**Section 7030.10 Arbitration Assignments**

a) In cases arising in Cook County, cases shall be assigned at the time of the First Notice of Hearing to Arbitrators on a random basis by a computer program. All cases filed prior to January 1, 1982, which have not been assigned to an Arbitrator for hearing or settlement shall be assigned to Arbitrators using a random assignment system established at the direction of the Commission to facilitate assignment of all such cases to an Arbitrator in an equitable and efficient manner.

b) In cases arising outside Cook County, cases shall be assigned to an Arbitrator depending on the place of accident. Each Arbitrator outside Cook County shall be given a zone or geographical territory; all claims based on accidents occurring within such zones shall be assigned to that Arbitrator.

c) All assignments on arbitration are final except as otherwise provided in Sections 7030.30 and 7070.40, or where consolidation with a previously filed case is required.

d) In the event a Petitioner has an Application for Adjustment of Claim pending and files one or more Applications for Adjustment of Claim against the same Respondent, or against different Respondents alleging accidental injuries to the same part of the body subsequent cases shall on motion of any party be assigned to the case filed first. If a case is dismissed or otherwise closed and the Petitioner files an Application for Adjustment of Claim relating to the same accident, the case will be assigned to the Arbitrator assigned to the first case filed involving that accident. Where more than one Petitioner files a claim against the same Respondent relating to the same accident, the cases may be consolidated before the Arbitrator assigned to the case first filed upon motion of any party, if such consolidation would promote consistency and efficiency of administration. All disputes involving reassignment shall be heard by the Chairman or a Commissioner designated by the Chairman.

(Source: Amended at 20 Ill. Reg. 3820, effective February 15, 1996)