



**DAVE YOST**

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

## **PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR THE OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ELDER ABUSE COMMISSION MEETINGS**

Members of the public may attend meetings of the Ohio Attorney General’s Elder Abuse Commission (Commission) and can provide information or make comment about items of public interest.

The Commission serves as an advisory organization established to advocate on elder-abuse issues. The Commission neither regulates nor legislates Ohio elder abuse issues and has no regulatory control or oversight of any profession, board, department agency or entity, public or private. Pursuant to ORC 5101.741, the Commission is a forum for policy discussion and issue development and seeks to bring before the public and other Ohio entities issues of interest or concern related to elder abuse.

The Commission meetings are open to the public and members of the public may speak during the “Public Comment” portion of the meeting. The comments should be relevant to the Commission’s activities.

The procedures for public comment are set forth below:

1. Those requesting to speak should contact the Lead Staff of the Elder Abuse Commission by phone, email, and/or completing the “Request for Public Comment Form” which will provide the Lead Staff with the subject matter to be addressed.
2. It’s possible the concerns or requests could be addressed in advance of a Commission meeting. The Lead Staff may recommend that the issue be transferred to the Ohio Attorney’s Elder Justice Unit for review and to provide referrals to a relevant state or local agency to help resolve the inquiry.
3. Public Comment topics for Commission consideration must directly address matters, regulations and legislation specific to the State of Ohio. In addition, there will be no discussion of current investigations, active case matters or pending litigation.
4. Those offering public comments should be aware that Commission meetings are subject to the Open Meetings Act. Accordingly, “Public Comments” are open to the public at all times. Additionally, the “Request for Public Comment Form” may meet the definition of a “record” under the Public Records Act and may be released in response to a public records request.
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6. Requests to make public comments should be submitted at least one week prior to the Commission meeting. All requests will be presented to the Commission Chairperson for

review. If the request is not made in advance, the Chairperson will decide if the comment will be permitted.

7. The interested person(s) may submit written documentation in advance to support a public comment by contacting the Lead Staff of the Elder Abuse Commission or at the meeting.
8. Once the “Request for Public Comment Form” is completed and approved, the Lead Staff of the Elder Abuse Commission will provide a copy to the Commission members before the meeting. If written documentation was provided in advance, it also will be provided to the Commission members at the same time.
9. Public comments should show respect for the process and for those attending the meeting by using appropriate and non-abusive language, and dignified behavior. Questions or criticism of policy determinations by the Commission or its members are appropriate. However, personal attacks are not appropriate. The Chairperson has the responsibility to ensure that appropriate behavior is maintained.
10. Those addressing the Commission will have five minutes. Should the Commission members have questions, additional time will be provided for answers.
11. The Chairperson can limit the number of people speaking on the same topic. If several people want to provide information on the same issue, the Chairperson may suggest that they select a spokesperson to speak on behalf of all.
12. Members of the public will be limited to one presentation on the same issue annually unless they are requesting to provide follow-up materials, provide new insights or introduce a new inquiry for consideration.
13. Items or questions presented as “public comment” will be presented as the final item of the meeting agenda. Commission members will be encouraged to listen to the interested person(s), however the Commission need not take any official action or conduct any deliberations on the public comment at the meeting at which the public comment is introduced.
14. Following a public comment, the Chairperson will thank the presenter. Following the meeting, the Commission will review the public comment to determine if Commission resources may be utilized, or if the Commission may refer the concerns to another entity or agency for additional assistance.

To provide public comments at an Elder Abuse Commission meeting, please contact the Lead Staff of the Commission via email to [Sylvia.Pla-Raith@OhioAGO.gov](mailto:Sylvia.Pla-Raith@OhioAGO.gov) or by phone at (614) 466-3493.