

**R35. Administrative Services, Records Committee.**

**R35-1. State Records Committee Appeal Hearing Procedures.**

**R35-1-1. Scheduling Committee Meetings.**

(1) The Executive Secretary shall respond in writing to the notice of appeal within seven business days.

(2) Two weeks prior to the Committee meeting or appeal hearing, the Executive Secretary shall post a notice of the meeting on the Utah Public Notice Website.

(3) One week prior to the Committee meeting or appeal hearing, the Executive Secretary shall post a notice of the meeting, indicating the agenda, date, time, and place of the meeting at the building where the meeting is to be held and at the Utah State Archives.

**R35-1-2. Procedures for Appeal Hearings.**

(1) The meeting shall be called to order by the Committee Chair.

(2) Testimony shall be presented by the petitioner and the governmental entity. Each party shall be allowed twenty minutes to present testimony and evidence, to call witnesses, and to respond to questions from Committee members.

(3) Witnesses providing testimony shall be sworn in by the Committee Chair.

(4) Questioning of the witnesses and parties by Committee members is permitted.

(5) The governmental entity must bring the disputed records to the hearing to allow the Committee to view records in camera if it deems an in camera inspection necessary pursuant to 63G-2-403(9).

(a) If the records withheld are voluminous or the governmental entity contends they have not been identified with reasonable specificity, the governmental entity shall notify the Committee via the Executive Secretary and the adverse party at least two days before the hearing and obtain approval from the Committee Chair to bring a representative sample of the potentially responsive records to the hearing, if it is possible to do so.

(b) Records provided by the governmental entity for in camera review by the Committee remain in the custody of the governmental entity. Records for in camera review are retained by the Committee for only the period of in camera review and all records are returned to the governmental entity at the conclusion of the in camera review.

(6) Third party presentations may be permitted. Prior to the hearing, the third party shall notify the Executive Secretary of intent to present. Third party presentations shall be limited to five minutes, and must be presented prior to closing arguments.

(7) Closing arguments may be presented by the petitioner and the governmental entity. Each party shall be allowed five minutes to present a closing argument and make rebuttal statements.

(8) After presentation of the evidence, the Committee shall commence deliberations. A Committee Member shall make a motion to grant or to deny the petitioner's request in whole or in part. Following discussion of the motion, the Committee Chair shall call for the question. The motion shall serve as the basis for the Committee Decision and Order. The Committee shall vote and make public the decision of the Committee during the hearing.

(9) The Committee may adjourn, reschedule, continue, or reopen a hearing on the motion of a member.

(10) Except as expressly authorized by law, there shall be no communication between the parties and the members of the Committee concerning the subject matter of the appeal before the hearing or prior to the issuance of a final Decision And Order. Any other oral or written communication from the parties to the members of the Committee, or from the members of the Committee to the parties, shall be directed to the Executive Secretary for transmittal.

(11) The following provisions govern any meeting at which one or more members of the Committee or a party appears telephonically or electronically, pursuant to Utah Code Section 52-4-207.

(a) The anchor location is the physical location from which the electronic meeting originates or from which the participants are connected. The anchor location, unless otherwise designated in the notice, shall be at the offices of the Division of State Archives, Salt Lake City, Utah.

(b) If one or more Committee members or parties may be participating electronically or telephonically, public notices of the meeting shall so indicate. In addition, the notice shall specify the anchor location where the members of the Committee not participating electronically or telephonically will be meeting and where interested persons and the public may attend and monitor the open portions of the meeting.

(c) When notice is given of the possibility of a member of the Committee appearing electronically or telephonically, any

member of the Committee may do so and shall be counted as present for purposes of a quorum and may fully participate and vote on any matter coming before the Committee. At the commencement of the meeting, or at such time as any member of the Committee initially appears electronically or telephonically, the Committee Chair shall identify for the record all those who are appearing telephonically or electronically. Votes by members of the Committee who are not at the physical location of the meeting shall be confirmed by the Committee Chair.

(12) (a) Pursuant to Subsection 63G-2-401(5)(c) a petitioner may request a postponement of a hearing, with the consensus of the governmental entity. If the petitioner wishes to postpone the hearing or withdraw the appeal, the petitioner shall notify the Committee via the Executive Secretary and the governmental entity in writing no later than five days prior to the scheduled hearing date.

(b) The Committee Chair has the discretion to grant or deny a petitioner's request to postpone a hearing based upon: (i) the reasons given by the petitioner in his or her request, (ii) the timeliness of the request, (iii) whether petitioner has previously requested and received a postponement, (iv) any other factor determined to protect the equitable interests of the parties. If the request is granted, the Chair shall instruct ~~notify the Executive Secretary to schedule the appeal for the next available hearing date of the postponement period and when the appeal shall be scheduled~~ (Utah Code 63G-2-403-4(a)).

(c) The Chair will ordinarily deny a governmental entity's request to postpone the hearing, unless the governmental entity has obtained the petitioner's prior consent to reschedule the hearing date.

### **R35-1-3. Issuing the Committee Decision and Order.**

(1) The Decision and Order shall be signed by the Committee Chair and distributed by the Executive Secretary within seven business days after the hearing. Copies of each Decision and Order shall be distributed to the petitioner, the governmental entity and all other interested parties. The original order shall be maintained by the Executive Secretary. A copy of the order shall be made available for public access at the Utah State Archives website.

### **R35-1-4. Committee Minutes.**

(1) Purpose. Utah Code Section 52-4-203 requires any

public body to establish and implement procedures for the public body's approval of the written minutes of each meeting. This rule establishes procedures for the State Records Committee to approve the written minutes of each meeting.

(2) Authority. This rule is enacted under the authority of Utah Code Sections 52-4-203, 63G-3-201, and 63A-12-101 et seq.

(3) All meetings of the Committee shall be recorded. The recording of the open meeting shall be made available to the public within three business days. Access to the audio recordings shall be provided by the Executive Secretary on the Utah Public Notice Website.

(4) Approved written minutes shall be the official record of the meetings and appeal hearings and shall be maintained by the Executive Secretary.

(a) Written minutes shall be read by members prior to the next scheduled meeting, including electronic meetings.

(b) Written minutes from meetings shall be made available no later than one week prior to the date of the next regularly scheduled Committee meeting.

(c) When minutes are complete but awaiting official approval, they are a public record and must be marked as "Draft."

(d) At the next meeting, at the direction of the Committee Chair, minutes shall be amended and/or approved with individual votes recorded in the minutes. The minutes shall be then marked as "Approved."

(e) When the minutes are "Approved" they will be so noted in the printed and online versions. A copy of the approved minutes shall be made available for public access on the Utah Public Notice Website.

**KEY: government documents, state records committee, records appeal hearings**

**Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: June 22, 2017**

**Notice of Continuation: June 3, 2014**

**Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law:  
63G-2-502(2)(a)**