

**State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**Rule Relating to Audio Recording of a Worker's Compensation Hearing**

**Section DWD 80.13, Wis. Admin. Code**

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) announces that it will hold a public hearing on a permanent rule relating to audio recording of a worker's compensation hearing (Section DWD 80.13).

DWD will hold a public hearing on April 28, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. Interested persons are invited to appear at the hearing and will be afforded the opportunity to make an oral presentation of their positions. Persons making oral presentations are requested to submit their facts, views, and suggested rewording in writing. Written comments will be accepted until Friday, May 1, 2015. Comments may be sent to the Division of Worker's Compensation at the address below, or to [Jim.OMalley@dwd.wi.gov](mailto:Jim.OMalley@dwd.wi.gov) or to <http://adminrules.wisconsin.gov>.

You can obtain a free copy of the hearing draft rule and related documents including the economic impact analysis by contacting the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Division of Worker's Compensation, P.O. Box 7901, Madison, WI 53707-7901. You can also obtain a copy by calling (608) 267-6704 or by emailing [Jim.OMalley@dwd.wi.gov](mailto:Jim.OMalley@dwd.wi.gov). Copies will also be available at the hearings. To view the hearing draft rule online, go to: <http://adminrules.wisconsin.gov>.

Comments or concerns relating to small business may also be addressed to DWD's small business regulatory coordinator Howard Bernstein at the address above, or by email to [howard.bernstein@dwd.wi.gov](mailto:howard.bernstein@dwd.wi.gov), or by telephone at (608) 266-9427.

Visitors to the GEF 1 building are requested to enter through the left East Washington Avenue door and register with the customer service desk. The entrance is accessible via a ramp from the corner of Webster Street and East Washington Avenue. If you have special needs or circumstances regarding communication or accessibility at the hearing, please call (608) 261-6805 at least 10 days prior to the hearing date. Accommodations such as ASL interpreters, English translators, or materials in audiotape format will be made available on request to the fullest extent possible.

**Hearing Date and Location:**

**Tuesday, April 28, 2015, 2:00 p.m.**  
Department of Workforce Development  
201 East Washington Avenue, Room B106  
Madison, WI 53707

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**Analysis Prepared by the Department of  
Workforce Development**

*Statutes interpreted*

Statutes Interpreted: Section 102.15, Stats.

***Statutory authority***

Statutory Authority: ss. 102.15 (1) and 103.005 (1), Stats.

***Explanation of statutory authority***

Chapter 102, Stats., governs the state's worker's compensation program. The department has general rule-making authority under s. 102.15 (1), Stats., to adopt rules of procedure and s. 103.005 (1), Stats., to adopt reasonable and proper rules and regulations relative to exercise of its powers and proper rules to govern its proceedings and to regulate the mode and manner of all investigations and hearings.

***Related statutes or rules***

Chapter 102, Stats. relating to worker's compensation.

***Plain language analysis***

This proposed rule will create DWD 80.13 to allow a party to a worker's compensation case to audio record the proceedings of a formal hearing in a non-disruptive and non-obstructive manner; and only when verbal notice is given to the administrative law judge and all parties involved prior to the start of the hearing and before recording begins.

The right to audio record the proceedings of a formal hearing is limited to the parties in the case. The proposed rule allows a party to voluntarily record a hearing for the party's own purposes and is not considered the official transcript or record of the hearing. The official transcript and record of the hearing are provided under s. 102.15 (3), Stats.

Under this proposed rule, the administrative law judge can establish conditions for the audio recording of the proceedings of a formal hearing to avoid disruption or obstruction of the hearing.

***Summary of, and comparison with, existing or proposed federal statutes and regulations***

There are no proposed or existing federal statutes or regulations related to the proposed rule.

***Comparison with rules in adjacent states***

In Minnesota rule R 1420.2900, subpart 9, covers disruption of hearings. This rule states "...No television, video, digital, still, or other camera, and no electronic recording devices, other than those provided by the office may be operated in the hearing room during the course of the hearing unless permission is obtained from the judge. Permission is subject to conditions set by the judge to avoid disruption of the hearing..."

The proposed rule differs from the Minnesota rule by specifically permitting a party to audio record the proceedings of a formal hearing with notice to the administrative law judge. With the proposed rule a

party is not required to obtain permission from the administrative law judge before audio recording the proceedings of a formal hearing. In both this proposed rule and the Minnesota rule, the presiding administrative law judge has the authority to establish conditions for the audio recording of the hearing to avoid disruptions and obstructions of the hearing.

There are no similar rules in Illinois, Iowa or Michigan.

### ***Summary of factual data and analytical methodologies***

Proposed rule changes were developed after consultation with the Worker's Compensation Advisory Council.

### ***Analysis and supporting documents used to determine effect on small business or in preparation of the economic impact analysis***

The proposed rule will have no effect on small business. The proposed hearing draft will be posted for 14-days to solicit public comment on any economic impact.

### ***Effect on small business***

The proposed rule is primarily procedural in nature and will have no effect on small businesses.

### ***Agency contact person***

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