

§ 26.14

(f) *Rulings on motions for dismissal.* When a motion to dismiss the proceeding is granted, the hearing officer shall make and file a determination and order in accordance with the provisions of § 26.24.

§ 26.14 Form and filing requirements.

(a) *Filing.* An original and two copies of a request for a hearing shall be filed with the Docket Clerk, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20410, on official business days between 8:45 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. The Clerk shall assign the docket number and designate a hearing officer. An original and two copies of all other pleadings, submissions and documents should be filed directly with the appropriate hearing officer. A document is considered timely filed if postmarked on or before the date due or delivered to the appropriate person by close of business on the date due.

(b) *Title.* Documents shall show clearly the title of the action and the docket number.

(c) *Form.* Except as otherwise permitted, all documents shall be printed or typewritten in clear, legible form.

§ 26.15 Service.

(a) *Method of service.* Pleadings, motions, and other documents required or permitted under these rules shall be served upon all parties. Whenever these rules require or permit service to be made upon a party represented by an attorney, the service shall be made upon the attorney unless service upon the party is ordered by the hearing officer. Service shall be made by delivering a copy to the person to be served or by mailing it to that person at the last known address. Delivery of a copy within this rule means: handing it to the person to be served; or leaving it at that person's office with a clerk or other person in charge; or, if there is no one in charge, leaving it in a conspicuous place in the office; or, if the office is closed or the person to be served has no office, leaving it at that person's residence of usual place of abode with some person of suitable age and discretion who resides there. Service by mail is complete upon deposit in a mail box or upon posting.

24 CFR Subtitle A (4-1-06 Edition)

(b) *Proof of service.* Proof of service shall not be required unless the fact of service is put in issue by appropriate motion or objection on the part of the person allegedly served. In these cases, service may be established by written receipt signed by or on behalf of the person to be served, or may be established prima facie by affidavit or certificate of service of mailing.

§ 26.16 Time computation.

(a) *Generally.* Computation of any period of time prescribed or allowed by this part shall begin with the first business day following the day on which the act, event, development or default initiating the period of time occurred. When the last day of the period computed is a Saturday, Sunday, or national holiday, or other day on which the Department of Housing and Urban Development is closed, the period shall run until the end of the next following business day. Except when any prescribed or allowed period of time is seven days or less, each of the Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays shall be included in the computation of the prescribed or allowed period.

(b) *Extensions of time periods.* The hearing officer (or in the case of a review under § 26.25, the Secretary or designee) may upon motion enlarge the time within which any act required by these rules must be performed where necessary to avoid prejudicing the public interest or the rights of the parties.

DISCOVERY

§ 26.17 Discovery.

The parties are encouraged to engage in voluntary discovery procedures. Parties may seek an order compelling discovery only upon good cause shown. Discovery shall not be permitted where it will unduly delay the hearing, thereby resulting in prejudice to the public interest or the rights of the parties. Every request for discovery, objection to request for discovery, and request for admissions shall be in the form of a motion addressed to the hearing officer. In connection with any discovery procedure, the hearing officer may make any order required to protect a party or other person from annoyance, embarrassment, oppression, or undue

burden or expense. Those orders may include limitations on the scope, methods, time and place for discovery, and provisions for protecting privileged information or documents. Where a party refuses to honor an order for discovery, the hearing officer may issue such orders in regard to the refusal as justice shall require. Each party shall bear its own expenses associated with discovery.

§ 26.18 Depositions.

(a) *General.* A party may take the oral deposition of any person. Upon refusal and, after a showing of good cause, a hearing officer may issue an order compelling a party or its agents to appear for deposition.

(b) *Procedure.* Reasonable written notice of deposition shall be served upon the opposing party and the deponent. The attendance of a deponent may be compelled by subpoena where authorized by law.

(c) *Objections.* Each person testifying on oral deposition shall be placed under oath by the person before whom the deposition is taken. The deponent may be examined and cross-examined. Objection may be made at hearing to receiving in evidence any deposition or part of it for any reason which would require the exclusion if the witness were then present and testifying. The questions and the answers, together with all objections made, shall be recorded by the person before whom the deposition is to be taken, or under that person's direction.

(d) *Submission to deponent.* A transcript of the deposition shall be submitted to the deponent for examination and signature, unless submission is waived. Any changes in form or substance which the deponent desires to make shall be entered upon the transcript by the person before whom the deposition was taken, with a statement of reasons given by the deponent for making them. The transcript shall then be signed by the deponent, unless the parties by stipulation waive the signing or the deponent is ill, cannot be found, or refuses to sign. If the transcript is not signed, the person before whom the deposition was taken shall sign it and state on the record the reason that it is not signed.

(e) *Certification and filing.* The person before whom the deposition was taken shall certify on the transcript as to its accuracy. The original transcript and exhibits shall be sent by mail to the hearing officer unless otherwise directed in the order authorizing the taking of the deposition. Interested parties shall make their own arrangements with the person recording the testimony for copies of the testimony and the exhibits.

(f) *Deposition as evidence.* Subject to appropriate rulings by the hearing officer on objections, the deposition or any part may be introduced into evidence for any purpose if the deponent is unavailable. Only that part of a deposition which is received in evidence at a hearing shall constitute a part of the record in the proceeding upon which a decision may be based. Nothing in this rule is intended to limit the use of a deposition for impeachment purposes.

(g) *Payment of fees.* Fees shall be paid by the person upon whose application the deposition is taken.

§ 26.19 Request for production of documents.

(a) *Request to produce.* At any time after a request for hearing has been filed, any party may serve upon any other party a written request to produce, and permit the party making the request to inspect and copy, any relevant designated documents (including writings, drawings, graphs, charts, and other data compilations). The request shall set forth the items to be inspected either by individual item or by category with reasonable particularity. The request shall specify a reasonable time, place, and manner of making the inspection and performing the related acts.

(b) *Response to request to produce.* The party upon whom the request is served shall serve a written response within twenty days after service of the request unless the Hearing Officer determines that a shorter or longer period is appropriate under the circumstances. The response shall state, with respect to each item or category, that inspection and related activities will be permitted as requested, unless the request is objected to, in which case the reasons for the objection shall be stated. If