

## § 68.15

(i) The agreement containing consent findings; and

(ii) A proposed decision and order; or

(2) Notify the Administrative Law Judge that the parties have reached a full settlement and have agreed to dismissal of the action. Dismissal of the action shall be subject to the approval of the Administrative Law Judge, who may require the filing of the settlement agreement.

(b) *Content.* Any agreement containing consent findings and a proposed decision and order disposing of a proceeding or any part thereof shall also provide:

(1) That the decision and order based on consent findings shall have the same force and effect as a decision and order made after full hearing;

(2) That the entire record on which any decision and order may be based shall consist solely of the complaint, notice of hearing, and any other such pleadings and documents as the Administrative Law Judge shall specify;

(3) A waiver of any further procedural steps before the Administrative Law Judge; and

(4) A waiver of any right to challenge or contest the validity of the decision and order entered into in accordance with the agreement.

(c) *Disposition.* In the event an agreement containing consent findings and an interim decision and order is submitted, the Administrative Law Judge, within thirty (30) days or as soon as practicable thereafter, may, if satisfied with its timeliness, form, and substance, accept such agreement by entering a decision and order based upon the agreed findings. In his or her discretion, the Administrative Law Judge may conduct a hearing to determine the fairness of the agreement, consent findings, and proposed decision and order.

[Order No. 2203-99, 64 FR 7075, Feb. 12, 1999]

## § 68.15 Intervenor in unfair immigration-related employment cases.

The Special Counsel, or any other interested person or private organization, other than an officer of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, may petition to intervene as a party in unfair immigration-related employment cases. The Administrative Law

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Judge, in his or her discretion, may grant or deny such a petition.

[Order No. 1534-91, 56 FR 50054, Oct. 3, 1991]

## § 68.16 Consolidation of hearings.

When two or more hearings are to be held, and the same or substantially similar evidence is relevant and material to the matters at issue at each such hearing, the Administrative Law Judge assigned may, upon motion by any party, or on his or her own motion, order that a consolidated hearing be conducted. Where consolidated hearings are held, a single record of the proceedings may be made and the evidence introduced in one matter may be considered as introduced in the others, and a separate or joint decision shall be made at the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge.

[54 FR 48596, Nov. 24, 1989. Redesignated by Order No. 1534-91, 56 FR 50053, Oct. 3, 1991]

## § 68.17 Amicus curiae.

A brief of an amicus curiae may be filed by leave of the Administrative Law Judge upon motion or petition of the amicus curiae. The amicus curiae shall not participate in any way in the conduct of the hearing, including the presentation of evidence and the examination of witnesses.

[54 FR 48596, Nov. 24, 1989. Redesignated by Order No. 1534-91, 56 FR 50053, Oct. 3, 1991]

## § 68.18 Discovery—general provisions.

(a) *General.* Parties may obtain discovery by one or more of the following methods: depositions upon oral examination or written questions; written interrogatories; production of documents or things, or permission to enter upon land or other property, for inspection and other purposes; physical and mental examinations; and requests for admissions. The frequency or extent of these methods may be limited by the Administrative Law Judge upon his or her own initiative or pursuant to a motion under paragraph (c) of this section.

(b) *Scope of discovery.* Unless otherwise limited by order of the Administrative Law Judge in accordance with the rules in this part, the parties may obtain discovery regarding any matter, not privileged, which is relevant to the

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subject matter involved in the proceeding, including the existence, description, nature, custody, condition, and location of any books, documents, or other tangible things, and the identity and location of persons having knowledge of any discoverable matter.

(c) *Protective orders.* Upon motion by a party or the person from whom discovery is sought, and for good cause shown, the Administrative Law Judge may make any order that justice requires to protect a party or person from annoyance, harassment, embarrassment, oppression, or undue burden or expense, including one or more of the following:

- (1) The discovery not be had;
- (2) The discovery may be had only on specified terms and conditions, including a designation of the time, amount, duration, or place;
- (3) The discovery may be had only by a method of discovery other than that selected by the party seeking discovery; or
- (4) Certain matters not relevant may not be inquired into, or that the scope of discovery be limited to certain matters.

(d) *Supplementation of responses.* A party who has responded to a request for discovery with a response that was complete when made is under no duty to supplement his or her response to include information thereafter acquired, except as follows:

- (1) A party is under a duty to supplement timely his or her response with respect to any question directly addressed to:
  - (i) The identity and location of persons having knowledge of discoverable matters; and
  - (ii) The identity of each person expected to be called as an expert witness at the hearing, the subject matter on which he or she is expected to testify, and the substance of his or her testimony.
- (2) A party is under a duty to amend timely a prior response if he or she later obtains information upon the basis of which:
  - (i) He or she knows the response was incorrect when made; or
  - (ii) He or she knows that the response, though correct when made, is no longer true and the circumstances

are such that a failure to amend the response is in substance a knowing concealment.

(3) A duty to supplement responses may be imposed by order of the Administrative Law Judge upon motion of a party or agreement of the parties.

[Order No. 2203-99, 64 FR 7076, Feb. 12, 1999]

### § 68.19 Written interrogatories to parties.

(a) Any party may serve upon any other party written interrogatories to be answered in writing by the party served, or if the party served is a public or private corporation or a partnership or association or governmental agency, by any authorized officer or agent, who shall furnish such information as is available to the party. A copy of the interrogatories shall be served on all parties to the proceeding.

(b) Each interrogatory shall be answered separately and fully in writing under oath or affirmation, unless it is objected to, in which event the reasons of objection shall be stated in lieu of an answer. The answers and objections shall be signed by the person making them. The party upon whom the interrogatories were served shall serve a copy of the answer or objections upon all parties to the proceeding within thirty (30) days after service of the interrogatories, or within such shorter or longer period as the Administrative Law Judge upon motion may allow.

(c) An interrogatory otherwise proper is not necessarily objectionable merely because an answer to the interrogatory involves an opinion or contention that relates to fact or the application of law to fact, but the Administrative Law Judge may upon motion order that such an interrogatory need not be answered until after designated discovery has been completed or until a pre-hearing conference or other later time.

(d) A person or entity upon whom interrogatories are served may respond by the submission of business records, indicating to which interrogatory the documents respond, if they are sufficient to answer said interrogatories.

[54 FR 48596, Nov. 24, 1989. Redesignated by Order No. 1534-91, 56 FR 50053, Oct. 3, 1991]