

COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION PROCEDURES FOR HEARING ON STANDARDS

The Commission makes every effort to have two Commissioners attend each hearing on standards sponsored by the Commission. The Commission believes that two Commissioners is an appropriate number to routinely attend hearings on standards, but also believes that those in attendance are not always appropriately visible. Thus, the Commission directed that all members of the Commission who are present during Commission sponsored hearings on standards be introduced at the beginning of the hearing on standards and, if feasible, be seated at a head table to ensure their visibility to those offering testimony.

The purpose of a hearing on standards is to provide individuals, institutions and organizations that will be affected by the document with an opportunity to comment. The Commissioner selected to chair the hearing is generally responsible for:

- Calling the hearing to order, indicating that the hearing is one (1) hour but will be concluded in 30 minutes if limited comments are received and the agenda is completing during that time;
- Introducing him/herself, other Commission members and Commission staff present;
- Explaining the purpose of the hearing on standards;
- Providing brief background information on the proposed revision;
- Explaining the ground rules for the hearing;
- Listening to comments and maintaining the order and flow of the hearing; and
- Concluding the hearing.

The goal of a hearing on standards is to hear as many varied points of view on the proposed documents as possible in an orderly fashion. The following ground rules facilitate achieving this goal:

- The document should be reviewed on a page-by-page basis so that comments on specific issues can be provided at the same time.
- General comments on the document can be considered either before or after the page-by-page review, as determined by the Chair.
- Individuals who wish to provide comments should wait to be recognized by the Chair, and identify themselves by giving their name, city, state, and educational institution, if applicable.
- Individuals reference the specific section of the document on which they wish to comment by indicating the page and line numbers of the section.
- Comments should be as concise as possible.
- Individuals should provide written comments that summarize their verbal remarks to the Chair by the end of the hearing.

Hearings on standards should be constructive. It is sometimes helpful for the Chair to ask an individual who is speaking at length against a section of the proposed document whether he/she has a specific suggestion for revision. This can help to clarify the speaker's objection more precisely and to bring the comments to closure.

Occasionally, an individual or a few individuals may monopolize a hearing on standards. In fairness to other attendees who may wish to speak, the Chair should direct individuals who have had ample opportunity to express their opinions to conclude their remarks.

Commissioners are present to listen to representatives of the communities of interest and should avoid becoming involved in debates about the relative merits of specific sections of the document.

Similarly, hearings on standards attendees should refrain from engaging in heated debates with each other. If such debates develop, the Chair may wish to remind participants that the Commission is interested in considering all viewpoints on the issues and that no decision regarding any issue will be determined during a hearing on standards.

At the close of the hearing on standards, the Chair should advise attendees of other opportunities for comment (i.e. other hearings on standards, if any, and the deadline for written comments) and indicate when the Commission will take the final action on the document.

Revised: 8/21; 2/15; Reaffirmed: 8/23; 8/18; 8/12, 8/10, 7/07, 7/01; CODA: 12/91:15