§ 890.1026 Procedures if a fact-finding proceeding is not required.

(a) Debarring official’s procedures. If a fact-finding proceeding is not required, the debarring official shall issue a final decision of a provider’s contest within 30 days after the record closes for submitting evidence, arguments, and information as part of the contest. The debarring official may extend this timeframe for good cause.

(b) No further administrative review available. There are no further OPM administrative proceedings after the presiding official’s final decision. A provider adversely affected by the decision may appeal under 5 U.S.C. 8902a(h)(2) to the appropriate U.S. district court.

§ 890.1027 Cases where an additional fact-finding proceeding is required.

(a) Criteria for holding fact-finding proceeding. The debarring official shall request another OPM official (“presiding official”) to hold an additional fact-finding proceeding if:

(1) Facts material to the proposed debarment have not been adjudicated in a prior due process proceeding; and

(2) These facts are genuinely in dispute, based on the entire administrative record available to the debarring official.

(b) Qualification to serve as presiding official. The presiding official is designated by the OPM Director or another OPM official authorized by the Director to make such designations. The presiding official shall be a senior official who is qualified to conduct informal adjudicative proceedings and who has had no previous contact with the proposed debarment or the contest.

(c) Effect on contest. The debarring official shall defer a final decision on the contest pending the results of the fact-finding proceeding.

§ 890.1028 Conducting a fact-finding proceeding.

(a) Informal proceeding. The presiding official may conduct the fact-finding proceedings as informally as practicable, consistent with principles of fundamental fairness. Formal rules of evidence or procedure do not apply to these proceedings.

(b) Proceeding limited to disputed material facts. The presiding official shall consider only the genuinely disputed facts identified by the debarring official as material to the basis for the debarment. Matters that have been previously adjudicated or that are not in bona fide dispute within the administrative record shall not be considered by presiding official.

(c) Provider’s right to present information, evidence, and arguments. A provider may appear before the presiding official with counsel, submit oral and written arguments and documentary evidence, present witnesses on his own behalf, question any witnesses testifying in support of the debarment, and challenge the accuracy of any other evidence that the agency offers as a basis for the debarment.

(d) Record of proceedings. The presiding official shall make an audio recording of the proceedings and shall provide a copy to the provider at no charge. If the provider wishes to have a transcribed record, OPM shall arrange for production of one which may be purchased at cost.

(e) Presiding official’s findings. The presiding official shall resolve all of the disputed facts identified by the debarring official, on the basis of a preponderance of the evidence contained within the entire administrative record.