

**650—51.18(17A) Continuances.** Unless otherwise provided, applications for continuances shall be filed with the board. In the event the application for continuance is not contested, the executive director shall serve as presiding officer and issue the appropriate order. In the event the application for continuance is contested, the matter shall be heard by the board as presiding officer or may be delegated by the board to an administrative law judge.

**51.18(1)** A written application for a continuance shall:

- a.* Be made at the earliest possible time and no less than five working days before the hearing except in case of unanticipated emergencies;
- b.* State the specific reasons for the request; and
- c.* Be signed by the requesting party or the party's representative.

An oral application for a continuance may be made if the presiding officer waives the requirement for a written motion. However, a party making such an oral application for a continuance must confirm that request by written application within two days after the oral request unless that requirement is waived by the presiding officer. No application for continuance shall be made or granted without notice to all parties except in an emergency where notice is not feasible.

**51.18(2)** In determining whether to grant a continuance, the presiding officer may consider:

- a.* Prior continuances;
- b.* The interests of all parties;
- c.* The public interest;
- d.* The likelihood of informal settlement;
- e.* The existence of an emergency;
- f.* Any objection;
- g.* Any applicable time requirements;
- h.* The existence of a conflict in the schedules of counsel, parties, or witnesses;
- i.* The timeliness of the request; and
- j.* Other relevant factors.

The presiding officer may require documentation of any grounds for continuance.