

**(C) BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT OF AN INVESTIGATION OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT, COMMISSION STAFF SHALL REVIEW THE COMPLAINT TO DETERMINE WHETHER:**

**(1) MEDIATION WOULD BE APPROPRIATE; AND**

**(2) BOTH PARTIES SHOULD BE CONTACTED TO ATTEMPT SUCH MEDIATION IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER THIS TITLE.**

19-107.

(a) [The Office] **COMMISSION STAFF** shall be responsible for [investigating] **DIRECTING AND CONDUCTING INVESTIGATIONS OF** discrimination and retaliation complaints filed under this title **IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH ARTICLE 49B § 3, § 10, AND § 11.**

(b) The [Office] **COMMISSION** may request [that the Commission provide] **ASSIGNMENT OF** additional State personnel or outside consultants as may be reasonably necessary or appropriate to conduct an investigation.

(c) (1) [The Office] **COMMISSION STAFF** shall exercise reasonable judgment in seeking relevant evidence from the complainant, the respondent business entity and, as necessary, external sources.

(2) This title may not be construed to require the State to fund the cost of:

(i) having State staff or other individuals travel outside the State to investigate any claim under this title; or

(ii) having witnesses travel to the State for the purpose of investigating a claim or testifying at a hearing or proceeding under this title.

(d) (1) Consistent with **ARTICLE 49B, § 13 OF THE CODE**, the Public Information Act, and the Open Meetings Act, the [Office] **COMMISSION SHALL PROTECT THE CONFIDENTIAL CHARACTER OF INFORMATION RELATING TO AN INVESTIGATION AND** may issue protective orders for good cause to limit, or otherwise impose conditions on, access by any person to any document in the possession of a party.

(2) A protective order issued under paragraph (1) of this subsection may include: