**Section 2605.230 Ex Parte Communication**

a) Once appointed or retained, the Hearing Officer *shall not communicate directly or indirectly with any party or any person* interested in the outcome of the proceeding, with respect to the merits of any case not concluded, *except upon notice and opportunity for all parties to participate.* [5 ILCS 100/10-60]

b) The Hearing Officer may impose and enforce sanctions, including those sanctions set forth in Section 2605.160, against a party who violates this Section.

(Source: Amended at 43 Ill. Reg. 4056, effective March 19, 2019)