



FACTOM COMMUNITY

Removal of ANO from the Authority Set for Cause

DOC 101

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1.0	2018-12-16	Factom Standing Parties	Ratified document.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This document provides the procedure to remove an Authority Node Operator (“ANO,” and collectively, “ANOs”) from the Factom Authority Set. It is created to supplement and facilitate the removal of ANOs as set forth in the [Factom Governance Doc 001](#) section 3.4. All capitalized terms used herein and not otherwise defined in this document shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Factom Governance Doc 001.
- 1.2. The procedure described in this document is intended for removal of an ANO for Cause only and shall constitute a process independent and separate from the ANO’s ranking and competition mechanism which may also result in an ANO’s removal.
- 1.3. For purpose of this document, “Cause” for removal of an ANO shall be deemed to exist if the Standing Parties determine, in accordance to the procedure set forth herein, that any of the following has occurred: (i) the ANO has committed any action or omission involving dishonesty or fraud with respect to the Factom Protocol, (ii) the ANO has repeatedly or materially failed to maintain the Authority Servers, including but not limited to shutting off the Authority Servers without providing advanced notice or explanation within a reasonable time, (iii) the ANO has become unresponsive repeatedly or for an extended period of time, or (iv) the ANO has failed to sufficiently adhere to the ANO Expectations as set forth in [Doc 003](#), or (v) the ANO has committed other action or omission that constitutes gross negligence or willful misconduct with respect to the Factom Protocol, or that involves intentional conduct against the best interest of the Factom Protocol.
- 1.4. An ANO shall not be removed or suspended under this document unless the procedure set forth herein is strictly followed.
- 1.5. The ANO subject to the removal process or the emergency suspension process is hereinafter referred to as the “Subject ANO.”

2. Initiation of Removal Motion

- 2.1. The removal process shall be commenced by a Standing Party by making a motion through a private thread, named “REMOVAL: [Subject ANO’s Name],” in the Governance Discussion forum at the community forum or another platform utilized by the Factom Community (the “Removal Thread”).
 - 2.1.1. The Removal Thread shall be accessible only by the initiator, the Guides, and the Subject ANO.
 - 2.1.2. The initiator shall provide the rationale behind the removal and any supporting evidence.
 - 2.1.3. Except as otherwise provided in Section 5.9.4, an ANO can only make a removal motion against the same ANO once every three months. For the avoidance of doubt, multiple removal motions can be made against an ANO within the three-month period provided that the motions are made by different ANOs.
- 2.2. The Guides shall notify the Subject ANO of the initiation of the motion with a link to the Removal Thread and a copy of this document through the contact information designated by the Subject ANO to the Community as the emergency contact (the “Subject ANO’s Designated Contact Information”).
- 2.3. The Guides, at their sole discretion, can contact any party, for investigative purposes.
- 2.4. A special guide meeting shall be held after the weekly guide meeting following the week in which the motion has been initiated. The meeting shall be announced on the Removal Thread at the least three (3) days before the meeting.
- 2.5. If a majority of the Disinterested Guides is not present throughout the meeting, the Guides shall adjourn the meeting to a fixed date and time and shall announce the rescheduled meeting on the Removal Thread at least three (3) days before the meeting. A Guide is a Disinterested Guide if the Guide or any of its affiliates (i) is not affiliated with or employed by either the Subject ANO or the initiator, (ii) does not have any equity interest in either of the Subject ANO or the initiator, and (iii)

is not a party or contemplating to be a party to any transaction with the Subject ANO or the initiator.

- 2.6. The meeting shall be open to the Guides, the initiator, the Subject ANO, and the parties invited by the Guides at their sole discretion.
- 2.7. During the meeting the Guides shall hold a vote, and for the removal motion to pass there shall be an affirmative vote by a majority of the Disinterested Guides. Disinterested Guides must not abstain from the vote.
- 2.8. The Guides shall document in the meeting minutes the Guide's rationale behind the vote, as well as any recusals. The meeting minutes shall be stored in a private Google Drive folder accessible only by the Guides.
- 2.9. The Guides shall post the voting result in the Removal Thread.
- 2.10. If the removal motion does not obtain the required affirmative vote, the Guides shall notify the Subject ANO through the Subject ANO's Designated Contact Information that the removal process has been terminated with a link to the Removal Thread. No other action shall be taken.
- 2.11. If the removal motion passes in the special guide meeting, the Guides shall:
 - 2.11.1. expand the access to the Removal Thread and the meeting minutes to all the ANOs;
 - 2.11.2. notify the Subject ANO through the Subject ANO's Designated Contract Information that (i) the removal motion has been passed by the Guides, and (ii) all subsequent notices in the removal process will be given to the Subject ANO through the #operators-private channel in the Factom Community discord server_by tagging @Operators or @the Subject ANO's team members of record; and
 - 2.11.3. make an announcement that a removal process has been commenced against the Subject ANO and the motion has been passed by the Guides, tagging @Operators and @the Subject ANO's team members of record in the #operators-private

channel in the Factom Community discord server and linking to the Removal Thread, the meeting minutes, and this document.

3. Discussion and Voting Procedure

- 3.1. There shall be a minimum of eight (8) days of open discussion regarding the removal motion, which shall take place in the Removal Thread. The Subject ANO shall be given a reasonable opportunity to answer and defend.
- 3.2. Upon conclusion of the discussion, a vote shall be initiated on a platform utilized by the Factom Community. The voting period shall be three (3) days, and all the ANOs, including the Subject ANO, are eligible to vote. For the removal motion to pass, there shall be an affirmative vote from two-thirds (2/3) the total number of ANOs.
- 3.3. The outcome of the vote shall be announced in the Removal Thread and in the Factom Community discord server #operators-private channel tagging @Operators and @the Subject ANO's team members of record and linking to the Removal Thread.
- 3.4. If the removal motion does not obtain the required affirmative vote, no further actions shall be taken, and the removal process shall be terminated.
- 3.5. If the motion is passed by the ANOs, the removal of the Subject ANO shall become effective immediately.

4. Execution of Removal

- 4.1. At the earliest possible time, the following actions shall be taken to conclude the removal:
 - 4.1.1. An announcement of the removal of the Subject ANO shall be made in #guide announcement channel tagging @Operators in the Factom Community discord server.
 - 4.1.2. The Factom authority identities associated with the Subject ANO shall be demoted from the Factom Protocol.

- 4.1.3. The users associated with the Subject ANO shall be removed from the @Operators group at the Factom community discord server.
- 4.1.4. The forum badges for the users associated with the Subject ANO shall be removed at the community forum and other platforms utilized by the Factom Community.
- 4.1.5. The users associated with the Subject ANO shall be removed from the private Google Drive folders, private forums at the community forum, and other platforms utilized by the Factom Community that are only accessible and visible to the ANOs.
- 4.1.6. The official Factom governance documents shall be updated to reflect the change.
- 4.1.7. Any other necessary actions shall be taken to conclude the removal.

5. Emergency Suspension

- 5.1. This Section 5 shall be operative during an emergency. An emergency exists if an ANO has committed or threatened to commit an action against the best interest of the Factom protocol and absence of an immediate suspension of the ANO, the Factom Protocol would have suffered a probable, imminent and severe injury.
- 5.2. The suspension procedure shall be commenced by a Standing Party by making a motion through a private thread, named “EMERGENCY SUSPENSION: [Subject ANO’s Name],” in the governance forum at the community forum or other forum or platform utilized by the Factom Community (the “Suspension Thread”).
 - 5.2.1. The Suspension Thread shall be accessible only by the initiator and the Guides. If the Subject ANO is a Guide, the Guide shall be excluded from the Suspension Thread and the guide meeting described in Section 5.5 unless such access is granted in accordance with Section 5.3.

- 5.2.2. The initiator shall provide the rationale behind the suspension motion and any supporting evidence.
- 5.3. The Guides, at any time in the suspension process and at their sole discretion, may (i) notify the Subject ANO of the commencement of the suspension process and a copy of this document through the Subject ANO's Designated Contact Information, and (ii) grant the Subject ANO the access to the Suspension Thread and to the special guide meeting described in Section 5.5.
- 5.4. The Guides, at their sole discretion, can contact any party to investigate.
- 5.5. A special meeting of the Guides shall be held within thirty-six (36) hours after the initiation of the suspension motion or at other time agreed to by the Disinterested Guides. The meeting shall be announced in the Suspension Thread and shall be open only to the Guides, the initiator, the parties invited by the Guides, and the Subject ANO if the access is granted in accordance with Section 5.3. A unanimous vote by the Disinterested Guides (as defined in Section 2.5) shall be required to pass the suspension motion.
- 5.6. The Guides shall document in the meeting minutes the individual Guide's rationale behind the vote, as well as any recusals. The minutes shall be stored in a private Google Drive folder accessible only by the Guides.
- 5.7. The Guides shall post the voting result in the Suspension Thread.
- 5.8. If the suspension motion does not obtain the required affirmative vote, the Subject ANO shall be notified through the Subject ANO's Designated Contact Information of the termination of the suspension process and the link to the Suspension Thread. If the Subject ANO has not been granted the access to the Suspension Thread, such access shall be granted. No further actions shall be taken.
- 5.9. If the suspension motion passes in the guide meeting, the Subject ANO shall be suspended from participating in the Protocol Consensus and the governance of the Factom Protocol, and shall not have any right to vote in any matters other than in its removal proceeding. The Guides shall:



- 5.9.1. expand the access to the Suspension Thread and the meeting minutes to all the ANOs;
 - 5.9.2. notify the Subject ANO of the immediate suspension, the link to the Suspension Thread, the meeting minutes, and a copy of this document through the Subject ANO's Designated Contact Information;
 - 5.9.3. make an announcement of the suspension tagging @Operators and @the Subject ANO's team members of record in the #operators-private channel in the Factom Community discord server, and linking to the Suspension Thread, the meeting minutes, and this document; and
 - 5.9.4. initiate the removal motion of the Subject ANO if the removal process has not commenced.
- 5.10. If the motion to remove the Subject ANO is passed in the procedure set forth in Sections 2 and 3, the Subject ANO shall be deemed removed as of the suspension date and the removal actions shall be taken at the earliest possible time as set forth in Section 4.
- 5.11. If the motion to remove the Subject ANO fails to pass, the removal procedure shall be terminated and the Subject ANO's status shall be reinstated. An announcement of the reinstatement shall be made in the Factom Community discord server #operators-private channel tagging @Operators and @the Subject ANO's team members of record.