

### **3 VAC 5-10-70. Decisions.**

A. Initial decisions. The decision of the hearing officer shall be deemed the initial decision, shall be a part of the record and shall include:

1. A statement of the hearing officer's findings of fact and conclusions, as well as the reasons or bases therefor, upon all the material issues of fact, law or discretion presented on the record; and

2. The appropriate rule, order, sanction, relief or denial thereof as to each such issue.

B. Summary decisions. At the conclusion of a hearing, the hearing officer, in his discretion, may announce the initial decision to the interested parties.

C. Notice. At the conclusion of any hearing, the hearing officer shall advise interested parties that the initial decision will be reduced to writing and the notice of such decision, along with notice of the right to appeal to the board, will be mailed to them or their representative and filed with the board in due course. (See 3 VAC 5-10-240 for Appeals).

D. Prompt filing. The initial decision shall be reduced to writing, mailed to interested parties at the address on record with the Board by certified mail, return receipt requested, and by regular mail, and filed with the board as promptly as possible after the conclusion of the hearing or the expiration of the time allowed for the receipt of additional evidence.

E. Request for early or immediate decision. Where the initial decision is deemed to be acceptable, an interested party may file, either orally before the hearing officer or in writing, a waiver of his right of appeal to the board and request early or immediate implementation of the initial decision. The board or hearing officer may grant the request for early or immediate implementation of the decision by causing issuance or surrender of the license and prompt entry of the appropriate order.

F. Timely review. The board shall review the initial decision and may render a proposed decision, which may adopt, modify or reject the initial decision unless immediate implementation is ordered. In any event, the board shall issue notice of any proposed decision, along with notice of right to appeal, within the time provided for appeals as stated in 3 VAC 5-10-240.

**3 VAC 5-10-240. Appeals.**

A. An interested party may appeal to the board an adverse initial decision, including the findings of fact and the conclusions, of a hearing officer or a proposed decision, or any portion thereof, of the board provided a request therefor in writing is received within ~~40~~ 30 days after the date of mailing of the initial decision or the proposed decision, whichever is later.

B. At his option, an interested party may submit written exceptions to the initial or proposed decision within the ~~40~~ 30-day period and waive further hearing proceedings.

C. If an interested party fails to appear at a hearing, the board may proceed in his absence and render a decision.