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other relevant material to the Commissioner, and has provided the State Council and State agency with copies of the material.

(c) The Commissioner, after review of the records and the recommendation of the Regional Office, has determined whether the State plan, in whole or in part, is not approvable. Notice of this determination has been sent to the State and contains appropriate references to the records, provisions of the statute and regulations, and all relevant interpretations of applicable laws and regulations. The notification of the decision must inform the State of its right to appeal in accordance with 45 CFR part 1386, subpart D.

(d) The Commissioner's decision has been forwarded to the State Council and agency by certified mail with a return receipt requested.

(e) A State has filed its request for a hearing with the Assistant Secretary within 21 days of the receipt of the decision. The request for a hearing must be sent by certified mail to the Assistant Secretary. The date of mailing the request is considered the date of filing if it is supported by independent evidence of mailing, otherwise the date of receipt shall be considered the date of filing.

[49 FR 11779, Mar. 27, 1984, as amended at 61 FR 51161, Sept. 30, 1996]

Subpart D—Practice and Procedure for Hearings Pertaining to States' Conformity and Compliance With Developmental Disabilities State Plans, Reports and Federal Requirements

GENERAL

§ 1386.80 Definitions.

For purposes of this subpart:

Assistant Secretary means the Assistant Secretary for Children and Families (ACF).

ADD means Administration on Developmental Disabilities, Administration for Children and Families.

Presiding officer means anyone designated by the Assistant Secretary to conduct any hearing held under this subpart. The term includes the Assist-

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ant Secretary if the Assistant Secretary presides over the hearing.

Payment or Allotment means an amount provided under Part B or C of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act. This term includes Federal funds provided under the Act irrespective of whether the State must match the Federal portion of the expenditure. This term shall include funds previously covered by the terms "Federal financial participation," "the State's total allotment," "further payments," "payments," "allotment" and "Federal funds."

[61 FR 51161, Sept. 30, 1996]

§ 1386.81 Scope of rules.

(a) The rules of procedures in this subpart govern the practice for hearings afforded by the Department to States pursuant to sections 122, 127 and 142 of the Act. (42 U.S.C. 6022, 6027 and 6042).

(b) Nothing in this part is intended to preclude or limit negotiations between the Department and the State, whether before, during, or after the hearing to resolve the issues which are, or otherwise would be, considered at the hearing. Negotiations, and resolution of issues are not part of the hearing, and are not governed by the rules in this subpart, except as otherwise provided in this subpart.

[49 FR 11779, Mar. 27, 1984, as amended at 52 FR 44847, Nov. 20, 1987]

§ 1386.82 Records to be public.

All pleadings, correspondence, exhibits, transcripts of testimony, exceptions, briefs, decisions, and other documents filed in the docket in any proceeding are subject to public inspection.

§ 1386.83 Use of gender and number.

As used in this subpart, words importing the singular number may extend and be applied to several persons or things, and vice versa. Words importing either gender may be applied to the other gender or to organizations.

§ 1386.84 Suspension of rules.

Upon notice to all parties, the Assistant Secretary may modify or waive