

# How to Give Public Testimony

## to the State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee

The State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee (SVRC) meets four times a year to gather testimony about the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation's (DVR) services. Meeting dates and times are posted on the State of Alaska's online public notices at <http://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/>. The testimony is used to measure the quality and effectiveness of the program in helping people with disabilities who want to find and keep a good job. Testimony is recorded in public records and a summary is reported to the Governor each year.

Each participant has 3 minutes to provide spoken testimony, to ensure everyone has an equal chance to speak.

### What to Talk About

- Begin by stating your name and where you are from.
- Talk about your personal experiences in receiving services from DVR or other agencies, how these have affected you in your life and how they helped or did not help you.
- You can also speak about other issues affecting people with disabilities that concern you, especially as it pertains to employment.
- Share whatever information you are comfortable sharing with the SVRC.

### Four Ways to Give Your Public Testimony

1. In person at the meeting.
2. By phone during the meeting.
3. By email, at any time.
4. By letter, at any time.

\* If your disability prevents you from using one of these methods, please contact us so we can help find a way for you to participate.

#### In Person at the Meeting

- Sign the sheet at the door if you wish to give testimony.
- The SVRC Chairperson will call your name when it is your turn.

- You will have 3 minutes to give your testimony. The time is limited so others wanting to give testimony will have a chance.
- If you have more to say, and if time permits, you may be called back later to finish your testimony. You can also submit additional testimony in writing or by email.
- You may read a statement you have prepared in advance or just talk from your heart.

#### **By Phone During the Meeting**

- Call-in during the public testimony portion of the meeting.
- Telephone Number: 1-888-354-0094
- Conference Code 2179208111#
- You will be added to the list of people wanting to provide testimony.
- You may have to wait if someone else is giving their testimony.
- The SVRC Chairperson will call your name when it is your turn.
- People calling in or at the meeting have 3 minutes to give their testimony. The time limit is so others wanting to give testimony will have a chance.

#### **By Email:**

- Send your email to [Jason.caputo@alaska.gov](mailto:Jason.caputo@alaska.gov)

#### **By Mail:**

- Please address your comments to:

The State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee  
 c/o Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
 801 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite A  
 Juneau Alaska 99801

- During the public testimony portion of the quarterly meeting, someone on the Committee will read your letter into the public record. We thank you in advance for taking the time to express your comments. We look forward to seeing or hearing from you.