

Workplace Investigations

Contributing Editors

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13. Can non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) be used to keep the fact and substance of an investigation confidential?



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NDAs are an option, especially to outline in detail the obligations of the persons conducting the investigation, which is also provided for in law. On the other hand, NDAs will not prevent persons involved from providing information to the competent authorities in the context of criminal or other similar procedures, where they must do so by law. Moreover, they may not protect confidentiality if persons who report breaches of Union law decide to make an external or public report, according to the provisions of L. 4990/2022.

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In addition to the above-mentioned statutory confidentiality obligations, separate non-disclosure agreements can be signed. In an internal investigation, the employee should be expressly instructed to maintain confidentiality.

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Generally, NDAs can be used to keep the facts and substance of a workplace investigation confidential.

There are no express prohibitions against such NDAs. However, there are cases set out under Decree No. 13/2023/ND-CP on personal data protection where personal data is allowed or required to be disclosed without the data subject's consent, in instances that are necessary to serve the public interest or to protect the life and health of the data subject.

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