

	DISCIPLINE HEARING PUBLIC ATTENDANCE POLICY
	Date Effective: June 2019
	Revised: March 15, 2024; April 1, 2026
	Next Review Due: March 2027

Background

The RHPA requires that a hearing shall be open to the public unless the interests of a person other than the respondent member may be detrimentally affected or public disclosure of financial, personal or other matters in the interest of a person affected or in the public interest outweighs the desirability of having a public hearing.

Purpose

To provide information about public hearings in the PEICNM discipline process.

1.0 Policy

- 1.1 The date, time, location and subject matter of a discipline hearing will be posted on the PEICNM website, at least 30 days before the start of the hearing. There is no other general advertisement of hearings and hearing dates. The posting will include a map.
- 1.2 Public seating is limited, and is available on a first come, first-served basis.
- 1.3 Smoking, food and drink are not permitted on the hearing premises. Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off while the hearing is in progress.
- 1.4 Members of the public wishing to attend a discipline hearing must be in their seats five minutes before the hearing start time. If not present when the hearing begins, they will be required to wait until an appropriate break in the proceedings to enter the room. People entering or exiting the hearing room during the proceedings can be distracting and disruptive.
- 1.5 Using film, photographic or any other video equipment, including cell phones and other electronic devices, is prohibited during the hearing, and in the hearing room.

- 1.6 Audio recorders are only permitted with prior written permission from the Registrar, for notetaking purposes only, not for broadcast. The hearing committee has the discretion to limit the use of recorders if they disrupt the proceedings.
- 1.7 All public attendees must wear a visitor badge, available from the Registrar, at all times while at the hearing location.
- 1.8 Public attendees shall not approach any participants or members of the hearing committee in the hearing room or meeting rooms during the hearing, or on breaks. Failure to follow this requirement may result in being removed from the hearing premises.
- 1.9 Public attendees shall not ask questions of participants or members of the hearing committee or make comments during the hearing proceedings. Failure to follow this requirement may result in being removed from the hearing premises.
- 1.10 A request to have a discipline hearing closed to the public must be sent to the chair of the hearing panel by email (info@peicnm.ca), with reasons for the request, no later than 3 days before the discipline hearing date. If the request pertains to a specific day in an ongoing hearing, the request must clearly state the date of the requested closure. Notice of this requirement will be provided to all parties to the hearing.
- 1.11 The request will be considered by the hearing committee, and the decision will be communicated to the person who made the request as soon as possible and posted in plain view on the website.
- 1.12 The hearing committee has the discretion to remove any member of the public who is disrupting the proceedings in any way.
- 1.13 Please be aware that hearing dates can change at any time. A hearing may start and be adjourned and re-scheduled at any time. Members of the public are advised to call the College office (902-367-4005) to confirm the hearing date and time the day before attendance.