

JACKSON COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY  
2251 Table Rock Road  
Medford, OR 97501  
(541) 779-5785

## **INFORMAL HEARING GUIDELINES**

The family, or other principal parties, may be represented by legal counsel at their own expense.

The Hearings Officer sets the rules by which the hearing will be conducted. The hearing is informal. The purpose of the hearing is to arrive at the truth of the matter. Formal rules of evidence do not

apply. The Housing Council or witnesses may present testimony and/or evidence, which is hearsay or otherwise unsubstantiated, or otherwise varies from that which would be obtained formally in a court of law. However, the Hearings Officer may use or give varying weight to such testimony/evidence depending on the objective review and apparent truthfulness or reliability of such testimony/evidence.

The family, principal parties (landlord, when applicable for Claims) and Housing Council Representative(s) may question the family and/or witnesses. This does not reduce or negate their Constitutional rights; they may refuse to answer on Constitutional grounds. Again, this is an informal hearing, done to allow the contesting of a determination of assistance eligibility (denial, delay, reduction, termination or determination of Claim repayment liability) and the Hearings Officer requests everyone be forthright and completely honest in his or her testimony.

If parties become unruly, loud, abusive, threatening upset or otherwise in need of temporary adjournment, they may so request, and/or the Hearings Officer may so order.

If there is additional information the family or Housing Council Representative wishes to present or if the Hearings Officer feels there is additional information, which should be obtained, the Hearings Officer will set a deadline for that information to be provided.

Misstatements, falsifications, incorrect or incomplete information provided by the family or principal parties or provided on behalf of the family or principal parties for the determination of eligibility of the family is a violation of Title 18 of the United States Code and of the regulations governing this program. In such cases, the family and/or principal parties may be investigated and prosecuted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Attorney and/or local law enforcement divisions. There may be criminal and/or civil actions and penalties brought in such cases.

The Hearings Officer may rule at the conclusion of the hearing but may also wait until he or she has had time to make a full review of material and testimony presented. In any case, the determination of the Hearings Officer will be made and written findings will be mailed as soon as possible.