

R590. Insurance, Administration. (Effective 3-10-2010)

R590-160. Administrative Proceedings.

R590-160-1. Authority.

This rule is promulgated by the Insurance Commissioner under the general authority granted under Subsection 31A-2-201(3)(a), and, Subsection 63G-4-102(6), Subsection 63G-4-203(1) and other applicable sections of Chapter 4 of Title 63G providing for rules governing adjudicative proceedings.

R590-160-2. Purpose and Scope.

1(a) Purpose: This rule establishes procedures governing the designation and conduct of adjudicative proceedings before the insurance commissioner or the commissioner's designee.

(b) Public hearings under Section 63G-3-302 are not covered by this rule.

(2) Scope: This rule applies to all licensees and non-licensees involved in the business of insurance in Utah.

R590-160-3. Definitions.

For the purposes of this rule, the commissioner adopts the definitions as set forth in Section 63G-4-103 and the following:

(1) "Complainant" is the Utah Insurance Department in all actions against a licensee or other person who has been alleged to have committed any act or omission in violation of the Utah Insurance Code or Rules, or order of the commissioner.

(2) "Department Representative" means the person who will represent the interests of the Utah Insurance Department, including its attorney, in any administrative action before the commissioner.

(3) "Existing Disability" means any suspension, revocation or limitation of a license or certificate of authority or any limitation on a right to apply to the department for a license or certificate of authority.

(4) "Intervenor" means a person permitted to intervene in a proceeding before the commissioner.

(5) "Petitioner" is a person seeking agency action.

(6) "Staff" means the Insurance Department staff. The staff shall have the same rights as a party to the proceedings.

R590-160-4. Designations of Proceedings.

(1) All actions pursuant to initial determinations upon applications for a license or a certificate of authority, or any petition to remove an existing disability, or an order disapproving a rate or prohibiting the use of a form, are designated as informal adjudicative proceedings.

(2) A proceeding may be commenced as an informal proceeding by the department when it appears to the department that no disputed issues may exist or in matters of technical or minor violation of the code or rules.

(3) Any proceeding may be converted from a formal proceeding to an informal proceeding or from an informal proceeding to a formal proceeding upon motion of a party or sua sponte by the presiding officer, subject to the provisions of Subsection 63G-4-202(3).

R590-160-5. Rules Applicable to All Proceedings.

(1) Liberal Construction. These rules shall be liberally construed to secure just, speedy and economical determination of all issues presented to the commissioner.

(2) Deviation from Rules. The commissioner or presiding officer may permit a deviation from these rules insofar as compliance is found to be impracticable or unnecessary or for other good cause.

(3) Computation of Time. The time within which any act shall be done, as herein provided, shall be computed by excluding the first day and including the last unless the last day is a Friday, Saturday, Sunday or a legal holiday, and then it is excluded and the period runs until the end of the next day that is not a Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday.

(4) Parties.

(a) Parties to a proceeding before the commissioner may be:

(i) Any person, including the Insurance Department, who has a statutory right to be a party or any person who has a legally protected interest or right in the subject matter that may be affected by the proceeding.

(ii) Any person may become an intervening party when it is established to the satisfaction of the commissioner or presiding officer that the person has a substantial interest in the subject matter of the proceeding and that intervention will be relevant and material to the issues before the commissioner;

(iii) The Insurance Department staff;

(iv) Other persons permitted by the commissioner or presiding officer.

(b) Classification. Participants in a proceeding shall be styled "applicants", "petitioners", "complainants", "respondents", or "intervenors", according to the nature of the proceeding and the relation of the parties thereto.

(5) Appearances and Representation.

(a) Making an Appearance. A party enters an appearance by filing an initial pleading or an initial response to a notice of agency action at the beginning of the proceeding, giving the party's name, address, telephone number, and stating the party's position or interest in the proceeding.

(b) Representation of Parties. An attorney who is an active member of the Utah State Bar may represent any party. An individual who is a party to a proceeding may represent himself or herself. An officer duly authorized by corporate resolution may represent a corporation. A general partner may represent a partnership, and a member or manager may represent a limited liability company.

(c) An attorney or other authorized representative authorized in Subsection R590-160-5(5)(b) above, if previous appearance has not been entered, shall file a Notice of Appearance with the commissioner or presiding officer no later than five days before any hearing at which the attorney or other authorized representative shall appear.

(d) Insurance Department Staff. Members of the Insurance Department staff may appear either in support of or in opposition

to any cause, or solely to discover and present facts pertinent to the issue.

(6) Pleadings.

(a) Pleadings Enumerated. Pleadings before the commissioner shall consist of petitions, complaints, requests for hearing, responsive pleadings, motions, stipulations, affidavits, memoranda, orders, or other notices used by the commissioner in initiating a proceeding.

(b) Docket Number. Upon the commencement of an adjudicative proceeding, the commissioner shall assign a docket number to the proceeding.

(c) Title. Pleadings before the commissioner shall be titled in substantially the following form:

(i) Centered, heading: BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER OF THE STATE OF UTAH;

(ii) Left side, identification of parties: (COMPLAINANT:, RESPONDENT:, PETITIONER:, etc.);

(iii) Right side, identification of type of action: (NOTICE OF HEARING, ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE, etc.);

(iv) Right side, docket number.

(d) Size and Content of Pleadings. Pleadings shall be typewritten, double-spaced on white 8-1/2 x 11-inch paper. They must identify the proceedings by title and docket number, if known, and shall contain a clear and concise statement of the matter relied upon as a basis for the pleading, together with an appropriate request for relief when relief is sought.

(e) Amendments to Pleadings. The presiding officer may allow pleadings to be amended or corrected. Amendments to pleadings shall be allowed in accordance with the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure.

(f) Signing of Pleadings. Pleadings shall be signed and dated by the party or by the party's attorney or other authorized representative and shall show the signer's address, telephone number, and email address, if available. The signature shall be deemed to be a certificate by the signer that the signer has read the pleading and that, to the best of the signer's knowledge and belief, there are good grounds in support of it.

(g) Petitions. All pleadings praying for affirmative relief (other than applications, complaints, notices of adjudicative proceedings, or responsive pleadings), including requests to intervene shall be styled "petitions."

(h) Motions.

(i) No proceeding before the commissioner may be initiated by a motion except in the case of a Motion for an Order to Show Cause.

(ii) Motions, other than at a hearing, shall be in writing and submitted for ruling on either written or oral argument. The filing of affidavits in support of the motions or in opposition thereto may be permitted by the presiding officer. Oral motions may be allowed at a hearing at the discretion of the presiding officer.

(iii) Any motion shall be filed at least ten days prior to the date set for the hearing.

(7) Filing and Service.

(a) A document shall be deemed filed on the date it is delivered to and stamped received by the department.

(b) An original and one copy of any pleading shall be filed with the department and a copy served upon all other parties to the proceeding. The presiding officer may direct that a copy of all pleadings and other papers be made available by the party filing the same to any person requesting copies thereof who the presiding officer determines may be affected by the proceedings.

(c) Service may be made upon any party or other person by ordinary mail, by certified mail with return receipt requested, in accordance with the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure, or by any person specifically designated by the commissioner. Service upon licensees, if by mail, shall be to the mailing address or other address on file with the department.

(d) There shall appear on all documents required to be served a Certificate of Service or Certificate of Mailing in substantially the following form: I do hereby certify that on (date), I (served or mailed by regular mail or certified mail return receipt requested, postage prepaid) (the original/a true and correct copy) of the foregoing (document title) to (name and address), (signed).

(e) When any party has appeared by attorney or other authorized representative, service upon the attorney or representative constitutes service upon the party.

(8) Presiding Officers - Disqualification for Bias.

(a) Any party to a proceeding may move for the disqualification of an assigned presiding officer by filing with the commissioner an Affidavit of Bias alleging facts sufficient to support disqualification.

(b) The commissioner shall determine the issue of disqualification as a part of the record of the case, and may request and receive any additional evidence or testimony as deemed necessary to make this determination. The hearing will not proceed until the commissioner makes this determination. No appeal shall be taken from the commissioner's Order on the determination of disqualification for bias except as part of an appeal of a final agency action.

(i) If the commissioner finds that a motion for disqualification was filed without a reasonable basis or good faith belief in the facts asserted, the commissioner may order that the offending party be subject to the appropriate sanctions as are authorized to be imposed by statute or this rules.

(ii) When a presiding officer is disqualified or it becomes impractical for the presiding officer to continue, the commissioner shall appoint another presiding officer.

(c) A presiding officer may at any time voluntarily disqualify himself or herself.

(9) Ex Parte Contacts Prohibited. Except as to matters that by law are subject to disposition on an ex parte basis, the commissioner and the presiding officer involved in a hearing shall not have ex parte contact with persons and parties, including staff members of the department appearing as parties to a proceeding, directly or indirectly involved in any matter that is the subject of a pending administrative proceeding unless all

parties are given notice and an opportunity to participate.

(10) Standard of Proof. All issues of fact in administrative proceedings before the commissioner shall be decided upon the basis of a preponderance of the evidence standard.

R590-160-6. Rules Applicable to Formal Proceedings.

Hearings.

(1) Conduct of Hearing. All hearings shall be conducted pursuant to the provisions of Section 63G-4-202.

(2) Continuance. If application is made to the presiding officer within a reasonable time prior to the date of hearing, upon proper notice to the other parties, the presiding officer may grant a motion for continuance or other change in the time and place of hearing, upon good cause shown. The presiding officer may also, for good cause, continue a hearing in process if such continuance will not substantially prejudice the rights of any party.

(3) Public Hearings. Unless ordered by the presiding officer for good cause, all hearings shall be open to the public.

(4) Telephonic Testimony. The presiding officer may, when the identity of a witness can be established with reasonable assurance, take testimony telephonically. Telephonic testimony shall be taken under conditions that permit all parties to hear the testimony and examine or cross-examine the witness. It shall be within the discretion of the presiding officer as to whether or not telephonic testimony shall be allowed.

(5) Record of Hearing.

(a) Transcript of Hearing. Upon two days' notice, any party may request that, at the party's own expense, a certified shorthand reporter be used to record the proceedings. If such a transcript is made, the original transcript of the proceeding shall be filed with the commissioner at no cost to the commissioner. Parties wanting a copy of the certified shorthand reporter's transcript may purchase it from the reporter at the parties' own expense.

(b) Recording Device. Unless otherwise ordered, the record of the proceedings shall be made by means of a tape recorder or other recording device. A duplicate copy of the tape, or other recording, will be provided by the commissioner at the request and expense of any party, providing that a copy of any transcription of any portion of the record is simultaneously provided at no cost to the commissioner. Transcriptions shall be done by a certified shorthand reporter.

(6) Subpoenas and Fees.

(a) Subpoenas. On the motion of the commissioner or the presiding officer, or at the request of any party for the production of evidence or the attendance of any person in a formal adjudicative proceeding, the commissioner or the presiding officer may issue a subpoena. Any subpoena so issued shall be served in accordance with the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure or by a person designated by the commissioner.

(b) Witness Fees. Each witness, other than department staff, who appears before the commissioner or the presiding

officer shall be entitled to receive the same fees and mileage allowed by law to witnesses in a district court, to be paid by the party at whose request the witness is subpoenaed. Witnesses appearing at the request of the commissioner shall be entitled to payment from the funds appropriated for the use of the Insurance Department. Any witness subpoenaed at the request of a party other than the commissioner may, at the time of service of the subpoena, demand one day's witness fee and mileage in advance and unless such fee is tendered, that witness shall not be required to appear.

(7) Discovery. Discovery and motions thereupon may be had in accordance with the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure, Rules 27 through 37.

(8) At the close of the formal hearing, the presiding officer shall issue an order based upon evidence presented in the hearing. The order shall be final on the date the order is issued unless otherwise provided in the order.

R590-160-7. Rules Applicable to Informal Proceedings.

(1) An informal proceeding may be commenced by the department by issuing a Notice of Informal Proceeding and Order in cases when it appears to the department that no disputed issues exist or in matters of technical or minor violation of the code. The Order shall be based upon the information contained in the files of the department, or known to the commissioner, and shall constitute a "proposed order" that shall become final 15 days after delivery or mailing to the respondent unless a written request for a hearing is received in the offices of the department prior to the expiration of 15 days.

(2) Failure to request a hearing in an informal adjudicative proceeding will be considered a failure to exhaust administrative remedies.

(3) When a hearing is requested in an informal adjudicative proceeding, including a request for a hearing upon the denial of an application for a license or certificate of authority, or a petition to remove an existing disability, or an order disapproving a rate or prohibiting the use of a form, a Notice of Hearing shall be issued stating the matters to be decided and giving notice of the date, time and place of an informal hearing to be held.

(4) An informal hearing shall not be of record. At an informal hearing, the presiding officer may receive testimony, proffers of evidence, affidavits and arguments relating to the issues to be decided and may issue subpoenas requiring the attendance of witnesses or the production of necessary evidence.

(5) At the close of the informal hearing, the presiding officer shall issue an order based upon evidence in the department files and the evidence or proffers of evidence received at the informal hearing. The order shall be final on the date the order is issued unless otherwise provided in the order.

R590-160-8. Agency Review.

(1) Agency review of an administrative proceeding, except an informal proceeding that becomes final without a request for a

hearing pursuant to subsection 7(2), shall be available to any party to such administrative proceeding by filing a petition for review with the commissioner within 30 days of the date the order is issued in that proceeding. Failure to seek agency review shall be considered a failure to exhaust administrative remedies.

(2) Petitions for Review shall be filed in accordance with Section 63G-4-301.

(3) Review shall be conducted by the commissioner or a person or persons designated by the commissioner, including members of department staff. If the review is conducted by other than the commissioner, the persons conducting the review shall recommend a disposition to the commissioner who shall make the final decision and shall sign the order.

(4) Content of a Request for Agency Review.

(a) The content of a request for agency review shall be in accordance with Subsection 63G-4-301(1)(b). The request for agency review shall include a copy of the order, which is the subject of the request.

(b)(i) A party requesting agency review shall set forth any factual or legal basis in support of that request; and

(ii) may include supporting arguments and citation to appropriate legal authority; and

(A) to the relevant portions of the record developed during the adjudicative proceeding if the administrative proceeding being reviewed is a formal proceeding; or

(B) to the relevant portions of the department's files if the administrative proceeding being reviewed is an informal proceeding.

(c) If a party challenges a finding of fact in the order subject to review, the party must demonstrate:

(i) based on the entire record, that the finding is not supported by substantial evidence if the administrative proceeding being reviewed is a formal proceeding; or

(ii) based on the department's files, that the finding is not supported by substantial evidence if the administrative proceeding being reviewed is an informal proceeding.

(d) A party challenging a legal conclusion must support its argument with citation to any relevant authority and also:

(i) cite to those portions of the record which are relevant to that issue if the administrative proceeding being reviewed is a formal proceeding; or

(ii) cite to those parts of the department's files which are relevant to that issue if the administrative proceeding being reviewed is an informal proceeding.

(e)(i) If the grounds for agency review include any challenge to a determination of fact or conclusion of law as unsupported by or contrary to the evidence, the party seeking agency review shall:

(A) order and cause a transcript of the record relevant to such finding or conclusion to be prepared if the administrative proceeding being reviewed is a formal proceeding. R590-160-6.(5)(b) shall govern as to acquisition of hearing tapes for preparation of such transcript; or

(B) reference in its request for agency review that no

transcript or hearing tapes are available if the administrative proceeding being reviewed is an informal proceeding.

(ii) When a request for agency review is filed under the circumstances set forth under R590-160-8(4)(e)(i)(A), the party seeking review shall certify that a transcript has been ordered and shall notify the commissioner when the transcript will be available for filing with the department.

(iii) The party seeking agency review shall bear the cost of the transcript.

(iv) The commissioner may waive the requirement of preparation of a written transcript and permit citation to the electronic tape recording of such administrative proceeding upon appropriate motion and a showing of reasonableness where such citation would not be extensive and the costs and period of time in preparation of a written transcript would be unduly burdensome in relation thereto.

(f) Failure to comply with this rule may result in dismissal of the request for agency review.

(5) Request of Stay.

(a) Upon the timely filing of a request for agency review, the party seeking review may request that the effective date of the order subject to review be stayed pending the completion of review.

(b) The department may oppose the request for a stay in writing within 10 days from the date the stay is requested.

(c) In determining whether to grant a request for a stay, the commissioner shall review the request and any opposing memorandum, and the findings of fact, conclusions of law and order and determine whether a stay is in the best interest of the public. If the commissioner determines it is in the best interest of the public to issue a stay, the commissioner may:

(i) issue a stay, staying all or any part of the order pending agency review, or

(ii) issue a conditional stay by imposing terms, conditions or restrictions on a party pending agency review.

(d) The commissioner may also enter an interim order granting a stay pending a final decision on the request for a stay.

(6) Memoranda.

(a) The commissioner may order or permit the parties to file memoranda to assist in conducting agency review. Any memoranda shall be filed consistent with these rules or as otherwise governed by any scheduling order entered by the commissioner or ~~his~~ the commissioner's designee.

(b)(i) When no transcript is available or if available has been deemed unnecessary and waived by the commissioner in accordance with R590-160-8(4)(e)(iv) to conduct agency review, any memoranda supporting a request for such review shall be concurrently filed with the request.

(ii) If a transcript is necessary to conduct agency review, any supporting memoranda shall be filed no later than 15 days after the filing of the transcript with the department.

(c) Any response in opposition to a request for agency review and any memoranda supporting that response:

(i) shall be filed no later than 15 days from the filing of the request for agency review when no transcript is available or necessary to conduct agency review; or

(ii) shall be filed no later than 15 days from the filing of any subsequent memoranda supporting the request for agency review if a transcript is necessary to conduct agency review.

(d) Any final reply memoranda in support of the request for agency review shall be filed no later than 5 days after the filing of a response to the request for agency review and any memoranda supporting that response.

(7) Oral Argument.

The request for agency review or the response thereto shall state whether oral argument is sought in conjunction with agency review. The commissioner may order or permit oral argument if the commissioner determines such argument is warranted to assist in conducting agency review.

(8) Standard of Review.

The standards for agency review correspond to the standards for judicial review of formal adjudicative proceedings, as set forth in Subsection 63G-4-403(4).

(9) Order on Review.

(a) The order on review shall comply with the requirements of Subsection 63G-4-301(6).

(b) An Order on Review may affirm, reverse, or amend, in whole or in part, the previous order, or remand for further proceedings or hearing.

R590-160-9. Sanctions.

In the course of any proceeding the commissioner or presiding officer may, by order, impose sanctions upon any party, parties, or their counsel for contemptuous conduct in the hearing or for failure to comply with this rule or any lawful order of the presiding officer or the commissioner. Sanctions may include deferral or acceleration of proceedings, exclusion of persons who cause disturbance of the proceeding, or imposition of special conditions upon further participation, including levy and payment of any forfeiture, special costs or expenses incurred by the commissioner or by a party as a result of noncompliance with this rule or lawful orders that were necessary to effective conduct of a proceeding. In case of persistent and intentional disregard of or noncompliance with this rule, rulings, or orders, sanctions may include resolution of designated issues against the position asserted by the offending party where the contemptuous conduct or noncompliance is found to have interfered with effective development of evidence bearing on those issues. If the conduct is by a representative of a party, sanctions may include the exclusion of that representative from matters before the commissioner.

R590-160-10. Enforcement Date.

The commissioner will begin enforcing the provisions of this rule on the effective date of the rule

R590-160-11. Severability.

If any provision of this rule or its application to any person or situation is held to be invalid, that invalidity shall not affect any other provision or application of this rule which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this rule are severable.

KEY: insurance

Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: March 10, 2010

Notice of Continuation: November 25, 2003

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 31A-2-201; 63G-4-102; 63G-4-203