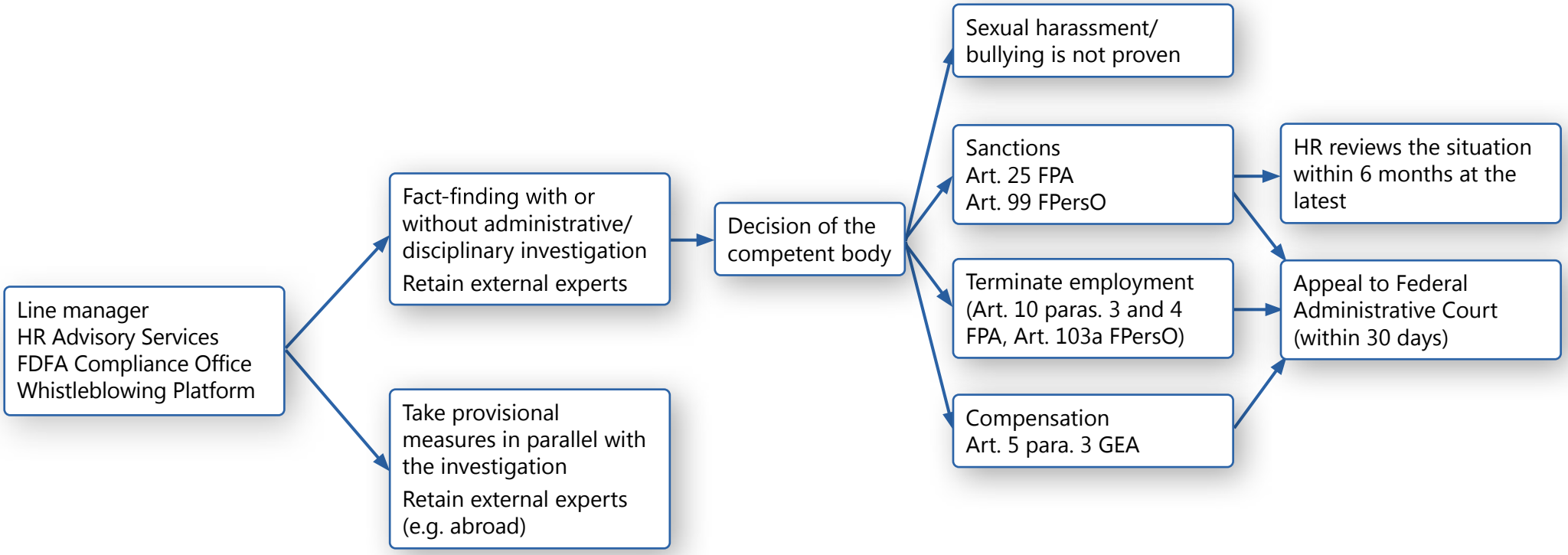Formal procedure