

Social Security Administration

§ 410.647

and of such nature as to afford the parties a reasonable opportunity for a fair hearing.

§ 410.641 Evidence.

Evidence may be received at the hearing even though inadmissible under rules of evidence applicable to court procedures.

§ 410.642 Witnesses.

Witnesses at the hearing shall testify under oath or affirmation or as directed by the Administrative Law Judge, unless they are excused by the Administrative Law Judge for cause. The Administrative Law Judge may examine the witnesses and shall allow the parties or their representatives to do so. If the Administrative Law Judge conducts the examination of a witness, he may allow the parties to suggest matters as to which they desire the witness to be questioned, and the Administrative Law Judge shall question the witness with respect to such matters if they are relevant and material to any issue pending for decision before him.

§ 410.643 Oral argument and written allegations.

The parties, upon their request, shall be allowed a reasonable time for the presentation of oral argument or for the filing of briefs or other written statements of allegations as to facts or law. Where there is more than one party to the hearing, copies of any brief or other written statement shall be filed in sufficient number that they may be made available to any party.

§ 410.644 Record of hearing.

A complete record of the proceedings at the hearing shall be made. The record shall be transcribed in any case which is certified to the Appeals Council without decision by the Administrative Law Judge (see §§ 410.654 and 410.657 to 410.659 inclusive), in any case where a civil action is commenced against the Commissioner (see § 410.666), or in any other case when directed by the Administrative Law Judge or the Appeals Council.

[36 FR 23760, Dec. 14, 1971, as amended at 62 FR 38453, July 18, 1997]

§ 410.645 Joint hearings.

When two or more hearings are to be held, and the same or substantially similar evidence is relevant and material to the matters in issue at each such hearing, the Administrative Law Judge (formerly called "hearing examiner") may fix the same time and place for each hearing and conduct all such hearings jointly. However, where there is no common issue of law or fact involved in two or more hearings and any party objects to a joint hearing, a joint hearing may not be held. Where joint hearings are held, a single record of the proceedings shall be made and the evidence introduced in one case may be considered as introduced in the others, and a separate or joint decision shall be made, as appropriate.

[37 FR 20652, Sept. 30, 1972]

§ 410.646 Consolidated issues.

When one or more additional issues are raised by the Administrative Law Judge pursuant to § 410.637, such issues may, in the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge, be consolidated for hearing and decision with other issues pending before him upon the same request for a hearing, whether or not the same or substantially similar evidence is relevant and material to the matters in issue. A single decision may be made upon all such issues.

§ 410.647 Waiver of right to appear and present evidence.

(a) *General.* Any party to a hearing shall have the right to appear before the Administrative Law Judge (formerly called "hearing examiner"), personally or by representative, and present evidence and contentions. If all parties are unwilling, unable, or waive their right to appear before the Administrative Law Judge, personally or by representative, it shall not be necessary for the Administrative Law Judge to conduct an oral hearing as provided in §§ 410.636 to 410.646, inclusive. A waiver of the right to appear and present evidence and allegations as to facts and law shall be made in writing and filed with the Administrative Law Judge. Such waiver may be withdrawn by a party at any time prior to the mailing of notice of the decision in

§ 410.648

the case. Even though all of the parties have filed a waiver of the right to appear and present evidence and contentions at a hearing before the Administrative Law Judge, the Administrative Law Judge may, nevertheless, give notice of a time and place and conduct a hearing as provided in §§ 410.636 to 410.646, inclusive, if he believes that the personal appearance and testimony of the party or parties would assist him to ascertain the facts in issue in the case.

(b) *Record as basis for decision.* Where all of the parties have waived their right to appear in person or through a representative and the Administrative Law Judge does not schedule an oral hearing, the decision shall be based on the record. Where a party residing outside the United States at a place not readily accessible to the United States does not indicate that he wishes to appear in person or through a representative before an Administrative Law Judge, and there are no other parties to the hearing who wish to appear, the Administrative Law Judge may decide the case on the record. In any case where the decision is to be based on the record, the Administrative Law Judge shall make a record of the relevant written evidence, including applications, written statements, certificates, affidavits, reports, and other documents which were considered in connection with the initial determination and reconsideration, and whatever additional relevant and material evidence the party or parties may present in writing for consideration by the Administrative Law Judge. Such documents shall be considered as all of the evidence in the case.

[37 FR 20652, Sept. 30, 1972]

§ 410.648 Dismissal of request for hearing; by application of party.

With the approval of the Administrative Law Judge at any time prior to the mailing of notice of the decision, a request for a hearing may be withdrawn or dismissed upon the application of the party or parties filing the request for such hearing. A party may request a dismissal by filing a written notice of such request with the Administrative Law Judge or orally stating such request at the hearing.

20 CFR Ch. III (4-1-01 Edition)

§ 410.649 Dismissal by abandonment of party.

With the approval of the Administrative Law Judge, a request for hearing may also be dismissed upon its abandonment by the party or parties who filed it. A party shall be deemed to have abandoned a request for hearing if neither the party nor his representative appears at the time and place fixed for the hearing and either (a) prior to the time for hearing such party does not show good cause as to why neither he nor his representative can appear or (b) within 10 days after the mailing of a notice to him by the Administrative Law Judge to show cause, such party does not show good cause for such failure to appear and failure to notify the Administrative Law Judge prior to the time fixed for hearing that he cannot appear.

§ 410.650 Dismissal for cause.

The presiding officer may, on his own motion, dismiss a hearing request, either entirely or as to any stated issue, under any of the following circumstances:

(a) *Res judicata.* Where there has been a previous determination or decision by the Commissioner with respect to the rights of the same party on the same facts pertinent to the same issue or issues which has become final either by judicial affirmance or, without judicial consideration, upon the claimant's failure timely to request reconsideration, hearing, or review, or to commence a civil action with respect to such determination or decision (see §§ 410.624, 410.631, 410.661, and 410.666).

(b) *No right to hearing.* Where the party requesting a hearing is not a proper party under § 410.632 or § 410.633 or does not otherwise have a right to a hearing under § 410.630. This would include, but is not limited to, an individual claiming as a representative payee appointed pursuant to § 410.581 (see § 410.615).

(c) *Hearing request not timely filed.* Where the party has failed to file a hearing request timely pursuant to § 410.631 and the time for filing such request has not been extended as provided in § 410.669.

(d) *Death of party.* Where the party who filed the hearing request dies and