

§416.1590

Council shall give each party a reasonable opportunity to comment on the evidence and to present other evidence that is material to an issue it is considering.

(c) *Individual charged did not file an answer.* If the representative did not file an answer to the charges, the Appeals Council will not permit the introduction of evidence that was not considered at the hearing.

§416.1590 Appeals Council's decision.

(a) The Appeals Council shall base its decision upon the evidence in the hearing record and any other evidence it may permit on review. The Appeals Council shall either—

(1) Affirm, reverse, or modify the hearing officer's decision;

(2) Return a case to the hearing officer when the Appeals Council considers it appropriate.

(b) The Appeals Council, in changing a hearing officer's decision to suspend a representative for a specified period, shall in no event reduce the period of suspension to less than 1 year. In modifying a hearing officer's decision to disqualify a representative, the Appeals Council shall in no event impose a period of suspension of less than 1 year. Further, the Appeals Council shall in no event impose a suspension when disqualification is the sole sanction available in accordance with §416.1570(a)(3)(ii).

(c) If the Appeals Council affirms or changes a hearing officer's decision, the period of suspension or the disqualification is effective from the date of the Appeals Council's decision.

(d) If the hearing officer did not impose a period of suspension or a disqualification, and the Appeals Council decides to impose one or the other, the suspension or disqualification is effective from the date of the Appeals Council's decision.

(e) The Appeals Council shall make its decision in writing and shall mail a copy of the decision to the parties at their last known addresses.

[45 FR 52106, Aug. 5, 1980, as amended at 56 FR 24133, May 29, 1991; 71 FR 2878, Jan. 18, 2006]

§416.1595 When the Appeals Council will dismiss a request for review.

The Appeals Council may dismiss a request for the review of any proceeding to suspend or disqualify a representative in any of the following circumstances:

(a) *Upon request of party.* The Appeals Council may dismiss a request for review upon written request of the party or parties who filed the request, if there is no other party who objects to the dismissal.

(b) *Death of party.* The Appeals Council may dismiss a request for review in the event of the death of the representative.

(c) *Request for review not timely filed.* The Appeals Council will dismiss a request for review if a party failed to file a request for review within the 30-day time period and the Appeals Council does not extend the time for good cause.

§416.1597 Reinstatement after suspension—period of suspension expired.

We shall automatically allow a person to serve again as a representative in dealings with us at the end of any suspension.

§416.1599 Reinstatement after suspension or disqualification—period of suspension not expired.

(a) After more than one year has passed, a person who has been suspended or disqualified may ask the Appeals Council for permission to serve as a representative again.

(b) The suspended or disqualified person shall submit any evidence he or she wishes to have considered along with the request to be allowed to serve as a representative again.

(c) The Deputy Commissioner for Disability and Income Security Programs (or other official the Commissioner may designate), or his or her designee, upon notification of receipt of the request, shall have 30 days in which to present a written report of any experiences with the suspended or disqualified person subsequent to that person's suspension or disqualification. The Appeals Council shall make available to the suspended or disqualified person a copy of the report.