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GENERAL CIRCULAR NUMBER 2026-036

DATE: July 2, 2026

TO: Heads of State Agencies and Human Resources Directors

SUBJECT: Reminder of Approved Changes to Civil Service Rule Chapters 13, 16, and 26 – Attorney Fees

This general circular serves as a reminder that the effective date of the approved changes to Civil Service Rule Chapters 13, 16, and 26 was July 1, 2026. The changes were approved at the general business meeting of the State Civil Service Commission on December 5, 2025.

The changes to Chapters 13, 16, and 26 of the Civil Service Rules increase maximum attorney fees that can be awarded to prevailing appellants/respondents from \$1,500 to \$5000. The amended rules read as follows:

[Chapter 13: Civil Service Appeals](#)

Rule 13.35 Attorney Fees

(a) When the Commission or a referee approves a settlement, rescission, or modification of an action that has been appealed or renders a decision, including a decision on application for review, which reverses or modifies an action that has been appealed, the appellee may be ordered to pay attorney's fees in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.

[Chapter 16: Investigations](#)

16.15.1 Attorney Fees

When a complainant does not bear the burden of proving the charge(s) and the Commission finds there is no reasonable basis for the complaint, the Commission may order the complainant to pay reasonable attorney's fees in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 per respondent.

[Chapter 26: Special Hearing](#)

Rule 26.19 Attorney Fees

When the Complainant, other than the Director when acting at the behest of the Commission, does not bear the burden of proving the charge(s) and the Commission finds there is no reasonable basis for the charges, the Commission may order the Complainant to pay reasonable attorney's fees in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.

If there are any questions concerning the subject matter of this General Circular, you may contact State Civil Service by emailing SCSInfo@civilservice.la.gov or by calling (225) 342-8272.

Sincerely,

s/Byron P. Decoteau, Jr.
State Civil Service Director