



Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board

Policy

Public Attendance at Adjudication Tribunal Hearings Policy

The NLPB strives to balance transparency and openness with protecting patient confidentiality where necessary and appropriate.

Scope of Policy

This Policy applies to all hearings of the Adjudication Tribunal of the NLPB.

Notices of Hearing

Public notice of all Adjudication Tribunal Hearings will be posted on the NLPB website at least ten (10) days prior to the scheduled date of the hearing.

Public Attendance at Adjudication Tribunal Hearings

As per s. 41 of the *Pharmacy Act, 2012*, adjudication tribunal hearings are generally conducted in public, but an adjudication tribunal may exclude the public, including all media, from a hearing, or from part of it, where it considers the desirability of protecting a party to the complaint or another person against the consequences of possible disclosure of personal matters outweighs the desirability of holding the hearing in public.

Where the adjudication tribunal orders that the public be excluded from all or a portion of a hearing, no information arising from the closed portions of the hearing may be made public, nor may any information that might lead to the identification or disclosure of information from the closed portions of the hearing be made public.

The following rules apply to all members of the public in attendance at a public hearing:

- All members of the public must sign in prior to entering the hearing room.
- Any person in attendance at a hearing may be subject to search of pockets, bags, etc. prior to entering the hearing room.
- No weapons, food, or beverages other than water in a sealed container are permitted in the hearing room.
- No electronic devices, including but not limited to, cameras, recording devices, communication devices, computers, cell phones, text messaging devices, or Dictaphones, may be used during a hearing.
- Members of the public may not speak, whisper, or otherwise cause a disruption while a hearing is in session, and all sound-making devices must be put in silent mode.
- The NLPB reserves the right to limit the number of persons in attendance at a hearing to a number that is consistent with the appropriate functioning and decorum of the hearing. Where space is limited, entry will be on a first-come-first-serve basis.
- The NLPB reserves the right to refuse entry or to exclude any person from the hearing room if he or she refuses to comply with any guideline or request outlined above, or with any other request made to preserve the functioning and decorum of the hearing.