

## TITLE 1

## OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

## CHAPTER 1

## UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE RULES

## Authority

N.J.S.A. 52:14F-5(e), (f) and (g).

## Source and Effective Date

R.2002 d.198, effective May 30, 2002.  
See: 34 N.J.R. 983(a), 34 N.J.R. 2309(a).

## Chapter Expiration Date

Chapter 1, Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules, expires on May 30, 2007.

## Chapter Historical Note

Chapter 1, Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules of Practice, was adopted as R.1980 d.275, effective July 1, 1980, repealing the administrative hearing rules of the Division of Administrative Procedure at N.J.A.C. 15:15-10. See: 11 N.J.R. 479(a), 12 N.J.R. 234(a), 12 N.J.R. 362(a). Chapter 1 was amended by R.1981 d.55, effective February 17, 1981. See: 13 N.J.R. 3(b), 13 N.J.R. 114(a); R.1981 d.116, effective May 7, 1981. See: 13 N.J.R. 2(a), 13 N.J.R. 254(b); R.1981 d.443, effective November 16, 1981. See: 13 N.J.R. 254(c), 13 N.J.R. 842(a); R.1982 d.87, effective April 5, 1982. See: 14 N.J.R. 2(a), 14 N.J.R. 335(a); R.1982 d.150, effective May 17, 1982. See: 14 N.J.R. 4(a), 14 N.J.R. 471(a); R.1982 d.295, effective September 7, 1982. See: 14 N.J.R. 606(b), 14 N.J.R. 975(b); R.1982 d.467, effective January 3, 1983. See: 14 N.J.R. 486(a), 15 N.J.R. 23(a); R.1983 d.268, effective July 5, 1983. See: 15 N.J.R. 582(a), 15 N.J.R. 1093(a); R.1983 d.515, effective November 21, 1983. See: 15 N.J.R. 1399(a), 15 N.J.R. 1939(a); R.1983 d.550, effective December 5, 1983. See: 15 N.J.R. 1400(b), 15 N.J.R. 2032(a); R.1984 d.368, effective September 4, 1984. See: 16 N.J.R. 1413(a), 16 N.J.R. 2354(a); R.1984 d.445, effective October 1, 1984. See: 16 N.J.R. 1636(a), 16 N.J.R. 2518(a); R.1984 d.476, effective October 15, 1984 (operative November 14, 1984). See: 16 N.J.R. 1408(a), 16 N.J.R. 2777(a); R.1984 d.490, effective November 5, 1984. See: 16 N.J.R. 2320(a), 16 N.J.R. 3004(a); R.1984 d.587, effective December 7, 1984. See: 16 N.J.R. 2710(a), 16 N.J.R. 3426(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 1, Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules of Practice, was readopted as R.1985 d.292, effective May 15, 1985. See: 17 N.J.R. 2(a), 17 N.J.R. 1403(a). Chapter 1 was amended by R.1985 d.368, effective July 15, 1985. See: 17 N.J.R. 1008(a), 17 N.J.R. 1754(a); R.1985 d.508, effective October 7, 1985. See: 17 N.J.R. 1820(a), 17 N.J.R. 2457(b); R.1986 d.79, effective April 7, 1986. See: 18 N.J.R. 130(a), 18 N.J.R. 634(a); R.1986 d.340, effective August 18, 1986. See: 18 N.J.R. 2(a), 18 N.J.R. 1699(a); R.1986 d.468, effective December 1, 1986. See: 18 N.J.R. 1020(a), 18 N.J.R. 1865(a), 18 N.J.R. 2381(a).

Chapter 1, Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules of Practice, was repealed and a new Chapter 1, Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules, was adopted by R.1987 d.200, effective May 4, 1987 (operative July 1, 1987). See: 18 N.J.R. 728(a), 18 N.J.R. 1728(a), 19 N.J.R. 715(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 1, Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules, was readopted as R.1992 d.213, effective April 21, 1992. See: 24 N.J.R. 321(a), 24 N.J.R. 1873(b).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 1, Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules, was readopted as R.1997 d.158, effective March 10, 1997. See: 29 N.J.R. 282(a), 29 N.J.R. 1295(a).

Chapter 1, Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules, was readopted as R.2002 d.198, effective May 30, 2002. See: Source and Effective Date. See, also, section annotations.

## Cross References

Apparel industry registration, confiscation of apparel and equipment, requests for formal hearings, see N.J.A.C. 12:210-1.9.

Motorized wheelchair dispute resolution, notification and scheduling of contested case hearings, see N.J.A.C. 13:45A-26E6.

Small, minority and female businesses, State contracts, contested case hearings as under this section, see N.J.A.C. 12A:10-2.2.

## Law Review and Journal Commentaries

Administrative adjudications in New Jersey: Why not let the ALJ decide? Richard M. Hluchan, 180 N.J.Law. 28 (Mag.) (Oct./Nov. 1996).

Appeals and enforcement of agency decisions: Confessions of a general counsel. Robert E. Anderson, 180 N.J.Law. 25 (Mag.) (Oct./Nov. 1996).

Approaching hearsay at administrative hearings: Hearsay evidence and the Residuum Rule. Joseph R. Morano, 180 N.J.Law. 22 (Mag.) (Oct./Nov. 1996).

Introduction to administrative law, or what is this thing called administrative law? Barbara A. Harned, 180 N.J.Law. 9 (Mag.) (Oct./Nov. 1996).

Right to a hearing: Statutory rights, constitutional rights and "fundamental fairness". Robert H. Stoloff, 180 N.J.Law. 14 (Mag.) (Oct./Nov. 1996).

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#### APPENDIX A CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES

#### SUBCHAPTER 1. APPLICABILITY, SCOPE, CITATION OF RULES, CONSTRUCTION AND RELAXATION; COMPUTATION OF TIME

##### 1:1-1.1 Applicability; scope; special hearing rules

(a) Subject to any superseding Federal or State law, this chapter shall govern the procedural aspects pertaining to transmission, the conduct of the hearing and the rendering of the initial and final decisions in all contested cases in the Executive Branch of the State Government. N.J.S.A. 52:14F-5. This chapter governs the procedure whether the contested case is before the Office of Administrative Law, an agency head or any other administrative agency. Subchapter 21 governs the conduct of certain uncontested cases handled by the Office of Administrative Law under N.J.S.A. 52:14F-5(o).

(b) In the event of conflict between this chapter and any other agency rule, except agency rules which incorporate statutory requirements, this chapter shall prevail. Procedural rules formerly adopted by the agencies, including those adopted prior to the creation of the Office of Administrative Law, shall continue to apply to the extent they are not inconsistent with this chapter, with statutory requirements or with constitutional standards.

(c) No agency other than the Office of Administrative Law may hereafter propose any rules to regulate the conduct of contested cases and the rendering of administrative adjudications. N.J.S.A. 52:14F-5(e). Specific pleading and other pre-transmittal requirements may be regulated by the agencies provided they are consistent with this chapter.

(d) In addition to those rules that specifically govern a transmitting agency's responsibilities and the jurisdiction of the Office of Administrative Law, the following Uniform Administrative Procedure rules are not intended to apply to contested cases heard in agencies exempt under N.J.S.A. 52:14F-8:

1. N.J.A.C. 1:1-11.1(c) (Subpoena forms);
2. N.J.A.C. 1:1-12.6 (Emergency relief);
3. N.J.A.C. 1:1-14.10 (Interlocutory review);
4. N.J.A.C. 1:1-16.2(b) and (c) (Time of motion to intervene);
5. N.J.A.C. 1:1-18.8 (Extensions of time limits for decisions and exceptions); and
6. N.J.A.C. 1:1-21 (Uncontested cases).

(e) This chapter is subject to special hearing rules applicable to particular agencies. Such rules may be adopted by the Office of Administrative Law after consultation with a transmitting agency or at the request of a transmitting agency when the transmitted cases involve unique hearing requirements that are not addressed by this chapter. Where required by Federal law, special hearing rules may be promulgated by a transmitting agency with the concurrence of the Office of Administrative Law.

##### Cross References

Women-owned and minority-owned businesses, false information supplied, contested case hearing as under this subchapter, see N.J.A.C. 12A:11-1.9.

##### Case Notes

Disciplinary hearings by the Board are authorized by the Uniform Enforcement Act, N.J.S.A. 45:1-14 et seq., and are governed by the New Jersey Uniform Administrative Rules. *Deck House, Inc. v. New Jersey State Bd. of Architects*, 531 F.Supp. 633 (D.N.J.1982).

Administrative agency cannot expand reach of statute. *Rutgers University Legislative Affairs Council, Inc. v. Thompson*, 12 N.J.Tax 642 (1992).

An administrative law judge is not automatically bound by an agency party's argument. This would frustrate the legislative intent of N.J.S.A.

52:14F-1 et seq. which tasked the OAL with providing due process hearings independently and impartially. *Div. of Motor Vehicles v. Canova*, 1 N.J.A.R. 7 (1980).

### 1:1-1.2 Citation of rules

This chapter shall be referred to as the "New Jersey Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules" and may be cited as, for example, N.J.A.C. 1:1-1.2.

### 1:1-1.3 Construction and relaxation

(a) This chapter shall be construed to achieve just results, simplicity in procedure, fairness in administration and the elimination of unjustifiable expense and delay. In the absence of a rule, a judge may proceed in accordance with the New Jersey Court Rules, provided the rules are compatible with these purposes. Court rules regarding third party practices and class action designations may not be applied unless such procedures are specifically statutorily authorized in administrative hearings.

(b) Except as stated in (c) below, procedural rules may be relaxed or disregarded if the judge determines that adherence would result in unfairness or injustice. The judge shall make such determinations and state the reasons for doing so on the record.

(c) The burden of proof shall not be relaxed. Statutory procedural requirements shall not be relaxed or disregarded except when permitted by the controlling Federal or State statutes.

Amended by R.1992 d.213, effective May 18, 1992.  
See: 24 N.J.R. 321(a), 24 N.J.R. 1873(b).  
Revised (a).

#### Case Notes

Requests for adjournment granted as petitioner had retained counsel and needed time to conduct discovery and prepare appropriately for trial. Request was granted in order to secure a just determination and to avoid unfairness to the pro se complainant. *White v. Public Service*, 8 N.J.A.R. 335 (1984), approved Docket No. A-1496-84 (App.Div. 1986).

Standard for reopening case has not been set forth by statute or rule. In the absence of standards, N.J.A.C. 1:1-1.3(a) states judge may proceed in any manner compatible with the purposes of administrative adjudication. In *Re: White Bus Co.*, 6 N.J.A.R. 535 (1983).

Conduct of contested case hearing under former rulemaking regulations. *Bally Manufacturing Corp. v. New Jersey Casino Control Commission*, 85 N.J. 325, 426 A.2d 1000 (1981) appeal dismissed 102 S.Ct. 77, 454 U.S. 804, 70 L.Ed.2d 74.

Definitions of adjudication and contested case under former rulemaking regulation; conduct of hearings. In *re Matter of Public Hearings*, 142 N.J.Super. 136, 361 A.2d 30 (App.Div.1976), certification denied 72 N.J. 457, 371 A.2d 62 (1976).

Administrative law judge was without jurisdiction to compel joinder of third party in school district's placement dispute with parents. *B.R. v. Woodbridge Board*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EDS) 159.

Section incorporates generally into the uniform administrative rules only those portions of the court rules which govern the conduct of lawyers, judges, and agency personnel (cited former rule, N.J.A.C. 1:1-3.8). *Div. of Motor Vehicles v. Festa*, 6 N.J.A.R. 173 (1982).

### 1:1-1.4 Computation of time

In computing any period of time fixed by rule or judicial order, the day of the act or event from which the designated period begins to run is not to be included. The last day of the period so computed is to be included, unless it is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, in which event the period runs until the end of the next day which is neither a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. In computing a period of time of less than seven days, Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays shall be excluded.

### 1:1-1.5 Conduct of administrative law judges

The Code of Judicial Conduct for Administrative Law Judges, as incorporated herein by reference as the chapter Appendix, shall govern the conduct of administrative law judges.

New Rule, R.1992 d.430, effective November 2, 1992.  
See: 24 N.J.R. 2755(a), 24 N.J.R. 4028(a).  
Amended by R.2002 d.198, effective July 1, 2002.  
See: 34 N.J.R. 983(a), 34 N.J.R. 2309(a).

## SUBCHAPTER 2. DEFINITIONS

### 1:1-2.1 Definitions

The following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

"Adjournment" means postponement of the hearing until another time.

"Administrative law judge" means a person appointed pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14F-4 or N.J.S.A. 52:14F-5(m) and assigned by the Director of the Office of Administrative Law to preside over contested cases and other proceedings.

"Administrative rule" means each agency statement of general applicability and continuing effect that implements or interprets law or policy, or describes the organization, procedure or practice requirements of any agency. The term includes the amendment or repeal of any rule, but does not include: (1) statements concerning the internal management or discipline of any agency; (2) intra-agency and inter-agency statements; and (3) agency decisions and findings in contested cases. N.J.S.A. 52:14B-2(e).

"Affidavit" means a written statement that is signed and sworn or affirmed to be true in the presence of a notary public or other person authorized to administer an oath or affirmation.

“Agency” includes each of the principal departments in the executive branch of the State government, and all boards, divisions, commissions, agencies, departments, councils, authorities, offices or officers within any such departments now existing or hereafter established and authorized by statute to make, adopt or promulgate rules or adjudicate contested cases, except the office of the Governor. N.J.S.A. 52:14B-2(a).

“Agency head” means the person or body authorized by law to render final decisions in contested cases, except that in the Department of Education, the State Board of Education is the head of an agency but the Commissioner of Education is authorized by statute to render final decisions.

“Appellant” means the party who is requesting a reversal or modification of a prior result.

“Burden of producing evidence” means the obligation of a party to introduce evidence when necessary to avoid the risk of a contrary decision or peremptory finding on a material issue of fact.

“Burden of proof” means the obligation of a party to meet the requirements of a rule of law that a fact be proved by a preponderance of the evidence or by clear and convincing evidence.

“Clerk” means the Clerk of the Office of Administrative Law or any such scheduling or docketing officer designated by the head of an agency to oversee the administration of contested cases.

“Complainant” means the party who requests action or relief by filing a complaint.

“Conclusion of hearing” means that time when the record for a case closes and after which no subsequently submitted information may be considered by the judge.

“Conference hearing” means a proceeding conducted before an administrative law judge, in which discovery, pre-hearing motions and post-hearing submissions are limited.

“Contested case” means an adversary proceeding, including any licensing proceeding, in which the legal rights, duties, obligations, privileges, benefits or other legal relations of specific parties are required by constitutional right or by statute to be determined by an agency by decisions, determinations, or orders, addressed to them or disposing of their interests, after opportunity for an agency hearing. N.J.S.A. 52:14B-2. The required hearing must be designed to result in an adjudication concerning the rights, duties, obligations, privileges, benefits or other legal relations of specific parties over which there exist disputed questions of fact, law or disposition relating to past, current or proposed activities or interests. Contested cases are not informational nor intended to provide a forum for the expression of public sentiment on proposed agency action or broad policy

issues affecting entire industries or large, undefined classes of people.

“Discovery” means the process by which a party is permitted on demand or upon motion granted by a judge to view, inspect or receive a copy of documents, and gain other information necessary to prepare a case for hearing.

“Docket number” means the number given to a case by the Office of Administrative Law, which contains the abbreviation of the agency that sent the case to the Office of Administrative Law, a sequence number and the year. Sample:

HPW	8831	82
agency	sequence no.	year

“Evidence” is the means from which inferences may be drawn as a basis of proof in the conduct of contested cases, and includes testimony in the form of opinion and hearsay.

“Filing” means receipt of an original or clear copy of a paper by the proper office or officer.

“Final decision” means a decision by an agency head that adopts, rejects or modifies an initial decision by an administrative law judge, an initial decision by an administrative law judge that becomes a final decision by operation of N.J.S.A. 52:14B-10 or a decision by an agency head after a hearing conducted in accordance with these rules.

“Finding of fact” means the determination from proof or official notice of the existence of a fact.

“Hearing” means a proceeding conducted by a judge for the purpose of determining disputed issues of fact, law or disposition.

“Initial decision” means the administrative law judge’s recommended findings of fact, conclusions of law and disposition, based upon the evidence and arguments presented during the course of the hearing and made a part of the record which is sent to the agency head for a final decision.

“Intervention” means the process by which a non-party may, by motion, obtain all rights and obligations of a party in a case.

“Judge” means an administrative law judge of the State of New Jersey or any other person authorized by law to preside over a hearing in a contested case unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. The term includes the agency head when presiding over a contested case under N.J.S.A. 52:14F-8(b).

“Jurisdiction” means the legal power to hear or decide a case.

“Material fact” means a fact legally consequential to a determination of an issue in the case.

"Mediation" means a proceeding conducted after transmission in which an administrative law judge other than the judge assigned to preside over the hearing attempts to settle or compromise a dispute between opposing parties.

"Motion" means an application to a judge for a ruling or order.

"Participation" means the process by which a non-party may, by motion, be permitted to take limited part in a proceeding.

"Party" means any person or entity directly involved in a case, including a petitioner, appellant, complainant, respondent, intervenor, or State agency proceeding in any such capacity.

"Petitioner" means the party who is requesting relief or action at the hearing.

"Pleadings" means written statements of the parties' respective claims and defenses. A pleading may be a petition, complaint, answer, order to show cause or any other form permitted by an agency's rules.

"Plenary hearing" means a complete and full proceeding conducted before a judge, providing the parties with discovery, the opportunity to present evidence, to give sworn testimony, to cross-examine witnesses and to make arguments.

"Prehearing conference" means a meeting that may be held in advance of the hearing between the judge, representatives of the parties and, sometimes, the parties to discuss and set out the issues to be decided in the case, how the case will be presented and any other special matters required by the judge to be discussed and resolved in advance of the hearing.

"Presumption" means a rebuttable assumption of fact resulting from a rule of law which requires such fact to be assumed from another fact or group of facts found or otherwise established in the contested case.

"Principal of a close corporation" means either a substantial shareholder of a corporation that is not publicly owned or an officer or executive employee who is actively involved in managing the business of such a corporation.

"Proceeding on the papers" means a summary proceeding conducted without any personal appearance or confrontation of the parties before the judge. The hearing is conducted through the submission of pleadings, affidavits, records or documents to the Office of Administrative Law for a decision by an administrative law judge.

"Proof" means all of the evidence before the judge relevant to a fact in issue which tends to prove the existence or nonexistence of such fact.

"Pro se" means a person who acts on his or her own behalf without an attorney or other qualified non-lawyer representative.

"Record" means all decisions and rulings of the judge and all of the testimony, documents and arguments presented before, during and after the hearing and accepted by the judge for consideration in the rendering of a decision.

"Relevant evidence" means evidence having any tendency in reason to prove any material fact.

"Respondent" means the party who answers or responds to a request for relief or action.

"Service" means the delivery (by mail or in person) of a paper to a party or any other person or entity to whom the papers are required to be delivered.

"Settlement" means an agreement between parties which resolves disputed matters and may end all or part of the case. Various methods may be utilized to help parties reach agreement, including:

1. Pre-transmission settlement efforts by an agency;
2. Pre-transmission settlement efforts by an administrative law judge at the request of an agency;
3. Mediation by an administrative law judge; and
4. Post-transmission settlement conferences by an administrative law judge or by a staff attorney employed by the Office of Administrative Law.

"Subpoena" means an official paper that requires a person to appear at a hearing to testify and/or bring documents.

"Telephone hearing" means a proceeding conducted by telephone conference call.

"Uncontested case" means any hearing offered by an agency for reasons not requiring a contested case proceeding under the statutory definition of contested case.

"Withdrawal" means a decision by a party voluntarily relinquishing a hearing request or a raised defense.

Amended by R.2002 d.198, effective July 1, 2002.

See: 34 N.J.R. 983(a), 34 N.J.R. 2309(a).

Amended "Settlement".

#### Case Notes

Agency had exclusive authority to decide contested cases. Application of County of Bergen, N.J., for Approval to Dissolve Bergen County Utilities Authority, 268 N.J.Super. 403, 633 A.2d 1017 (A.D.1993).

Utility dissolution proceeding was not "contested case". Application of County of Bergen, N.J., for Approval to Dissolve Bergen County Utilities Authority, 268 N.J.Super. 403, 633 A.2d 1017 (A.D.1993).



Local agency had authority to render final decision on application to dissolve county utilities authority. Application of County of Bergen, N.J., for Approval to Dissolve Bergen County Utilities Authority, 268 N.J.Super. 403, 633 A.2d 1017 (A.D.1993).

Limitations period for challenge to denial of tenure did not commence upon letter from college president agreeing with claim for tenure. *Dugan v. Stockton State College*, 245 N.J.Super. 567, 586 A.2d 322 (A.D.1991).

Shell fisherman did not have right to adjudicatory hearing on proposed coastal development by reason of his occupation. N.J.S.A. 12:5-1 et seq., 13:19-1 et seq., 52:14B-2(b), 52:14B-9. *Spalt v. New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection*, 237 N.J.Super. 206, 567 A.2d 264 (A.D.1989), certification denied 122 N.J. 140, 584 A.2d 213.

Lessees of shellfish bottoms were not entitled to adjudicatory hearing on proposed coastal development. N.J.S.A. 12:5-1 et seq., 13:19-1 et seq., 50:1-5 et seq., 52:14B-2(b), 52:14B-9. *Spalt v. New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection*, 237 N.J.Super. 206, 567 A.2d 264 (A.D.1989), certification denied 122 N.J. 140, 584 A.2d 213.

Residents near proposed coastal development did not have sufficient particularized property right to be entitled to adjudicatory hearing. N.J.S.A. 12:5-1 et seq., 13:19-1 et seq., 52:14B-2(b), 52:14B-9. *Spalt v. New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection*, 237 N.J.Super. 206, 567 A.2d 264 (A.D.1989), certification denied 122 N.J. 140, 584 A.2d 213.

Administrative Procedure Act does not establish right to hearing in those who otherwise do not have such right. N.J.S.A. 52:14B-9. *Spalt v. New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection*, 237 N.J.Super. 206, 567 A.2d 264 (A.D.1989), certification denied 122 N.J. 140, 584 A.2d 213.

Nonaggrieved third parties did not have right to challenge coastal development under Coastal Area Facility Review Act or Waterfront Development Act. N.J.S.A. 12:5-1 et seq., 13:19-1 et seq. *Spalt v. New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection*, 237 N.J.Super. 206, 567 A.2d 264 (A.D.1989), certification denied 122 N.J. 140, 584 A.2d 213.

Procedural mode choice (rulemaking v. adjudication) turns on which is best suited to achieve goals and fulfill responsibilities of an agency in a given case (citing former N.J.A.C. 1:1-1.6 as N.J.A.C. 1:11-1.6). *State Dep't of Environmental Protection v. Stavola*, 103 N.J. 425, 511 A.2d 622 (1986).

Public utility ratemaking procedures, although quasi-legislative in origin, are conducted like quasi-judicial proceedings (citing former N.J.A.C. 1:1-6(a)3). *Mortgage Bankers Association v. New Jersey Real Estate Commission*, 102 N.J. 176, 506 A.2d 733 (1986).

Public utility ratemaking procedures, although quasi-legislative in origin, are conducted like quasi-judicial proceedings (cites former N.J.A.C. 1:1-6(a)3). Adjudicatory proceedings often involve disputed factual issues and require adversary proceeding for proper resolution (citing former N.J.A.C. 1:1-1.5(a)3). *Shapiro v. Albanese*, 194 N.J.Super. 418, 477 A.2d 352 (App.Div.1984).

Former N.J.A.C. 1:1-1.6 and 1.7 did not usurp the agency head's authority to decide what constitutes a contested case. In *Re: Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules*, 90 N.J. 85, 447 A.2d 151 (1982).

Rate schedule approval hearing, as a non-adjudicative proceeding, does not require a plenary hearing. *New Jersey Builders Assn. v. Sheeran*, 168 N.J.Super. 237, 402 A.2d 956 (App.Div.1979), certification denied 81 N.J. 293, 405 A.2d 837 (1979).

Denial of hearing in uncontested case affirmed. *Camden County v. Board of Trustees of the Public Employees' Retirement System*, 97 N.J.A.R.2d (TYP) 105.

Order of remand signed by assistant director; valid. *O.F. v. Hudson County Welfare Agency*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (DEA) 57.

## SUBCHAPTER 3. COMMENCEMENT OF CONTESTED CASES; JURISDICTION OF THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

### 1:1-3.1 Commencement of contested cases in the State agencies

A contested case shall be commenced in the State agency with appropriate subject matter jurisdiction. A contested case may be commenced by the agency itself or by an individual or entity as provided in the rules and regulations of the agency.

#### Case Notes

New Jersey limitations for disputing individualized education plan did not bar reimbursement claim. *Bernardsville Bd. of Educ. v. J.H., C.A.3 (N.J.)1994*, 42 F.3d 149, rehearing and rehearing in banc denied.

### 1:1-3.2 Jurisdiction of the Office of Administrative Law

(a) The Office of Administrative Law shall acquire jurisdiction over a matter only after it has been determined to be a contested case by an agency head and has been filed with the Office of Administrative Law or as otherwise authorized by law, except as provided by N.J.A.C. 1:1-17. The Office of Administrative Law shall not receive, hear or consider any pleadings, motion papers, or documents of any kind relating to any matter until it has acquired jurisdiction over that matter, except as provided by N.J.A.C. 1:1-17.

(b) When the Office of Administrative Law acquires jurisdiction over a matter that arises from a State agency's rejection of a party's application, and at the hearing the party offers proofs that were not previously considered by the agency, the judge may either allow the party to amend the application to add new contentions, claims or defenses or, if considerations of expediency and efficiency so require, the judge shall order the matter returned to the State agency. If the matter is returned to the agency and thereafter transmitted for hearing, the agency's response to any new contentions, claims or defenses shall be attached to the transmittal form required by N.J.A.C. 1:1-8.2.

(c) Matters involving the administration of the Office of Administrative Law as a State agency are subject to the authority of the Director. In the following matters as they relate to proceedings before the Office of Administrative Law, the Director is the agency head for purposes of review:

1. Disqualification of a particular judge due to interest or any other reason which would preclude a fair and unbiased hearing, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:1-14.12;
2. Appearances of non-lawyer representatives, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:1-5.4;
3. Imposition of conditions and limitations upon non-lawyer representatives, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:1-5.5;
4. Sanctions under N.J.A.C. 1:1-14.4 or 14.14 consisting of the assessment of costs, expenses, or fines;

5. Disqualification of attorneys, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:1-5.3;

6. Establishment of a hearing location pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:1-9.1(b); and

7. Appearance of attorneys pro hac vice pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:1-5.2.

Amended by R.1991 d.34, effective January 22, 1991.

See: 22 N.J.R. 3278(a), 23 N.J.R. 194(a).

Added (c)6.

Amended by R.1991 d.279, effective June 3, 1991 (operative July 1, 1991).

See: 23 N.J.R. 639(a), 23 N.J.R. 1786(a).

In (c)4: revised N.J.A.C. citation.

Amended by R.1996 d.133, effective March 18, 1996.

See: 27 N.J.R. 609(a), 28 N.J.R. 1503(a).

In (c)4 added fines.

Amended by R.2001 d.180, effective June 4, 2001.

See: 33 N.J.R. 1040(a), 33 N.J.R. 1926(a).

In (c)4, inserted "or 14.14" following "1:1-14.4"; added (c)7.

#### Case Notes

State Department of Education, rather than administrative law judge, had jurisdiction to conduct due process review of responsibility for education of blind, retarded child. *L.P. v. Edison Bd. of Educ.*, 265 N.J.Super. 266, 626 A.2d 473 (L.1993).

Agency, rather than Superior Court, was proper place for challenge to special education being provided to blind, retarded child. *L.P. v. Edison Bd. of Educ.*, 265 N.J.Super. 266, 626 A.2d 473 (L.1993).

Administrative agencies enjoy a great deal of flexibility in selecting the proceedings most suitable to achieving their regulatory aims. A high degree of discretion in exercising that choice reposes in the administrative agency (citing former N.J.A.C. 1:1-2.2). *Crema v. N.J. Dep't of Environmental Protection*, 94 N.J. 286, 463 A.2d 910 (1983).

Taxes paid to state, jurisdiction of the Office of Administrative Law. *Linden Disposal, Inc., v. Edison Township*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (EPE) 1.

#### 1:1-3.3 Return of transmitted cases

(a) A case that has been transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law shall be returned to the transmitting agency if the transmitting agency head so requests in written notice to the Office of Administrative Law and all parties. The notice shall state the reason for returning the case. Upon receipt of the notice, the Office of Administrative Law shall return the case.

(b) A case shall be returned to the transmitting agency by the Clerk of the Office of Administrative Law if, after appropriate notice, neither a party nor a representative of the party appears at a proceeding scheduled by the Clerk or a judge (see N.J.A.C. 1:1-14.4). Any explanations regarding the failure to appear must be in writing and received by the transmitting agency head within 13 days of the date of the Clerk's notice returning the case. A copy of the explanation shall be served on all other parties. If, based on such explanations, the agency head believes the matter should be rescheduled for hearing, the agency head may retransmit the case to the Office of Administrative Law, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:1-8.2.

(c) Upon returning any matter to the transmitting agency, the Clerk shall issue an appropriate notice to the parties which shall advise the parties of the time limit and requirements for explanations as set forth in (b) above.

(d) The agency head may extend the time limit for receiving explanations regarding the failure to appear when good cause is shown.

Amended by R.1989 d.605, effective December 18, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 3207(a), 21 N.J.R. 3914(a).

Deleted language stating that an initial decision shall be entered returning the case.

Amended by R.1991 d.279, effective June 3, 1991 (operative July 1, 1991).

See: 23 N.J.R. 639(a), 23 N.J.R. 1786(a).

Added new subsections (b) and (c), recodifying original rule text as subsection (a).

Amended by R.1991 d.513, effective October 21, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 1728(a), 23 N.J.R. 3133(a).

Explanation for failure to appear to be submitted within 13 days.

#### Case Notes

Case remanded from state superior court requires remand to Office of Administrative Law for determination of whether constitutional claims were within scope of remand order. *R.D. v. Bernards Township Board of Education*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (EDU) 481.

### SUBCHAPTER 4. AGENCY RESPONSIBILITY BEFORE TRANSMISSION TO THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

#### 1:1-4.1 Determination of contested case

(a) After an agency proceeding has commenced, the agency head shall promptly determine whether the matter is a contested case. If any party petitions the agency head to decide whether the matter is contested, the agency shall make such a determination within 30 days from receipt of the petition and inform all parties of its determination.

(b) When a question arises whether a particular matter is a contested case, legal advice shall be obtained from the Attorney General's office.

#### 1:1-4.2 Settlement by agencies prior to transmittal to the Office of Administrative Law

If an agency attempts settlement prior to transmitting the matter to the Office of Administrative Law, settlement efforts may be conducted in any manner the agency believes may be appropriate and productive. The agency may utilize its own personnel or may request in writing to the Director of the Office of Administrative Law the services of an administrative law judge. An administrative law judge who conducts pre-transmission settlement efforts at the request of an agency will not thereafter be assigned to hear the case if settlement efforts are unsuccessful and the case is transmitted.