

under the rules of evidence applicable to judicial proceedings. The hearing officer or hearing panel shall require the PHA, the complainant, counsel and other participants or spectators to conduct themselves in an orderly fashion. Failure to comply with the directions of the hearing officer or hearing panel to obtain order may result in exclusion from the proceedings or in a decision adverse to the interests of the disorderly party and granting or denial of the relief sought, as appropriate.

(g) The complainant or the PHA may arrange, in advance and at the expense of the party making the arrangement, for a transcript of the hearing. Any interested party may purchase a copy of such transcript.

(h) *Accommodation of persons with disabilities.* (1) The PHA must provide reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities to participate in the hearing. Reasonable accommodation may include qualified sign language interpreters, readers, accessible locations, or attendants.

(2) If the tenant is visually impaired, any notice to the tenant which is required under this subpart must be in an accessible format.

[40 FR 33406, Aug. 7, 1975. Redesignated at 49 FR 6714, Feb. 23, 1984, and amended at 56 FR 51580, Oct. 11, 1991]

§ 966.57 Decision of the hearing officer or hearing panel.

(a) The hearing officer or hearing panel shall prepare a written decision, together with the reasons therefor, within a reasonable time after the hearing. A copy of the decision shall be sent to the complainant and the PHA. The PHA shall retain a copy of the decision in the tenant's folder. A copy of such decision, with all names and identifying references deleted, shall also be maintained on file by the PHA and made available for inspection by a prospective complainant, his representative, or the hearing panel or hearing officer.

(b) The decision of the hearing officer or hearing panel shall be binding on the PHA which shall take all actions, or refrain from any actions, necessary to carry out the decision unless the PHA Board of Commissioners determines within a reasonable time, and

promptly notifies the complainant of its determination, that

(1) The grievance does not concern PHA action or failure to act in accordance with or involving the complainant's lease on PHA regulations, which adversely affect the complainant's rights, duties, welfare or status;

(2) The decision of the hearing officer or hearing panel is contrary to applicable Federal, State or local law, HUD regulations or requirements of the annual contributions contract between HUD and the PHA.

(c) A decision by the hearing officer, hearing panel, or Board of Commissioners in favor of the PHA or which denies the relief requested by the complainant in whole or in part shall not constitute a waiver of, nor affect in any manner whatever, any rights the complainant may have to a trial *de novo* or judicial review in any judicial proceedings, which may thereafter be brought in the matter.

**PART 968—PUBLIC HOUSING
MODERNIZATION**

Subpart A—General

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- 968.101 Purpose and applicability.
- 968.102 Special requirements for Turnkey III developments.
- 968.103 Allocation of funds under section 14.
- 968.104 Reserve for emergencies and disasters.
- 968.105 Definitions.
- 968.108 Displacement, relocation, and real property acquisition.
- 968.110 Other program requirements.
- 968.112 Eligible costs.
- 968.115 Modernization and energy conservation standards.
- 968.120 Force account.
- 968.125 Initiation of modernization activities.
- 968.130 Fund requisitions.
- 968.135 Contracting requirements.
- 968.140 On-site inspections.
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**Subpart B—Comprehensive Improvement
Assistance Program (For PHAs That
Own or Operate Fewer Than 250 Units)**

- 968.205 Definitions.
- 968.210 Procedures for obtaining approval of a modernization program.
- 968.215 Resident and homebuyer participation.
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