

Sec. 8-37ee-10. Hearings

Should a hearing be requested it shall be conducted in accordance with the following:

(1) Designation of Parties In issuing the notice of hearing, the Commissioner shall designate as parties any persons known to the Commissioner whose legal rights, duties or privileges are being determined in the contested case and any person whose participation as a party is deemed by the Commissioner to be necessary to the proper disposition of such proceeding. Subsequent to the issuance of the notice of hearing, no other person before the Commissioner shall have standing as a party within the definition of section 4-166 (5) of the General Statutes, except upon the express order of the Commissioner.

(2) Participation by Persons Other Than Parties

(A) At any time prior to the Commencement of oral testimony in any hearing on a contested case, any person may request that the Commissioner permit that person to participate in the hearing. Any person not a party that is so permitted to participate in the hearing shall be identified as an intervenor for purposes of section 8-37ee-10 and shall participate in those portions of the contested case that the Commissioner shall expressly authorize.

(B) No grant or leave to participate in the hearing as an intervenor or in any other manner shall be deemed to be an admission by the Commissioner that the person he/she had permitted to participate is a party in interest that may be aggrieved by any final decision, order or ruling of the Commissioner, unless such grant of leave to participate expressly so states. An intervenor is a party of record for the limited purposes described in section 4-183 of the General Statute.

(3) Representation of Parties and Intervenors

Each person authorized to participate in a contested case as a party or as an intervenor shall file a written notice of appearance with the Commissioner. Such appearance may be filed in behalf of parties and intervenors by an attorney, an agent or other duly authorized representative subject to the rules here-in-above stated. The filing of a written appearance may be excused on behalf of the Commissioner.

(4) Commencement of Hearing

When a hearing is required by law as to any person, the contested case shall commence on the date of filing of the request or petition.

(5) Place of Hearing

All hearings shall be held at the department, 505 Hudson Street, Hartford, 06106, unless a different place is designated by statute or by the direction of the Commissioner.

(6) Notice of Hearing

(A) Except when the Commissioner shall otherwise direct, the Commissioner shall give written notice of a hearing in any pending matter to all persons designated as parties, to all persons permitted to participate as intervenors, to all persons otherwise required by statute to be notified and to such other persons as have filed with the department their written request for notice of hearing in the particular matter. Written notice shall be given to such additional persons as the Commissioner shall direct. The Commissioner may give such public notice of the hearing as the Commissioner shall deem appropriate within the provisions of Section 1-21 of the General Statutes.

(7) General Provisions

(A) Purpose of Hearing—The purpose of any hearing the Commissioner conducts under chapter 54 of the General Statutes shall be to provide to all parties an opportunity to present evidence and argument on all issues to be considered by the Commissioner.

(B) Order of Presentation—In hearing on requests and petitions, the party shall open and close the presentation of any part of the matter shall be the person making the request or petitioner.

(C) Limiting the Number of Witnesses—To avoid unnecessary cumulative evidence, the Commissioner may limit the number of witnesses or the time for testimony upon a particular issue in the course of any hearing.

(D) Written Testimony—The Commissioner may permit any party to offer testimony in written form. Such written testimony shall be received in evidence with the same force and effect as though it were stated orally by the witness who has given evidence, provided that each such witness shall be present at the hearing at which testimony is offered, shall adopt the written testimony under oath, and shall be available for cross-examination as directed by the Commissioner. Prior to its admission, such written testimony shall be subject to objections by parties.

(8) Witnesses and Testimony

(A) Powers - The Commissioner shall have the power to administer oaths, take testimony under oath relative to the matter of inquiry or investigation, subpoena witnesses and require the production of records, physical evidence, papers and documents.

(B) Superior Court - If any person disobeys the subpoena or, having appeared, refuses to answer any questions put to him/her or to produce any records, physical evidence, papers and documents requested by the Commissioner, the department may apply to the superior court in accordance with section 4-177b of the General Statutes.

(9) The following rules of evidence shall be followed in the admission of testimony and exhibits in all hearings held under section 4-178 of the General Statutes.

(A) General - any oral or documentary evidence may be received but the Commissioner shall, as a matter of policy, exclude irrelevant, immaterial or unduly repetitious evidence. The Commissioner shall give effect to the rules of privilege recognized by law in Connecticut where appropriate to the conduct of the hearing. Subject to these requirements any testimony may be received in written form as herein provided.

(B) Documentary Evidence - Documentary evidence shall be submitted in original form, but may be received in the form of copies or excerpts at the discretion of the Commissioner. Upon request by any party an opportunity shall be granted to compare the copy with the original if available, which shall be produced for this purpose by the person offering such copy as evidence.

(C) Cross-examination - Cross-examination may be conducted as the Commissioner shall find to be required for a full and true disclosure of the facts.

(D) Facts Noticed, Records - The commissioner may take administrative notice of judicially cognizable facts, including the records and the prior decisions and orders of the department.

(E) Facts Noticed, Scope and Procedure - The Commissioner may take administrative notice of generally recognized technical or scientific facts within the department's specialized knowledge. Parties shall be afforded an opportunity to contest the material so

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noticed by being notified before or during the hearing or by an appropriate reference in preliminary reports or otherwise of the material noticed. The Commissioner shall nevertheless employ the department's experience, technical competence and specialized knowledge in evaluating the evidence presented at the hearing for the purpose of making his finding of facts and arriving at a final decision.

(Effective February 2, 1994)