

Social Security Administration

§ 410.693

(g) *Evidence.* Evidence may be received at the hearing, subject to the provision herein, even though inadmissible under the rules of evidence applicable to court procedure. The hearing officer shall rule on the admissibility of evidence.

(h) *Witnesses.* Witnesses at the hearing shall testify under oath or affirmation. The witnesses of a party may be examined by such party or by his representative, subject to interrogation by the other party or by his representative. The hearing officer may ask such questions as he deems necessary. He shall rule upon any objection made by either party as to the propriety of any question.

(i) *Oral and written summation.* The parties shall be given, upon request, a reasonable time for the presentation of an oral summation and for the filing of briefs or other written statements of proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law. Copies of such briefs or other written statements shall be filed in sufficient number that they may be made available to any party in interest requesting a copy and to any other party designated by the Appeals Council.

(j) *Record of hearing.* A complete record of the proceedings at the hearing shall be made and transcribed in all cases.

(k) *Representation.* The individual charged may appear in person and he may be represented by counsel or other representative.

(l) *Failure to appear.* If after due notice of the time and place for the hearing, a party to the hearing fails to appear and fails to show good cause as to why he could not appear, such party shall be considered to have waived his right to be present at the hearing. The hearing officer may hold the hearing so that the party present may offer evidence to sustain or rebut the charges.

(m) *Dismissal of charges.* The hearing officer may dismiss the charges in the event of the death of the individual charged.

(n) *Cost of transcript.* On the request of a party, a transcript of the hearing before the hearing officer will be prepared and sent to the requesting party upon the payment of cost, or if the cost is not readily determinable, the esti-

mated amount, thereof, unless for good cause such payment is waived.

[36 FR 23760, Dec. 14, 1971, as amended at 37 FR 17709, Aug. 30, 1972; 62 FR 38454, July 18, 1997]

§ 410.693 Decision by hearing officer.

(a) *General.* As soon as practicable after the close of the hearing, the hearing officer shall issue a decision (or certify the case with a recommended decision to the Appeals Council for decision under the rules and procedures described in §§ 410.657 through 410.659) which shall be in writing and contain findings of fact and conclusions of law. The decision shall be based upon the evidence of record. If the hearing officer finds that the charges have been sustained, he shall either:

(1) Suspend the individual for a specified period of not less than 1 year, nor more than 5 years, from the date of the decision, or

(2) Disqualify the individual from further practice before the Administration until such time as the individual may be reinstated under § 410.699.

A copy of the decision shall be mailed to the individual charged at his last known address and to the Deputy Commissioner for Programs and Policy, or his or her designee, together with notice of the right of either party to request the Appeals Council to review the decision of the hearing officer.

(b) *Effect of hearing officer's decision.* The hearing officer's decision shall be final and binding unless reversed or modified by the Appeals Council upon review (see § 410.697).

(1) If the final decision is that the individual is disqualified from practice before the Administration, he shall not be permitted to represent an individual in a proceeding before the Administration until authorized to do so under the provisions of § 410.699.

(2) If the final decision suspends the individual for a specified period of time, he shall not be permitted to represent an individual in a proceeding before the Administration during the period of suspension unless authorized to do so under the provisions of § 410.699.

[36 FR 23760, Dec. 14, 1971, as amended at 62 FR 38454, July 18, 1997]