



**U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION**  
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Diana K. Sygula,

Complainant,

v.

Doug Collins, Secretary,  
Department of Veterans Affairs,

Agency.

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) EEOC No. 532-2021-00072X  
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) Agency No. 200H-0541-2020105731  
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) Date: March 14, 2025  
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**ORDER DISMISSING REQUEST FOR HEARING WITHOUT PREJUDICE**

This Order follows (1) the February 12 and 26, 2025 conference calls with Complainant's attorney and the Agency's attorney during which Complainant's attorney provided information regarding Complainant's medical condition/diagnosis and treatment, (2) Complainant's March 5, 2025 submission of a February 28, 2025 note from Complainant's physician's office, and (3) Complainant's March 13, 2025 email request for a stay which was discussed during the February 12 and 26, 2025 conference calls.<sup>1</sup>

The information provided by Complainant's attorney and Complainant's health care provider establishes that Complainant has not been and is not presently able to effectively participate in the prosecution of her case. Based on these circumstances, the deadlines set in the December 4, 2024 Order and the pre-hearing conference and hearing dates set in the February 6, 2025 Scheduling Order are hereby extended and continued to dates to be determined.

Based on Complainant's medical condition and her inability to actively participate in the prosecution of her case, Complainant's request for hearing is hereby dismissed without prejudice. Complainant's request for hearing will be automatically reinstated on August 22,

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<sup>1</sup>Copies of the March 13, 2025 emailed request to stay the proceedings in this case and the February 28, 2025 medical note have been uploaded to the electronic docket for this case.

2025. The case will be re-docketed at that time and a conference call will be scheduled for the following week.

If Complainant at any time prior to August 22, 2025, becomes able to actively participate in and proceed with her case, Complainant should so notify the Administrative Judge by email with a copy to the Agency's attorney. Upon receiving such notice from Complainant, Complainant's hearing request will be reinstated at that time and Complainant's case will be reopened.

The Agency's March 12, 2025 Motion for Sanctions and March 13, 2025 Addendum to that Motion remain pending. However, as Complainant's attorney was informed in this office's March 7, 2025 email to her, because Ms. Groghan is the designated attorney for the Agency in this case, emails regarding this case should be addressed only to Ms. Groghan and not to other officials of the Agency. For this reason, Complainant's attorney is hereby Ordered not to send emails or other communications regarding this case to any Agency addressee other than Ms. Groghan.

It is so Ordered.

Date: March 14, 2025

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Larry A. Abrams  
Administrative Judge

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this date the foregoing Order Dismissing Request for Hearing Without Prejudice (“Order”) was served on the following persons by (1) uploading the Order to the Commission’s electronic docket (which results in emails being sent to Complainant, Complainant’s attorney, and the Agency’s attorney notifying them that the Order is available from the Commission’s Public Portal and Federal Sector EEO Portal (“FedSEP”), respectively) and (2) sending a copy of the Order by email attachment via the Commission’s electronic docket to:

Diana K. Sygula  
2890 Trisch Circle  
Twinsburg, OH 44087

Via Public Portal access and email addressed to  
medina.d@sbcglobal.net

Caryn Groedel, Esq.  
31340 Solon Road, Suite 27  
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Via Public Portal access and email addressed to  
cgroedel@groedel-law.com

Amber Groghan, Esq.  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
Staff Attorney - Midwest District  
Akron, OH 44311

Via FedSEP access and email addressed to  
amber.groghan@va.gov

Date: March 14, 2025

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Larry A. Abrams  
Administrative Judge