

.03 Office of Appeals Responsibilities - Group Hearings

Several individual hearing requests may be combined into a group hearing when related issues of state or federal laws, regulations, or policies are being addressed, and individual issues of fact are not disputed. One or more issues may be combined into one hearing for the same budgetary unit.

The following process applies to group hearings:

- Policies governing the conduct of individual hearings are followed
- Each appellant (or representative) is permitted to present the case individually
- The appellant may petition the hearing officer to hear THEIR case separately

NA WARNING

When a fair hearing issue and an administrative disqualification hearing issue is scheduled to be presented during the same hearing, time limits for completion of the disqualification hearing apply. The Office of Appeals notifies the appellant of the combining of the hearing issues.

The budgetary unit loses the right to a subsequent fair hearing when the hearings are combined for the purpose of settling a dispute for the following:

- Amount of an overpayment claim
- Whether an [Intentional Program Violation](#) (IPV) occurred

NOTE FAA may allow the PI to waive the 30-day advance notice period for providing notification of the scheduling of an Administrative Disqualification Hearing.