**Section 176.525 Appearances**

At hearings before OSFM, parties to a proceeding may represent themselves or may be represented by an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Illinois. The failure of a party to be represented by an attorney does not constitute grounds for a rehearing; likewise, the choice by parties to be represented by themselves or designated individuals does not constitute such grounds. For each party to the hearing, a written appearance shall be filed at or before the start of the hearing.