

(iii) Informs the institution or servicer that the limitation or termination will not be effective on the date specified in the notice if the designated department official receives from the institution or servicer, as applicable, by that date a request for a hearing or written material indicating why the limitation or termination should not take place; and

(iv) In the case of a limitation or termination proceeding against a third-party servicer, informs each institution that contracts with the servicer of the consequences of the action to the institution.

(2) If the institution or servicer does not request a hearing but submits written material, the designated department official, after considering that material, notifies the institution or, in the case of a third-party servicer, the servicer and each institution that contracts with the servicer that—

- (i) The proposed action is dismissed;
- (ii) Limitations are effective as of a specified date; or
- (iii) The termination is effective as of a specified date.

(3) If the institution or servicer requests a hearing by the time specified in paragraph (b)(1)(iii) of this section, the designated department official sets the date and place. The date is at least 15 days after the designated department official receives the request. The limitation or termination does not take place until after the requested hearing is held.

(4) A hearing official conducts a hearing in accordance with § 668.88.

(c) *Expedited proceeding.* With the approval of the hearing official and the consent of the designated department official and the institution or servicer, as applicable, any time schedule specified in this section may be shortened.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1094)

[59 FR 22447, Apr. 29, 1994, as amended at 60 FR 61774, Dec. 1, 1995; 65 FR 65637, Nov. 1, 2000]

**§ 668.87 Prehearing conference.**

(a) A hearing official may convene a prehearing conference if he or she thinks that the conference would be useful, or if the conference is requested by—

(1) The designated department official who brought a proceeding against an institution or third-party servicer under this subpart; or

(2) The institution or servicer, as applicable.

(b) The purpose of a prehearing conference is to allow the parties to settle or narrow the dispute.

(c) If the hearing official, the designated department official, and the institution, or servicer, as applicable, agree, a prehearing conference may consist of—

- (1) A conference telephone call;
- (2) An informal meeting; or
- (3) The submission and exchange of written material.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1094)

[59 FR 22448, Apr. 29, 1994]

**§ 668.88 Hearing.**

(a) A hearing is an orderly presentation of arguments and evidence conducted by a hearing official.

(b) If the hearing official, the designated department official who brought a proceeding against an institution or third-party servicer under this subpart, and the institution or servicer, as applicable, agree, the hearing process may be expedited. Procedures to expedite the hearing process may include, but are not limited to, the following—

- (1) A restriction on the number or length of submissions;
- (2) The conduct of the hearing by telephone conference call;
- (3) A stipulation by the parties to facts and legal authorities not in dispute; or
- (4) A review limited to the written record.

(c)(1) The formal rules of evidence and procedures applicable to proceedings in a court of law are not applicable. However, discussions of settlement between the parties or the terms of settlement offers are not admissible.

(2) The designated department official has the burden of persuasion in any fine, suspension, limitation or termination proceeding under this subpart.

(3) Discovery, as provided for under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, is not permitted.