

any rule in this subpart, unless otherwise expressly provided, upon determination that no party will be unduly prejudiced and justice will be served.

§ 1386.85 Filing and service of papers.

(a) All papers in the proceedings must be filed with the designated individual in an original and two copies. Only the originals of exhibits and transcripts of testimony need be filed.

(b) Copies of papers in the proceedings must be served on all parties by personal delivery or by mail. Service on the party's designated representative is deemed service upon the party.

[49 FR 11779, Mar. 27, 1984, as amended at 61 FR 51161, Sept. 30, 1996]

PRELIMINARY MATTERS—NOTICE AND PARTIES

§ 1386.90 Notice of hearing or opportunity for hearing.

Proceedings are commenced by mailing a notice of hearing or opportunity for hearing from the Assistant Secretary to the State Developmental Disabilities Council and the Designated State Agency, or to the State Protection and Advocacy System or designating official. The notice must state the time and place for the hearing, and the issues which will be considered. The notice must be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

[49 FR 11779, Mar. 27, 1984, as amended at 61 FR 51161, Sept. 30, 1996]

§ 1386.91 Time of hearing.

The hearing must be scheduled not less than 30 days nor more than 60 days after the date notice of the hearing is mailed to the State.

§ 1386.92 Place.

The hearing must be held on a date and at a time and place determined by the Assistant Secretary with due regard for convenience, and necessity of the parties or their representatives. The site of the hearing shall be accessible to individuals with disabilities.

[61 FR 51162, Sept. 30, 1996]

§ 1386.93 Issues at hearing.

(a) Prior to a hearing, the Assistant Secretary may notify the State in

writing of additional issues which will be considered at the hearing. That notice must be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. If that notice is mailed to the State less than 20 days before the date of the hearing, the State or any other party, at its request, must be granted a postponement of the hearing to a date 20 days after the notice was mailed, or such later date as may be agreed to by the Assistant Secretary.

(b) If any issue is resolved in whole or in part, but new or modified issues are presented, the hearing must proceed on the new or modified issues.

(c)(1) If at any time, whether prior to, during, or after the hearing, the Assistant Secretary finds that the State has come into compliance with Federal requirements on any issue in whole or in part, he or she must remove the issue from the proceedings in whole or in part as may be appropriate. If all issues are removed the Assistant Secretary must terminate the hearing.

(2) Prior to the removal of an issue, in whole or in part, from a hearing involving issues relating to the conformity with Federal requirements under Part B of the Act, of the State plan or the activities of the State's Protection and Advocacy System, the Assistant Secretary must provide all parties other than the Department and the State (see §1386.94(b)) with the statement of his or her intention to remove an issue from the hearings and the reasons for that decision. A copy of the proposed State plan provision or document explaining changes in the activities of the State's protection and advocacy system on which the State and the Assistant Secretary have settled must be sent to the parties. The parties must have an opportunity to submit in writing within 15 days their views as to, or any information bearing upon, the merits of the proposed provision and the merits of the reasons for removing the issue from the hearing.

(d) In hearings involving questions of noncompliance of a State's operation of its program under Part B of the Act with the State plan or with Federal requirements or compliance of the State's Protection and Advocacy System with Federal requirements, the same procedure set forth in paragraph (c)(2) of this section must be followed