

(b) The Commission may adopt rules and regulations for the conduct of proceedings before it and the hearing examiners.

(c) (1) If a victim [of a violent crime] AS DEFINED IN § 4-504(D) OF THIS SUBTITLE makes a written request for notification under § 4-504 of this subtitle OR ARTICLE 27, § 770 OF THE CODE and also makes a written request within a reasonable amount of time before a scheduled hearing for the inmate convicted of the [violent] crime that the hearing before the Commission or the hearing examiners be open to the public, the hearing shall be open to the public.

(2) The vote of each member of the Commission when acting collectively or in panels or the decision of an individual commissioner or hearing examiner on a formal action, including an action to close or restrict access to a parole hearing under subsection (e) of this section, shall be made available to the public.

(3) Nothing in this section limits the ability of the Commission to hold a parole hearing through the use of video conferences or other means of electronic transmission.

(d) Subject to the provisions of subsection (e) of this section, the victim or victim's representative has the right to attend the hearing.

(e) The Commission, a panel of commissioners, an individual commissioner, or a hearing examiner, may:

(1) Restrict the number of individuals allowed to attend a parole hearing in accordance with physical limitations or security requirements of the facility where the hearing is held;

(2) Deny admission or continued attendance at a parole hearing to an individual who:

(i) Threatens or presents a danger to the security of the institution in which the hearing is being held;

(ii) Threatens or presents a danger to other attendees or participants; or

(iii) Disrupts the hearing;

(3) Close a parole hearing on formal action to deliberate upon the oral testimony and any other relevant information received at the hearing; or

(4) After formal action, hold a closed parole hearing on written request of the chief law enforcement official responsible for an ongoing criminal investigation related to the inmate, if the ongoing investigation could be compromised.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October 1, 1998~~ January 1, 1999.

May 21, 1998