

**FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
OFFICE OF HEARING OFFICERS**

DEPARTMENT OF ENFORCEMENT,

Complainant,

v.

SHADI TAYSIR BARAKAT
(CRD No. 5031281),

Respondent.

Disciplinary Proceeding
No. 2018056490315

Hearing Officer–BDC

**ORDER DENYING IN PART RESPONDENT’S MOTION FOR A CONTINUANCE OF
THE PRE-HEARING SCHEDULE AND HEARING DATE**

The hearing in this disciplinary proceeding was originally scheduled for August 26, 2025, in FINRA’s Boca Raton Regional Office. During a July 25, 2025 pre-hearing conference, I granted Respondent’s oral motion for a continuance based on his representations regarding an ongoing medical condition and rescheduled the hearing for September 18.

On August 7, 2025, Respondent emailed the Office of Hearing Officers and the Department of Enforcement stating that he was “officially requesting a continuance” and that he was unable to file a formal motion because he was in the hospital. In the email, Respondent stated that his doctor indicated that he cannot “do any work actively until Aug[ust] 21, [at] which point [he] will be evaluated and admitted for surgery [in] the early part of September.” Based on Respondent’s representation that he was hospitalized, I treated the email as a motion for a continuance of the pre-hearing schedule and hearing date (“Motion”).

In support of his Motion, Respondent attached a copy of a letter from a physician at a hospital in Florida who represented that Respondent “has come under [his] care” and that Respondent would be “unable to attend work/school until 08/21/2025.” The letter contained no other details regarding Respondent’s medical condition, how the condition might impact his ability to participate in this proceeding, or any upcoming surgeries.

Enforcement opposes the Motion. Enforcement contends that Respondent has not shown “good cause” for the continuance, as required under FINRA Rule 9222. Enforcement argues that Respondent’s sole basis for the continuance is his current medical condition and the physician’s note Respondent provided did not substantiate his claim that his medical condition prevents him from participating in this disciplinary proceeding. Enforcement further opposed the Motion because Respondent is seeking, in essence, an indefinite postponement and FINRA’s Code of

Procedure does not permit a Hearing Officer to grant an indefinite stay of a disciplinary proceeding. Enforcement indicated, however, that it does not oppose moving any pre-hearing deadlines to accommodate Respondent's medical condition.

I agree that Respondent has not shown good cause for a continuance of the hearing date. During the July 25, 2025 pre-hearing conference, I informed Respondent that if he sought another continuance of the hearing date due to his ongoing medical condition, he would need to provide a letter from his treating physician explaining what limitations Respondent is under and why the medical condition would prevent Respondent from participating in the hearing on September 18. The letter Respondent included with his current Motion only states that Respondent is unable to attend school and work until August 21. The letter provides no other information about Respondent's condition, his current treatment plan, or any planned surgeries.

Accordingly, the Motion to continue the hearing date is **DENIED**. If Respondent's medical condition or treatment plan changes, Respondent may renew his motion for a continuance. Any such motion must include documentation from his treating physician explaining how Respondent's medical condition and treatment prevent him from participating in this disciplinary proceeding. Because the physician's note attached to the Motion indicated that Respondent is unable to work until August 21, 2025, I will amend the pre-hearing schedule as follows:

Date	Activity
August 25, 2025	Deadline for Respondent to exchange (but not file with the Office of Hearing Officers) proposed witness and exhibit lists and proposed stipulations (including the authenticity, content, and admissibility of documents).

All other deadlines set forth in my August 4 order granting Respondent's previous motion for continuance of the pre-hearing schedule and hearing dates, and all other provisions in the February 6, 2025 Case Management and Scheduling Order, shall remain in effect.

SO ORDERED.



Brian D. Craig
Hearing Officer

Dated: August 14, 2025

Copies to:

Shadi Taysir Barakat, Respondent (via email)
Adam Balin, Esq., FINRA Enforcement (via email)
Mark Fernandez, Esq., FINRA Enforcement (via email)
Alyssa Braver, Esq., FINRA Enforcement (via email)
Jennifer L. Crawford, Esq., FINRA Enforcement (via email)