

**Sec. 19-570-56. Ex parte communications**

Unless required for the disposition of matters authorized by statute, neither the commissioner nor any presiding officer shall communicate directly or indirectly with any party concerning any issue of fact or law involved in any contested case that has been commenced under these rules, except upon notice and opportunity for all parties to participate. Any presiding officer and the commissioner may communicate with each other ex parte and may have the aid and advice of such members of the department staff as are assigned to assist them in such contested case.

(Effective August 12, 1982)