

## ERAA Title VI Complaint Procedure

Scope. These procedures are for complaints of discrimination under Title VI and related laws (hereafter “Title VI Complaints.” In order to be a Title VI Complaint, the complaint must:

1. Allege discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin (including LEP), sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), creed, or age or violations administrative requirements under Title VI or related laws.
2. Not only be for employment matters
3. Allege misconduct by the ERAA, including airport employees, contractors, concessionaires, lessees, or tenants.
4. Concern an airport facility or actions by the ERAA including airport employees, contractors, concessionaires, lessees, or tenants.

Rights. Any person who believes that he or she has been subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin (including LEP), sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), creed, or age has the right to file a complaint with the ERAA. Alternatively, they can file a formal complaint with an outside agency, such as the U.S. Departments of Justice or Transportation, or the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), or seek other legal remedies.

Receipt of Complaint. The Coordinator will log in the complaint and promptly send copies of the complaint to the Human Resources Office and the Executive Director.

Complaints must be filed within 30 days of the discriminatory event, must be in writing, and must be delivered to:

Kimberlie Scharrer, Director of Administration  
Erie Regional Airport Authority  
4411 West 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Erie, PA 16505  
(814) 833-4258  
kscharrer@erieairport.org

If a complaint is initially made by phone, it must be supplemented with a written complaint before 30 days after the discriminatory event has passed. If a verbal complaint is received, the complainant should be given a copy of the Airport Discrimination Complaint Procedures and instructed to submit a written complaint. Accommodation will be provided upon request to individuals unable to file a written complaint due to a disability.

Initial Procedure. The Coordinator may meet with the complainant to clarify the issues, obtain additional information, and determine if informal resolution might be possible in lieu of an investigation. If successfully resolved, the Coordinator will issue a closure letter to the complainant, record the disposition in the complaints log, and report the resolution to FAA.

## **Discrimination Complaint Referral Procedure**

Internal Complaint Referral. All Title VI complaints must be promptly forwarded to the Coordinator within 7 days.

Initial FAA Notification. A copy of each Title VI complaint will be forwarded to the FAA within 15 days of initial receipt (not the date that the Coordinator was notified). The Coordinator will forward a copy of the complaint and a statement describing all actions taken to resolve the matter, and the results thereof to the FAA Civil Rights staff. (Note: complaints based on disability do not have to be forwarded to FAA.) To transmit complaint information to the FAA, the Coordinator will upload the complaint information into the FAA Civil Rights Connect System, which issues automated notifications to FAA staff. The Coordinator will also seek technical assistance from FAA, as needed, throughout complaint intake, investigation and resolution process.

### **Investigation Procedure**

Assignment of Investigator. The Coordinator will immediately begin the investigation or designate an investigator.

Cooperation with FAA. The Coordinator will promptly investigate all Title VI complaints, including those referred by the FAA for investigation. If the FAA is investigating a complaint against ERAA, the Coordinator will avoid interfering with the FAA investigation, cooperate with the FAA when needed, and share factual information with the FAA.

Prompt Investigation. The Coordinator will make every effort to complete discrimination complaint investigations within 60 calendar days after the complaint is received. Some investigations may take longer with a justification for the delay and assurance that the investigation is being completed as quickly as possible.

Contact with Complainant. The Coordinator will meet with the complainant to clarify the issues and obtain additional information, and also speak with community members and potential witnesses, as appropriate.

Investigation Report. After completing the investigation, the Coordinator will prepare a written report.

Consultation with Legal Counsel. In each case, the Coordinator will consult with Legal Counsel regarding the investigation and the report. Airport Legal Counsel will ensure that the report is consistent with the DOT and FAA Title VI nondiscrimination requirements.

Prompt Resolution of Disputes. The Coordinator will emphasize voluntary compliance and quickly and fairly resolve disputes with complainants, or with contractors, tenants, or other persons, through alternate dispute resolution, negotiation, and/or mediation.

Forwarding Report and Response to Complainant. At the completion of the investigation, the

complainant and respondent will receive a letter of findings and determination of the investigation and any applicable resolution. The letter transmitting the findings and any applicable resolution will state ERAA's conclusion regarding whether unlawful discrimination occurred, and will describe the complainant's appeal rights. A summary of the investigation report, any appeal, or follow-up actions will be sent to the FAA via the FAA Civil Rights Connect System.

Appeal Rights. The complainant must be notified of their right to appeal the findings or determinations, and of the procedures and requirements for an appeal:

- The complainant may appeal in writing to the ERAA's Executive Director.
- The written appeal must be received **within 10** business days after receipt of the written decision.
- The written appeal must contain all arguments, evidence, and documents supporting the basis for the appeal.
- The Executive Director will issue a final written decision in response to the appeal.

Avoiding Future Discrimination. In addition to taking action with respect to any specific instances of discrimination, the ERAA will identify and implement measures to reduce the chances of similar discrimination in the future.

Intimidation and Retaliation Prohibited. ERAA employees, contractors, and tenants will not intimidate or retaliate against a person who has filed a complaint alleging discrimination.

For information on filing a complaint with DOT/FAA, please contact the Title VI Coordinator.