

**For Immediate Release**

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## **OPM Proposes Rule to Hold Federal Workers Accountable for Misconduct**

**Washington, D.C.** – The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) today announced a proposed rule to enhance the federal government’s ability to hold employees accountable for serious misconduct. The proposed rule delivers on President Trump’s executive action, [\*Implementing the President’s “Department of Government Efficiency” Workforce Optimization Initiative\*](#), and Presidential memorandum, [\*Strengthening the Suitability and Fitness of the Federal Workforce\*](#).

“For too long, agencies have faced red tape when trying to remove employees who break the public’s trust,” **Acting Director Chuck Ezell said**. “This proposed rule ensures misconduct is met with consequence and reinforces that public service is a privilege, not a right.”

For decades agencies have relied on overly cumbersome and restrictive procedures to remove federal employees who commit serious misconduct while employed. Consequently, it has been easier to bar an applicant from federal employment with past serious misconduct, than it has been to address a current employee committing the same misconduct. This proposed rule eliminates this disparity by extending the same suitability standards and tools used during the hiring process to address post-appointment conduct.

Read the fact sheet [here](#). The [proposed rule](#) will publish June 3, 2025 and will be open for public comment through the Federal Register until July 3, 2025.

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