

501—6.8(80B,17A) Hearing procedures.

6.8(1) Contested case proceeding. Unless the parties to a contested case proceeding have by written stipulation representing an informed mutual consent waived the provisions of the Act relating to the proceedings, contested case proceedings shall be initiated and culminate in an evidentiary hearing open to the public. Parties shall have been notified of the date and place of the hearing at least 30 days prior thereto.

a. Evidentiary hearings before the council shall be held at the council's principal office, Iowa Law Enforcement Academy, Camp Dodge, Johnston, Iowa, except that a case may be assigned for hearing elsewhere when deemed necessary to afford a party an opportunity to appear at the hearing with as little inconvenience and expense as practicable.

b. Evidentiary hearings before an administrative law judge shall be held at an appropriate location designated by the department of inspections and appeals.

6.8(2) Conduct of the proceedings.

a. The presiding officer presides at the hearing and may rule on motions, require briefs, issue a proposed decision, and issue such orders and rulings as will ensure the orderly conduct of the proceedings. If the presiding officer is the council or a panel thereof, an administrative law judge from the Iowa department of inspections and appeals may be designated to assist the council in conducting proceedings under this chapter. An administrative law judge so designated may rule upon motions and other procedural matters and assist the council in conducting the hearings.

b. Evidentiary proceedings shall be oral and open to the public and shall be recorded either by mechanical means or by certified shorthand reporters. Parties requesting that the hearing be recorded by certified shorthand reporters shall bear the appropriate costs. The record of the oral proceedings or the transcription thereof shall be filed with and maintained by the council for at least five years from the date of the decision.

6.8(3) All objections shall be timely made and stated on the record.

6.8(4) Legal representation.

a. The law enforcement officer has a right to participate in all hearings or prehearing conferences and may be represented by an attorney or another person authorized by law. If the law enforcement officer is not represented by anyone qualified by these rules to make an appearance, the presiding officer shall explain to the law enforcement officer the rules of practice and procedure and generally conduct a hearing in a less formal manner than that used when a law enforcement officer has a representative qualified to appear. It should be the purpose of the presiding officer to assist any law enforcement officer who appears without a representative to the extent necessary to allow a fair presentation of evidence, testimony and arguments on the issues.

b. The office of the attorney general or an attorney designated by the director shall be responsible for prosecuting contested case proceedings under this chapter. The assistant attorney general or other designated attorney assigned to prosecute the contested case shall not represent the council in that case but shall represent the public interest.

6.8(5) Subject to terms and conditions prescribed by the presiding officer, parties have the right to introduce evidence on issues of material fact, cross-examine witnesses present at the hearing as necessary for a full and true disclosure of the facts, present evidence in rebuttal, and submit briefs and engage in argument.

6.8(6) Witnesses may be sequestered during the hearing.

6.8(7) The presiding officer shall conduct the hearing in the following manner:

a. The presiding officer shall give an opening statement briefly describing the nature of the proceedings;

b. The parties shall be given an opportunity to present opening statements;

c. Parties shall present their cases in the sequence determined by the presiding officer;

d. Each witness shall be sworn or affirmed by the presiding officer or the court reporter and be subject to examination and cross-examination. The presiding officer may limit questioning in a manner consistent with law;

e. When all parties and witnesses have been heard, parties may be given the opportunity to present final arguments.