

“With respect to increased flexibility, extending the current two-year period to seven years would allow individuals to manage significant life events, including professional changes and development (such as pursuing educational goals, a career change to a role in the firm that is not part of the broker-dealer, working overseas for an extended period due to a career change or an attempt at a different career path) or personal life events (such as birth or adoption of a child, unexpected loss in the family or relocation due to family needs). Through discussions with industry representatives, FINRA staff has learned that this proposal could potentially lower the barrier to re-entry to the industry. Some firms indicated that a significant benefit can arise in cases where an individual leaves the broker-dealer to gain experience in an affiliate of a parent company, for instance in an affiliated commercial bank, investment adviser or foreign affiliate. Others indicated that the proposal could potentially be relevant for under-represented populations in the securities industry, such as, for example, female registrants.”

As a female OSJ, I have lost women of child bearing age to the two year hang rule who either left to raise children or take care of elderly parents. I feel that this would be very beneficial for men and women in our industry who may need to take a leave of absence for whatever reason, but particularly those women who want to raise a family and who have to make the difficult choice of keeping her license in tact and career on hold versus staying at home with her infant/toddler long enough to give them a head start on life.

I Sincerely Thank you for your continued business.

Kelly Welker, MBA, CRPC®, CRCP™
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