**Section 7020.50 Hearing: Place; Notice: Change of Venue**

a) Except to the extent modified by Section 7020.80 in reference to proceedings under Section 19(b-1) of the Workers' Compensation Act (Ill. Rev. Stat. 1989, ch. 48, par. 138.19(b-1)), the following provisions shall apply:

b) Upon receipt of an Application for Adjustment of Claim the Commission shall fix a place for hearing and a date for initial status before an Arbitrator of the Commission in accordance with the applicable Act. The place designated shall be a hearing site located in or nearest geographically to the vicinity in which the alleged accident or exposure occurred. Where the accident occurred outside the state of Illinois and the applicant resides in Illinois, the case shall be set at the hearing site geographically nearest to where the applicant resides. Where the accident occurs outside of Illinois and the applicant resides outside of Illinois then the case shall be set at hearing site most convenient to the parties. Designation of a hearing site other than as provided above may be had upon showing to the Commission of extreme hardship worked upon a party or parties by the designated site, or by agreement of the parties.

(Source: Amended at 15 Ill. Reg. 8221, effective May 17, 1991)