**Section 2530.380 Authority of Hearing Officer**

The Hearing Officer shall have the duty to conduct a fair hearing, to take all necessary action to avoid delay, to maintain order, and to ensure development of a clear and complete record. He shall have all powers necessary to these ends, including but not limited to the power to:

a) Rule upon offers of proof and receive evidence and rule upon objections to the introduction of evidence;

b) Regulate the course of the hearings and the conduct of the parties and their counsel therein;

c) Interrogate witnesses;

d) Hold pre-hearing conferences for settlement, simplification of the issues, or any other proper purpose.

(Source: Amended at 6 Ill. Reg. 10687, effective August 25, 1982)