

Sample of Planning Commission Rules in Plain English

Current Rule

2-2 Initiation of Rulemaking Proceedings

a) The Joint Commission may, at any time, initiate proceedings for the adoption, amendment, or repeal of any rule of the Commissions. Procedures to be followed in rulemaking shall be as set forth in these rules.

Plain English

2-2. Starting the rulemaking process

(a) Commission-initiated changes.

The Joint Commission may begin a rulemaking process at any time to adopt, amend, or repeal a rule. When it does so, it must follow the procedures in these rules.

Current Rule

4-25. Examination of Evidence by Commission

Whenever Commission members who are to render the final decision have not heard and examined all of the evidence, the decision, if adverse to a party to the proceedings, shall not be made until a proposal for decision containing a statement of reasons and including determination of each issue of fact or law necessary to the proposed decision has been served upon the parties, and an opportunity has been afforded to each party adversely affected to file exceptions and present argument to the Commission members who are to render the decision, who shall personally consider the whole record or such portions thereof as may be cited by the parties.

Plain English

4-25. How the Commission Reviews Evidence

If the Commission members who will make the final decision have not reviewed all the evidence, they cannot make a decision to deny a permit application right away. First, they must send out a proposed decision that explains their reasoning and covers all the important facts and legal issues. Then, the affected parties must be given a chance to object and present their arguments. After that, the Commission members must personally review the full record, or at least the parts the parties point out, before making their final decision.