

# THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS PROVIDES A FAIR AND NEUTRAL FORUM FOR THE RESOLUTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE DISPUTES



## Office of Administrative Hearings General Jurisdiction Division

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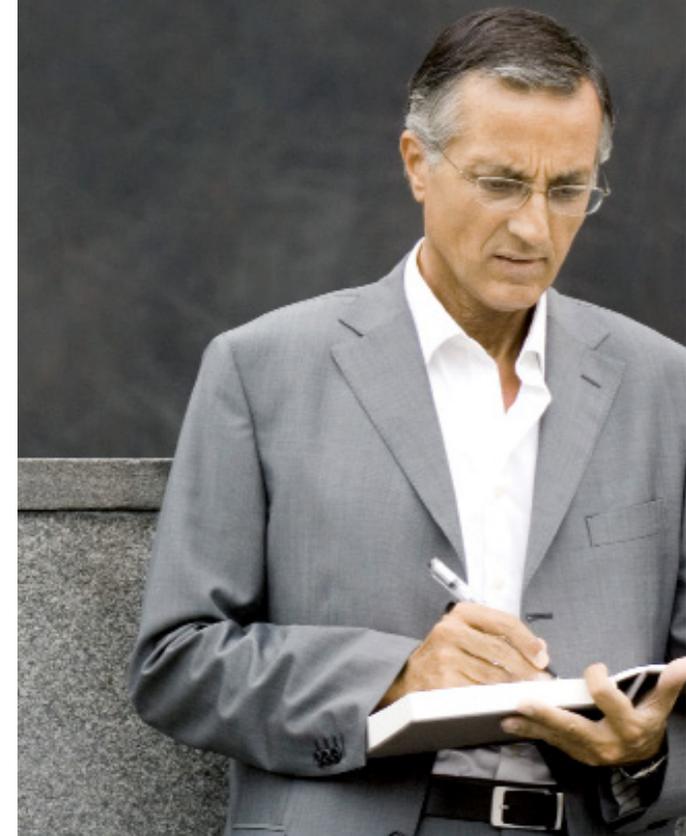
OFFICE OF  
**ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS**  
CA DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

# OAH

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS



## WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT MY ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING?



# MEET THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

## Fair and Neutral

When a disagreement exists concerning an action taken by a government agency against an individual or business, the Office of Administrative Hearings conducts a hearing to resolve the dispute.

Currently, over 1,600 State and local government agencies turn to the Office of Administrative Hearings' General Jurisdiction Division to conduct hearings and provide alternate dispute resolution services in an unbiased, professional, and cost-effective manner.

Presiding at these hearings are administrative law judges. They are highly trained legal professionals with a broad range of experience and expertise. They are extensively trained to supplement their understanding of the many complex technical issues they must decide.

Administrative law judges from the General Jurisdiction Division conduct hearings that involve a variety of matters from professional and occupational disciplinary hearings, to matters involving teacher dismissals, to issues surrounding individuals with developmental disabilities.

A major purpose of the Office of Administrative Hearings is to ensure that all parties are accorded due process of law during their hearing. The hearings involve serious matters, which often weigh the need for public safety and protection against the ability of someone to practice a chosen profession or occupation.

Due to their experience in presiding at hearings involving a variety of professions and occupations, administrative law judges are well prepared to address all issues that may arise. They assure that all parties receive a neutral and fair "day in court."

## Addressing a Full Range of Issues

The General Jurisdiction Division of the Office of Administrative Hearings handles a multitude of hearings for state and local government agencies. These include:

- Professional and Occupational Licensing Disputes
- Teacher Disciplinary Hearings
- Hearings Regarding Services for People with Developmental Disabilities
- Administrative Hearings for Counties and Municipalities

## What You Should Do Next

If you would like to receive additional information about the Office of Administrative Hearings' General Jurisdiction Division, you may obtain detailed information online at [www.dgs.ca.gov/oah/home.aspx](http://www.dgs.ca.gov/oah/home.aspx) or call the Office of Administrative Hearings and the information will be mailed to you upon request.



# UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS

## Conducting Your Hearing

A highly trained administrative law judge will preside at your hearing. An administrative law judge is a neutral and unbiased judicial officer who ensures that all parties have received a fair hearing. The parties will have the opportunity during the hearing to present all relevant facts. After applying the laws and regulations to the facts that have been presented at the hearing, the administrative law judge will decide the case by issuing a detailed written decision.

## Are Settlements Possible?

Of the many thousands of cases filed with the Office of Administrative Hearings' General Jurisdiction Division each year, almost half are resolved by settlement. We offer a wealth of experience and the flexibility to mediate, arbitrate, or adjudicate administrative disputes.

## Representation

Many people represent themselves throughout the hearing process. Others employ an advocate or attorney to represent them. Each person must decide how to best present his or her case.

## Hearing Locations

The General Jurisdiction Division has four different locations in major population centers where hearings are held. In addition, administrative law judges regularly travel to hearings at other locations in the State to make the process more accessible to all parties.