

**650—51.20(17A) Hearing procedures.**

**51.20(1)** A hearing may be conducted before the board or a panel of not less than three members of the board at least two of whom are licensed by the board.

**51.20(2)** Hearings by the dental hygiene committee. In the event the licensee who is the subject of the contested case is a dental hygienist, the hearing shall be held before the dental hygiene committee, which shall constitute a panel of the board. The dental hygiene committee may in its discretion recommend to the board that the hearing be held instead before a panel of the board or full board.

**51.20(3)** When, in the opinion of a majority of the board, it is desirable to obtain specialists within an area of practice when holding disciplinary hearings, the board may appoint a panel of three specialists who are not board members to make findings of fact and to report to the board. Such findings shall not include any recommendation for or against licensee discipline.

**51.20(4)** The presiding officer shall have the authority to administer oaths, to admit or exclude testimony or other evidence, and to rule on all motions and objections. The presiding officer may request that an administrative law judge perform any of these functions, and may be assisted and advised by an administrative law judge.

**51.20(5)** All objections shall be timely made and stated on the record.

**51.20(6)** Parties have the right to participate or to be represented in all hearings or prehearing conferences related to their case. Any party may be represented by an attorney at their own expense.

**51.20(7)** 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 oral argument.

**51.20(8)** The presiding officer shall maintain the decorum of the hearing and may refuse to admit or may expel anyone whose conduct is disorderly.

**51.20(9)** Witnesses may be sequestered during the hearing.

**51.20(10)** The presiding officer shall have authority to grant immunity from disciplinary action to a witness as provided by Iowa Code section 272C.6(3).

**51.20(11)** 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.

**51.20(12)** The board members and administrative law judge have the right to question a witness. Examination of witnesses by board members is subject to properly raised objections.

**51.20(13)** The hearing shall be open to the public unless the licensee requests that the hearing be closed.