

**ALABAMA BOARD OF COSMETOLOGY  
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE**

**CHAPTER 250-X-1  
ADMINISTRATION**

**250-X-1-.10      Administrative Hearing Procedures.**

(1) The Board may appoint a person to act on its behalf as Hearing Officer at its administrative hearings. The Hearing Officer shall preside at administrative hearings and shall rule on all questions of evidence and procedure. The Hearing Officer shall admit all evidence that is relevant, material, and which has probative value to the issues under consideration by the Board. Offers of settlement and compromise are not admissible. The Hearing Officer shall consider evidence presented and then submit a recommendation to Board, including: a procedural summary of case; findings of fact; conclusions of law; and a recommended decision on the issues included in administrative complaint including, if necessary, suggested administrative punishment pursuant to the charges in the administrative complaint. The Hearing Officer's recommendations shall be considered by the Board but are not binding on the Board. Within sixty (60) days after receipt of the Hearing Officer's recommendation, the Board shall issue an appropriate administrative order modifying, approving or rejecting the recommendation. If the hearing was conducted by the Board itself, the Board shall issue its order within sixty (60) days after receipt of the court reporter's transcript of the administrative hearing. The Board's order in all instances shall include a procedural history of the case, findings of fact, conclusions of law, and its decision regarding the issues contained within the administrative complaint, including, if necessary, the appropriate administrative punishment.

(2) Prior to the taking of witness testimony at the administrative hearing, the Respondent or Respondents shall enter a plea of "guilty" or "not guilty" to each charge contained in the administrative complaint.

(3) All parties shall be allowed to make a concise opening statement regarding the charges in the administrative complaint, defenses to the administrative complaint, expected testimony and evidence, and any proposed administrative punishment.

(4) The parties shall be allowed to present evidence by direct and cross-examination. The Executive Director, or a designee acting on behalf of the Investigative Committee, shall present its evidence first followed by the other parties in the order determined by the Board or its Hearing Officer. Examination of witnesses shall not be unduly repetitious. The testimony of all parties and witnesses

shall be made under oath administered by the Board or the Board's Hearing Officer.

(5) The Board or the Board's Hearing Officer may examine and question any party or witness regarding the administrative complaint and defenses thereto.

(6) All parties shall be allowed to make a brief closing statement summarizing the evidence presented and regarding the applicability or relevant state law and/or Board rules and regulations.

(7) All testimony and statements given in this administrative hearing shall be electronically or stenographically recorded. Any party wishing to obtain a transcript of the hearing shall make arrangements with the court reporter to receive a copy of the transcript at their own expense.

(8) The parties shall not be bound by the strict rules of evidence prevailing in the courts. Evidence shall be submitted in accordance with the Alabama Administrative Procedures Act, Section 13.i The administrative complaint and all attachments shall be made a part of the administrative record for consideration by the Board without further authentication.

(9) The Board or its Hearing Officer may admit into evidence the deposition of any witness who is not subject to the subpoena power of the Board or who is unable to be present to testify at the hearing because of death, physical or mental illness, or other good reason at the discretion of the Board or its Hearing Officer.

(10) All exhibits that are offered into evidence, whether admitted or not, shall be made a part of the administrative record in the case and be included as part of the court reporter's original transcript of the hearing. The party who offers each exhibit shall be permitted to substitute a true copy of the exhibit for the original exhibit upon request to and permission by the Board or its Hearing Officer.

(11) All objections concerning the conduct of the hearing or the admission of evidence may be stated orally or filed in writing during the hearing. The objections and responses thereto shall include a statement of the grounds for the objection and legal authority relied upon. The ruling on the objection by the Board or the Board's Hearing Officer shall be made a part of the administrative record of the hearing. Any party may make an offer of proof regarding evidence that is not admitted and may describe the general nature of the evidence offered and not admitted as party of the administrative record of the hearing.

(12) The Board or the Board's Hearing Officer may allow the parties to submit for consideration a proposed order or recommendation which includes a procedural history, proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law, and any suggested

administrative punishment. The parties shall cite the appropriate pages of the hearing transcript for any proposed findings of fact.

(13) The administrative hearing shall be otherwise conducted in compliance with the provisions and in accordance with the Alabama Administrative Procedures Act, Section 41-22-12, et. seq., Code of Ala. 1975.

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**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-7A-15.

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