**Section 166.230 Hearing Officer**

a) The Hearing Officer shall be designated by the Director of the Agency.

b) The Hearing Officer shall have all authority necessary to conduct a fair and orderly hearing including, but not limited to, the power to:

1) Schedule the hearing, depositions and prehearing conferences;

2) Rule on motions and requests;

3) Administer oaths and affirmations;

4) Rule or reserve ruling on the admissibility of evidence offered and amendments to pleadings;

5) Establish the time for making written submissions and closure of the record; and

6) Impose sanctions in accordance with Section166.295 of this Subpart.

7) The Hearing Officer may ask any questions of the parties to assure a full and complete record.