

(2) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO § 10-219 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

(II) SECTION 10-219(D) OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE DOES NOT APPLY TO EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

(C) (1) A HEARING EXAMINER MAY CONSOLIDATE CLAIMS BY MORE THAN ONE INDIVIDUAL OR CLAIMS BY A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL FOR 2 OR MORE WEEKS OF UNEMPLOYMENT IF:

(I) THE SAME OR SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR EVIDENCE IS RELEVANT AND MATERIAL TO THE MATTERS AT ISSUE; AND

(II) IN THE JUDGMENT OF THE HEARING EXAMINER, THE CONSOLIDATION WOULD NOT BE PREJUDICIAL TO A PARTY.

(2) WHEN CLAIMS ARE CONSOLIDATED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, THE HEARING EXAMINER MAY:

(I) SET THE SAME TIME AND PLACE FOR CONSIDERING EACH CLAIM;

(II) CONDUCT JOINT HEARINGS;

(III) MAKE A SINGLE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS; AND

(IV) CONSIDER EVIDENCE THAT IS INTRODUCED IN A PROCEEDING FOR ONE CLAIM AS HAVING BEEN INTRODUCED FOR ANOTHER CLAIM.

(D) (1) A RECORD SHALL BE KEPT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 10-218 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, OF ALL TESTIMONY AND PROCEEDINGS BEFORE A HEARING EXAMINER.

(2) TESTIMONY SHALL BE TRANSCRIBED IF:

(I) JUDICIAL REVIEW IS INITIATED; OR