

**Sec. 17-311-20. Ex parte communication**

Unless required for the disposition of matters ex parte authorized by law, the commissioner shall not communicate directly or indirectly with any party or intervenor 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. The commissioner may communicate with and may have the aid and advice of such persons as are assigned to assist him in any contested case. In a contested case, this rule shall not be construed to preclude such routine communications as are necessary to permit the commissioner and/or such persons as are assigned to assist him to investigate facts and to conduct the informal conferences allowed by these rules of practice at any time before, during, and after the hearing thereof.

(Effective March 17, 1983)