

(2) (i) A [hearing examiner,] special examiner[,] and the Board of Appeals are not bound by statutory or common law rules of evidence or technical rules of procedure.

(ii) A [hearing examiner,] special examiner[,] and the Board of Appeals shall consider evidence offered in accordance with § 10-213 of the State Government Article.

(c) (1) A [hearing examiner,] special examiner[,] or the Board of Appeals may consolidate claims by more than 1 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,] special examiner[,] or the Board of Appeals, the consolidation would not be prejudicial to a party.

(2) When claims are consolidated under this subsection, the [hearing examiner,] special examiner[,] or Board of Appeals 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 1 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,] special examiner[,] or the Board of Appeals.

(2) Testimony need not be transcribed unless:

(i) judicial review is initiated; or

(ii) the Board of Appeals orders a transcription.