876—**4.20(86) Prehearing conference.** A deputy workers' compensation commissioner or the workers' compensation commissioner may order parties in the case to either appear before the workers' compensation commissioner or a deputy workers' compensation commissioner for a conference, or communicate with the commissioner or a deputy commissioner and with each other in any manner as may be prescribed to consider, so far as applicable to the particular case:

1. The necessity or desirability of amending pleadings by formal amendment or prehearing order;

2. Agreeing to admissions of facts, documents or records not really controverted, to avoid unnecessary proof;

3. Limiting the number of witnesses;

4. Settling any facts of which the workers' compensation commissioner or a deputy workers' compensation commissioner is to be asked to take official notice;

- 5. Stating and simplifying the factual and legal issues to be determined;
- 6. Specifying the items and amounts of compensation claimed;
- 7. Specifying all proposed exhibits and proof thereof;
- 8. Consolidation of cases and bifurcation of issues;
- 9. Specifying all witnesses expected to testify;
- 10. Possibility of settlement;
- 11. Filing of advance briefs, if any;
- 12. Setting or altering dates for completion of discovery or completion of medical evidence by each party;

13. Any other matter which may facilitate, expedite, or simplify any contested case.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 86.17 and 86.18.

[ARC 6841C, IAB 2/8/23, effective 3/15/23]