

## Social Security Administration

## § 410.649

hearings jointly. However, where there is no common issue of law or fact involved in two or more hearings and any party objects to a joint hearing, a joint hearing may not be held. Where joint hearings are held, a single record of the proceedings shall be made and the evidence introduced in one case may be considered as introduced in the others, and a separate or joint decision shall be made, as appropriate.

[37 FR 20652, Sept. 30, 1972]

### § 410.646 Consolidated issues.

When one or more additional issues are raised by the Administrative Law Judge pursuant to § 410.637, such issues may, in the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge, be consolidated for hearing and decision with other issues pending before him upon the same request for a hearing, whether or not the same or substantially similar evidence is relevant and material to the matters in issue. A single decision may be made upon all such issues.

### § 410.647 Waiver of right to appear and present evidence.

(a) *General.* Any party to a hearing shall have the right to appear before the Administrative Law Judge (formerly called "hearing examiner"), personally or by representative, and present evidence and contentions. If all parties are unwilling, unable, or waive their right to appear before the Administrative Law Judge, personally or by representative, it shall not be necessary for the Administrative Law Judge to conduct an oral hearing as provided in §§ 410.636 to 410.646, inclusive. A waiver of the right to appear and present evidence and allegations as to facts and law shall be made in writing and filed with the Administrative Law Judge. Such waiver may be withdrawn by a party at any time prior to the mailing of notice of the decision in the case. Even though all of the parties have filed a waiver of the right to appear and present evidence and contentions at a hearing before the Administrative Law Judge, the Administrative Law Judge may, nevertheless, give notice of a time and place and conduct a hearing as provided in §§ 410.636 to 410.646, inclusive, if he believes that the personal appearance and testimony of

the party or parties would assist him to ascertain the facts in issue in the case.

(b) *Record as basis for decision.* Where all of the parties have waived their right to appear in person or through a representative and the Administrative Law Judge does not schedule an oral hearing, the decision shall be based on the record. Where a party residing outside the United States at a place not readily accessible to the United States does not indicate that he wishes to appear in person or through a representative before an Administrative Law Judge, and there are no other parties to the hearing who wish to appear, the Administrative Law Judge may decide the case on the record. In any case where the decision is to be based on the record, the Administrative Law Judge shall make a record of the relevant written evidence, including applications, written statements, certificates, affidavits, reports, and other documents which were considered in connection with the initial determination and reconsideration, and whatever additional relevant and material evidence the party or parties may present in writing for consideration by the Administrative Law Judge. Such documents shall be considered as all of the evidence in the case.

[37 FR 20652, Sept. 30, 1972]

### § 410.648 Dismissal of request for hearing; by application of party.

With the approval of the Administrative Law Judge at any time prior to the mailing of notice of the decision, a request for a hearing may be withdrawn or dismissed upon the application of the party or parties filing the request for such hearing. A party may request a dismissal by filing a written notice of such request with the Administrative Law Judge or orally stating such request at the hearing.

### § 410.649 Dismissal by abandonment of party.

With the approval of the Administrative Law Judge, a request for hearing may also be dismissed upon its abandonment by the party or parties who filed it. A party shall be deemed to have abandoned a request for hearing if

## § 410.650

neither the party nor his representative appears at the time and place fixed for the hearing and either (a) prior to the time for hearing such party does not show good cause as to why neither he nor his representative can appear or (b) within 10 days after the mailing of a notice to him by the Administrative Law Judge to show cause, such party does not show good cause for such failure to appear and failure to notify the Administrative Law Judge prior to the time fixed for hearing that he cannot appear.

### § 410.650 Dismissal for cause.

The presiding officer may, on his own motion, dismiss a hearing request, either entirely or as to any stated issue, under any of the following circumstances:

(a) *Res judicata*. Where there has been a previous determination or decision by the Commissioner with respect to the rights of the same party on the same facts pertinent to the same issue or issues which has become final either by judicial affirmance or, without judicial consideration, upon the claimant's failure timely to request reconsideration, hearing, or review, or to commence a civil action with respect to such determination or decision (see §§ 410.624, 410.631, 410.661, and 410.666).

(b) *No right to hearing*. Where the party requesting a hearing is not a proper party under § 410.632 or § 410.633 or does not otherwise have a right to a hearing under § 410.630. This would include, but is not limited to, an individual claiming as a representative payee appointed pursuant to § 410.581 (see § 410.615).

(c) *Hearing request not timely filed*. Where the party has failed to file a hearing request timely pursuant to § 410.631 and the time for filing such request has not been extended as provided in § 410.669.

(d) *Death of party*. Where the party who filed the hearing request dies and there is no information before the presiding officer or the Social Security Administration showing that an individual who is not a party may be prejudiced by the Social Security Administration's determination which is the subject of the request for hearing: *Provided*: That if, within 60 days after the

## 20 CFR Ch. III (4-1-08 Edition)

date notice of such dismissal is mailed to the original party at his last known address any such other individual states in writing that he desires a hearing on such claim and shows that he may be prejudiced by the Social Security Administration's initial determination, then the dismissal of the request for hearing shall be vacated.

[36 FR 23760, Dec. 14, 1971, as amended at 37 FR 20653, Sept. 30, 1972; 41 FR 54753, Dec. 15, 1976; 62 FR 38453, July 18, 1997]

### § 410.651 Notice of dismissal and right to request review thereon.

Notice of the Administrative Law Judge's dismissal action shall be given to the parties or mailed to them at their last known addresses. Such notice shall advise the parties of their right to request review of the dismissal action by the Appeals Council (see § 410.660).

### § 410.652 Effect of dismissal.

The dismissal of a request for hearing shall be final and binding unless vacated (see § 410.653).

### § 410.653 Vacation of dismissal of request for hearing.

A presiding officer or the Appeals Council may, on request of the party and for good cause shown, vacate any dismissal of a request for hearing at any time within 60 days after the date of receipt of the notice of dismissal by the party requesting the hearing at his last known address. For purposes of this section, the date of receipt of the dismissal notice shall be presumed to be 5 days after the date of such notice, unless there is a reasonable showing to the contrary. In any case where a presiding officer has dismissed the hearing request, the Appeals Council may, on its own motion, within 60 days after the mailing of such notice, review such dismissal and may, in its discretion vacate such dismissal.

[41 FR 54753, Dec. 15, 1976]

### § 410.654 Administrative Law Judge's decision or certification to Appeals Council.

As soon as practicable after the close of a hearing, the Administrative Law Judge, except as herein provided, shall make a decision in the case or certify