

Department of State

§ 7.5

State as may be necessary to govern its proceedings.

(22 U.S.C. 2658 and 3926)

[44 FR 68825, Nov. 30, 1979, as amended at 49 FR 16989, Apr. 23, 1984]

§ 7.5 Procedures.

(a) *Filing of appeal.* A person who has been the subject of an adverse decision in a case falling within the purview of § 7.3 shall be entitled upon written request made within the prescribed time to appeal the decision to the Board. The appeal shall be in writing and shall state with particularity reasons for the appeal. The appeal may be accompanied by a legal brief. An appeal filed after the prescribed time shall be denied unless the Board determines for good cause shown that the appeal could not have been filed within the prescribed time.

(b) *Time limit on appeal.* (1) A person who contends that the Department's administrative determination of loss of nationality or expatriation under subpart C of part 50 of this chapter is contrary to law or fact, shall be entitled to appeal such determination to the Board upon written request made within one year after approval by the Department of the certificate of loss of nationality or a certificate of expatriation.

(2) A person who has been subject of an adverse decision under § 51.89, of this Chapter shall be entitled to appeal the decision to the Board upon written request made within 60 days after receipt of notice of such decision.

(3) A national who has been subject of an adverse decision under § 64.1(a) of this chapter shall be entitled to appeal the decision to the Board within 30 days after receipt of notice of such decision.

(4) Time limits for other appeals shall be established by the Board as appropriate.

(c) *Department case record.* Upon the written request of the Board, the office or bureau in the Department of State responsible for the decision from which the appeal was taken shall assemble and transmit to the Board within 45 days the record on which the Department's decision in the case was based. The case record may be accompanied

by a memorandum setting forth the position of the Department on the case.

(d) *Briefs.* Briefs in support of or in opposition to an appeal shall be submitted in triplicate to the Board. The appellant shall submit his or her brief within 60 days after filing of the appeal. The Department shall then file a brief within 60 days after receipt of a copy of appellant's brief. Reply briefs, if any, shall be filed within 30 days after the date the Department's brief is filed with the Board. Extension of time for submission of a reply brief may be granted by the Board for good cause shown. Posthearing briefs may be submitted upon such terms as may be agreed to by the parties and the presiding member of the Board at the conclusion of a hearing.

(e) *Hearing.* An appellant shall be entitled to a hearing upon written request to the Board. An appellant may elect to waive a hearing and submit his or her appeal for decision on the basis of the record before the Board.

(f) *Pre-hearing conference.* Whether there is a hearing before the Board on an appeal or whether an appeal is submitted for decision on the record without a hearing the Board may call upon the parties to appear before a member of the Board for a conference to consider the simplification or clarification of issues and other matters as may aid in the disposition of the appeal. The results of the conference shall be reduced to writing by the presiding Board member, and this writing shall constitute a part of the record.

(g) *Admissibility of evidence.* Except as otherwise provided in § 7.7 and § 7.8, the parties may introduce such evidence as the Board deems proper. Formal rules of evidence shall not apply, but reasonable restrictions shall be imposed as to the relevancy, competency and materiality of evidence presented.

(h) *Depositions.* The Board may, upon the written request of either party or upon agreement by the parties, permit the taking of the testimony of any person by deposition upon oral examination or written interrogatories for use as evidence in the appeal proceedings. The deponent shall be subject to cross-examination either by oral examination or by written interrogatories by the opposing party or by the Board.

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Leave to take a deposition shall not be granted unless it appears impracticable to require the deponent's testimony at the hearing on the appeal, or unless the taking of a deposition is deemed to be warranted for other valid reasons.

(i) *Record of proceedings.* The record of proceedings before the Board shall consist of the Department's case record, briefs and other written submissions of the parties, the stipulation of facts, if any, the evidence admitted, and the transcript of the hearing if there is a hearing. The record shall be available for inspection by the parties at the Office of the Board.

(j) *Scope of review.* Except as otherwise provided in §§7.7 and 7.8, the Board shall review the record in the case before it. The Board shall not consider argument challenging the constitutionality of any law or of any regulation of the Department of State or take into consideration any classified or administratively controlled material.

(k) *Appearance before the Board.* Any party to any proceeding before the Board is entitled to appear in person or by or with his or her attorney, who must possess the requisite qualifications, set forth in §7.12, to practice before the Board.

(l) *Failure to prosecute an appeal.* Whenever the record discloses the failure of an appellant to file documents required by these regulations, respond to notices or correspondence from the Board, or otherwise indicates an intention not to continue the prosecution of an appeal, the Board may in its discretion terminate the proceedings without prejudice to the later reinstatement of the appeal for good cause shown.

[44 FR 68825, Nov. 30, 1979, as amended at 51 FR 15319, Apr. 23, 1986; 52 FR 41560, Oct. 29, 1987]

§7.6 Hearings.

(a) *Notice and place of hearing.* The parties shall be given at least 15 days notice in writing of the scheduled date and place of a hearing on an appeal. The Board shall have final authority to fix or change any hearing date giving consideration to the convenience of the parties. Hearings shall be held at the Department of State, Washington, DC, unless the Board determines otherwise.

(b) *Conduct of hearing.* The appellant may appear and testify on his own behalf. The parties may present witnesses, offer evidence and make argument. The appellant and witnesses may be examined by any member of the Board, by the Department, and by the appellant's attorney, if any. If any witness whom the appellant or the Department wishes to call is unable to appear personally, the Board in its discretion, may accept an affidavit by the witness or grant leave to take the deposition of such witness. Any such witness will be subject to cross examination by means of sworn responses to interrogatories posed by the opposing party. The appellant and the Department shall be entitled to be informed of all evidence before the Board and of the source of such evidence, and to confront and cross-examine any adverse witness. The Board may require a stipulation of facts prior to or at the beginning of the hearing and may require supplemental statements on issues presented to it, or confirmation, verification or authentication of any evidence submitted by the parties. The parties shall be entitled to reasonable continuances upon request for good cause shown.

(c) *Privacy of hearing.* The hearing shall be private unless an appellant requests in writing that the hearing be open to the public. Attendance at the hearing shall be limited to the appellant, attorneys of the parties, the members of the Board, Department personnel who are directly involved in the presentation of the case, official stenographers, and the witnesses. Witnesses shall be present at the hearing only while they are giving testimony or when otherwise directed by the Board.

(d) *Transcript of hearing.* A complete verbatim transcript shall be made of the hearing by a qualified reporter, and the transcript shall constitute a permanent part of the record. Upon request, the appellant shall have the right to inspect the complete transcript and to purchase a copy thereof.

(e) *Nonappearance of a party.* The unexcused absence of a party at the time and place set for a hearing shall not be occasion for delay. In the event of such absence, the case will be regarded as