

§ 1720.260 Prehearing conferences.

(a) Where it will expedite the proceeding, the administrative law judge may direct or allow the parties or their representatives to appear for a conference to consider:

- (1) Simplification and clarification of the issues;
- (2) Necessity or desirability of amendments to the pleadings;
- (3) Stipulations and admissions of fact and the contents and authenticity of documents;
- (4) Expedition in the discovery and presentation of evidence;
- (5) Matters of which official or judicial notice will be taken; and
- (6) Such other matters as may aid in the orderly and expeditious disposition of the proceeding, including disclosure of the names of witnesses and of documents or other exhibits which will be introduced in evidence in the course of the proceeding.

Prior to the conference, the administrative law judge may direct or allow the parties or their representatives to file memoranda specifying the issues of law and fact to be considered.

(b) If the circumstances are such that a conference is impracticable, the administrative law judge may require the parties to correspond for the purpose of accomplishing any of the objectives set forth in this section.

§ 1720.265 Reporting—prehearing conferences.

Prehearing conferences shall be stenographically or mechanically reported; and the administrative law judge shall prepare and file for the record a written summary of the action taken at the conference, which shall incorporate any written agreements or stipulations made by the parties at the conference or as a result of the conference.

MOTIONS

§ 1720.305 Motions—filing requirements.

During the time a proceeding is before an administrative law judge, all motions therein shall be in writing; and, except as otherwise provided in this part, a copy of each motion shall be served on the other party or parties.

Such motions shall be signed, addressed to, filed with and ruled upon by the administrative law judge. The provisions of this section need not apply to motions made during the course of a hearing.

§ 1720.310 Answers to motions.

Within 7 days after service of any written motion, an opposing party shall answer or shall be deemed to consent to the granting of the relief asked for in the motion. The moving party shall have no right to reply except as permitted by the administrative law judge or the appeals officer.

§ 1720.315 Motion for more definite statement.

When a respondent is unable to respond to the allegations in a suspension notice, a notice of proceedings, or a suspension order, because such allegations are vague, unclear or otherwise indefinite, motion may be made requesting a more definite statement of the allegations before filing an answer. Such motion shall indicate specifically in what manner the notice or order is indefinite or defective and shall be mailed or submitted to the Docket Clerk for Administrative Proceedings, Room 10278, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, DC 20410, within five days after service of the notice or order.

§ 1720.320 Motions for extension of time.

As a matter of discretion, the administrative law judge or the appeals officer may waive the requirements of § 1720.310 as to motions for extension of time, and may rule upon such motions ex parte. Extensions of time or continuances in any proceeding may be ordered on a motion by the administrative law judge or on the motion of either party for sufficient cause after the policy of the Secretary under § 1720.125 has been considered.

§ 1720.325 Motions for dismissal.

(a) A motion to dismiss may be made at any time until and including the fifth day after the close of the case for the reception of evidence.

(b) When a motion to dismiss, based upon alleged failure to establish a

prima facie case, is made at the close of the evidence offered in support of the notice or order, the administrative law judge may defer ruling thereon until the close of the case for the reception of evidence.

(c) When a motion to dismiss is granted so as to terminate entirely the proceeding before the administrative law judge, the administrative law judge shall file a decision in accordance with the provisions of §1720.525. If such a motion is granted only as to some allegations or as to some respondents, the administrative law judge shall enter this partial determination on the record and take it into account in the decision.

§ 1720.330 Motions to limit or quash.

Any person to whom a subpoena is directed may, prior to the time specified therein for compliance, but in no event more than 5 days after the date of service of such subpoena, apply to the administrative law judge to quash or modify such subpoena, accompanying such application with a brief statement of the reasons therefor. The administrative law judge shall have the discretion of granting, denying or modifying said motion.

§ 1720.335 Consolidation.

When more than one proceeding involves a common question of law or fact, the administrative law judge may order a joint hearing of any or all of the matters in issue in the proceedings and may make such other orders concerning the proceedings as to avoid unnecessary costs or delay.

DISCOVERY AND EVIDENCE

§ 1720.405 Depositions and discovery.

(a) At any time during the course of a proceeding, the administrative law judge may discretionally order the taking of a deposition and the production of documents by the deponent. Such order may be entered upon a showing that the deposition is necessary for the purpose of discovery or to preserve relevant evidence. Insofar as consistent with considerations of fairness and the requirements of due process and the rules of this subpart, a deposition shall not be ordered when it appears that it

will result in undue burden to any other party or in undue delay of the proceeding. Depositions may be taken orally or upon written interrogatories and cross-interrogatories.

(b) Any party desiring to take a deposition shall make application in writing to the administrative law judge setting forth the justification therefor and the time and place proposed for the taking of the deposition. The application shall include also the name and address of each proposed deponent and the subject matter concerning which each is expected to depose and shall be accompanied by an application for any subpoenas desired.

(c) An order that the administrative law judge may issue for taking a deposition shall state the circumstances warranting its being taken, and shall designate the time and place and shall show the name and address of each person who is expected to appear and the subject matter with regard to which each is expected to depose. The time designated shall allow not less than 5 days from date of service of the order when the deposition is to be taken within the United States, and not less than 15 days when the deposition is to be taken elsewhere.

(d) After an order is served for taking a deposition upon motion timely made by any party or by the person to be deposed and for good cause shown, the administrative law judge may determine the propriety of and issue any of the following orders:

(1) That the deposition shall not be taken.

(2) That it may be taken only at some designated place other than that stated in the order.

(3) That it may be taken only on written interrogatories.

(4) That certain matters shall not be inquired into.

(5) That the examination shall be held with no one present except the parties to the action, their counsel and a person qualified in the designated place to administer oaths and affirmations.

(e) The administrative law judge may make any other order which justice requires to protect the party or deponent from annoyance, embarrassment or oppression, or to prevent the unnecessary