

NEWS RELEASE

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Video Hearings Discontinued At Industrial Commission of Ohio

COLUMBUS, OH — The Industrial Commission of Ohio (IC) announced today that video hearings have been discontinued, effective January 25, 2011.

“This decision is in response to the concerns that employers and injured workers have expressed about the video hearings,” IC Chairperson Jodie Taylor says. “However, the video equipment will still be utilized in other ways and the decision will not affect the quality of the services that our hearing officers provide.”

Although the IC will no longer schedule hearings conducted with the use of video equipment, the video equipment may be used for hearings in specific circumstances.

The video equipment may be used in three instances:

- When there is inclement weather.
- When a hearing officer is ill and cannot attend a scheduled hearing. Another hearing officer may conduct the hearing via video conference.
- When a prehearing conference is scheduled.

In each of these situations, all parties must agree to proceed with a hearing being conducted by video.

“In each scenario, the hearing officer will ask whether the parties agree to proceed with a video hearing or whether they prefer to have the matter rescheduled,” Taylor says. “If all parties, who are present at the hearing, do not agree to a video hearing, the matter will be continued and reset for hearing.”

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