article 9, Section 6.

Had SSA fulfilled its good faith obligation to find low cost / no cost providers, SSA would have been contractually obligated to approve administrative leave for employees using those providers. However, since SSA failed to make any effort whatsoever (good faith or otherwise) to find such providers, SSA must approve administrative leave for employees who have, perforce, had to find their own providers of services such as "... cholesterol, blood pressure and dental screenings, mammograms", etc.

I will be the Union's representative in this grievance. I will be assisted by

Ms Carol A. Lewis
Executive Vice President
AFGE Local 2505
c/o Social Security Administration
902 S George Nigh
McAlester, OK 74501

Please have your designee contact me to schedule the oral presentation.

The remedy the Union seeks is that all employees, who were denied admin leave, have their leave credited with the appropriate amount of administrative leave (e.g., Carol A. Lewis) and that SSA notify all OK Field Office employees that since it has not found low cost / no cost providers for "...services such as cholesterol, blood pressure and dental screenings, mammograms..." they may be approved for administrative leave to see providers of their own choosing for such services.

Sincerely,

Ralph C. de Juliis

cc: AFGE Local 2505 Executive Committee