

## § 18b.1

18b.95 Filing of ex parte communications.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301, 38 U.S.C. 501 and 38 CFR 18.9(d) and appendix A, part 18.

SOURCE: 35 FR 10760, July 2, 1970, unless otherwise noted.

### GENERAL RULES

#### § 18b.1 Scope of rules.

The rules of procedure in this part supplement §§18.9 and 18.10 of this chapter and govern the practice for hearings, decisions, and administrative review conducted by the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (section 602, 78 Stat. 252) and part 18 of this chapter.

#### § 18b.2 Reviewing authority.

The term *reviewing authority* means the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or any person or persons acting pursuant to authority delegated by the Secretary to carry out responsibility under §18.10 of this chapter. The term includes the Secretary with respect to action under §18b.75.

[35 FR 10760, July 2, 1970, as amended at 51 FR 10386, Mar. 26, 1986]

#### § 18b.9 Definitions.

The definitions contained in §18.13 of this chapter apply to this part, unless the context otherwise requires.

#### § 18b.10 Records to be public.

All pleadings, correspondence, exhibits, transcripts of testimony, exceptions, briefs, decisions, and other documents filed in the docket in any proceeding may be inspected and copied in the office of the Civil Rights hearing clerk. Inquiries may be made at the Department of Veterans Affairs Central Office, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420.

#### § 18b.11 Use of number.

As used in this part, words importing the singular number may extend and be applied to several persons or things, and vice versa.

[51 FR 10386, Mar. 26, 1986]

#### § 18b.12 Suspension of rules.

Upon notice to all parties, the reviewing authority or the presiding offi-

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cer, with respect to matters pending before them, may modify or waive any rule upon determination that no party will be unduly prejudiced and the ends of justice will thereby be served.

### APPEARANCE AND PRACTICE

#### § 18b.13 Appearance.

A party may appear in person or by counsel and participate fully in any proceeding. A State agency or a corporation may appear by any of its officers or by any employee it authorizes to appear on its behalf. Counsel must be members in good standing of the bar of a State, territory, or possession of the United States or of the District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

#### § 18b.14 Authority for representation.

Any individual acting in any proceeding may be required to show authority to act in such capacity.

[35 FR 10760, July 2, 1970, as amended at 51 FR 10386, Mar. 26, 1986]

#### § 18b.15 Exclusion from hearing for misconduct.

Disrespectful, disorderly, or contemptuous language or contemptuous conduct, refusal to comply with directions, or continued use of dilatory tactics by any person at any hearing before a presiding officer shall constitute grounds for immediate exclusion of such person from the hearing by the presiding officer.

### PARTIES

#### § 18b.16 Parties.

The term party shall include an applicant or recipient or other person to whom a notice of hearing or opportunity for hearing has been mailed naming that person as respondent. The Department shall also be deemed a party to all proceedings and shall be represented by the General Counsel.

[35 FR 10760, July 2, 1970, as amended at 51 FR 10386, Mar. 26, 1986; 54 FR 34984, Aug. 23, 1989]