

§ 1386.106

must be available at the hearing for cross-examination by all parties.

(b) *Stipulations and exhibits.* Two or more parties may agree to stipulations of fact. Such stipulations, or any exhibit proposed by any party, must be exchanged at the prehearing conference or at a different time prior to the hearing if the presiding officer requires it.

(c) *Rules of evidence.* Technical rules of evidence do not apply to hearings conducted pursuant to this subpart, but rules or principles designed to assure production of the most credible evidence available and to subject testimony to test by cross-examination are applied where reasonably necessary by the presiding officer. A witness may be cross-examined on any matter material to the proceeding without regard to the scope of his or her direct examination. The presiding officer may exclude irrelevant, immaterial, or unduly repetitious evidence. All documents and other evidence offered or taken for the record is open to examination by the parties and opportunity must be given to refute facts and arguments advanced on either side of the issues.

§ 1386.106 Exclusion from hearing for misconduct.

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

§ 1386.107 Unsponsored written material.

Letters expressing views or urging action and other unsponsored written material regarding matters in issue in a hearing is placed in the correspondence section of the docket of the proceeding. This material is not deemed part of the evidence or record in the hearing.

§ 1386.108 Official transcript.

The Department will designate the official reporter for all hearings. The official transcript of testimony taken, together with any stipulations, exhib-

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its, briefs, or memoranda of law filed with them is filed with the Department. Transcripts of testimony in hearings may be obtained from the official reporter by the parties and the public at rates not to exceed the maximum rates fixed by the contract between the Department and the reporter. Upon notice to all parties, the presiding officer may authorize corrections to the transcript which involve matters of substance. Transcripts must be taken by steno-type machine and not be voice recording devices, unless otherwise agreed by all of the parties and the presiding officer.

§ 1386.109 Record for decision.

The transcript of testimony, exhibits, and all papers and requests filed in the proceedings, except the correspondence section of the docket, including rulings and any recommended or initial decision, constitute the exclusive record for decision.

POSTHEARING PROCEDURES, DECISIONS

§ 1386.110 Posthearing briefs.

The presiding officer must fix the time for filing posthearing briefs. This time may not exceed 30 days after termination of the hearing and receipt of the transcript. Briefs may contain proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law. If permitted, reply briefs may be filed no later than 15 days after filing of the posthearing briefs.

§ 1386.111 Decisions following hearing.

(a) If the Assistant Secretary is the presiding officer, he or she must issue a decision within 60 days after the time for submission of posthearing briefs has expired.

(b)(1) If the presiding officer is a person designated by the Assistant Secretary, he or she must, within 30 days after the time for submission of posthearing briefs has expired, certify the entire record to the Assistant Secretary including recommended findings and proposed decision. The Assistant Secretary must serve a copy of the recommended findings and proposed decision upon all parties and amici.

(2) Any party may, within 20 days, file exceptions to the recommended

findings and proposed decision and supporting brief or statement with the Assistant Secretary.

(3) The Assistant Secretary must review the recommended decision and, within 60 days of its issuance, issue his or her own decision.

(c) If the Assistant Secretary concludes:

(1) In the case of a hearing pursuant to sections 122, 127, or 142 of the Act, that a State plan or the activities of the State's Protection and Advocacy System does not comply with Federal requirements, he or she shall also specify whether the State's payment or allotment for the fiscal year will not be authorized for the State or whether, in the exercise of his or her discretion, the payment or allotment will be limited to the parts of the State plan or the activities of the State's Protection and Advocacy System not affected by the noncompliance.

(2) In the case of a hearing pursuant to section 127 of the Act that the State is not complying with the requirements of the State plan, he or she must also specify whether the State's payment or allotment will not be made available to the State or whether, in the exercise of his or her discretion, the payment or allotment will be limited to the parts of the State plan not affected by such noncompliance. The Assistant Secretary may ask the parties for recommendations or briefs or may hold conferences of the parties on these questions.

(d) The decision of the Assistant Secretary under this section is the final decision of the Secretary and constitutes "final agency action" within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. 704 and the "Secretary's action" within the meaning of Section 129 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 6029). The Assistant Secretary's decision must be promptly served on all parties and amici.

[49 FR 11779, Mar. 27, 1984, as amended at 52 FR 44847, Nov. 20, 1987; 61 FR 51162, Sept. 30, 1996]

§ 1386.112 Effective date of decision by the Assistant Secretary.

(a) If, in the case of a hearing pursuant to section 122 of the Act, the Assistant Secretary concludes that a State plan does not comply with Fed-

eral requirements, and the decision provides that the payment or allotment will be authorized but limited to parts of the State plan not affected by such noncompliance, the decision must specify the effective date for the authorization of the payment or allotment.

(b) In the case of a hearing pursuant to sections 127 or 142 of the Act, if the Assistant Secretary concludes that the State is not complying with the requirements of the State plan or the activities of the State's Protection and Advocacy System do not comply with Federal requirements, the decision that further payments or allotments will not be made to the State, or will be limited to the parts of the State plan or activities of the State's Protection and Advocacy System not affected, must specify the effective date for withholding payments of allotments.

(c) The effective date may not be earlier than the date of the decision of the Assistant Secretary and may not be later than the first day of the next calendar quarter.

(d) The provision of this section may not be waived pursuant to § 1386.84.

[49 FR 11779, Mar. 27, 1984, as amended 61 FR 51162, Sept. 30, 1996]

PART 1387—PROJECTS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. 6000 et. seq.

§ 1387.1 General requirements.

(a) All projects funded under this part must be of national significance and serve or relate to individuals with developmental disabilities to comply with section 162 of the Act.

(b) Based on section 162(d), proposed priorities for grants and contracts will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER and a 60 day period for public comments will be allowed.

(c) The requirements concerning format and content of the application, submittal procedures, eligible applicants and final priority areas will be published in program announcements in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(d) Projects of National Significance, including technical assistance and data