**Section 1700.116 Hearings**

The sequence to be followed for all contested cases is as follows:

a) Informal Status Conference (See Section 1700.50).

b) Formal Hearings

1) Preliminary Matters – Motions, attempts to narrow issues or limit evidence.

2) Opening Statements – The party bearing the burden of proof proceeds first.

3) Case in Chief – Evidence is presented by the party bearing the burden of proof. Once a witness' direct testimony is completed, that witness is subject to cross-examination.

4) Defense – Evidence may be presented by the opposing party.

5) Closing Statements – The party bearing the burden of proof proceeds first, then the opposing party, then a final word by the party bearing the burden of proof.

(Source: Added at 47 Ill. Reg. 13886, effective September 18, 2023)