

CHAPTER 12  
MANDATORY REPORTING AND GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE

[Prior to 5/4/88, see 470—135.201 to 470—135.215, and 470—135.301]

**653—12.1(272C) Mandatory reporting—judgments or settlements.** Each licensee, including licensees holding lapsed licenses, shall report to the board every adverse judgment in a malpractice action to which the licensee is a party and every settlement of claim against the licensee alleging malpractice. The report together with a copy of the judgment or settlement must be filed with the board within 30 days from the date of said judgment or settlement.

**653—12.2(272C) Mandatory reporting—wrongful acts or omissions.**

**12.2(1) Definitions.** For the purposes of this rule, the following definitions apply.

“*Knowledge*” means any information or evidence of reportable conduct acquired by personal observation, from a reliable or authoritative source, or under circumstances causing the licensee to believe that wrongful acts or omissions may have occurred.

“*Reportable conduct*” means wrongful acts or omissions that may constitute a basis for disciplinary action under this chapter or any state law or administrative rule that gives the board jurisdiction over the conduct of a licensee.

**12.2(2) Reporting requirement.** A report shall be filed with the board when a licensee has knowledge as defined in this rule that another person licensed by the board may have engaged in reportable conduct.

*a.* The report shall be filed with the board no later than 30 days from the date the licensee acquires knowledge of the reportable conduct.

*b.* The report shall contain the name and address of the licensee who may have engaged in the reportable conduct, the date, time, place and circumstances in which the conduct occurred, and a statement explaining how knowledge of the reportable conduct was acquired.

*c.* The final determination of whether or not wrongful acts or omissions have occurred is the responsibility of the board.

*d.* No licensee is required to report information deemed to be a confidential communication as a result of a physician-patient relationship or which is prohibited by state or federal statute.

**653—12.3(272C) Failure to report.** Failure to report knowledge of wrongful acts or omissions in accordance with rule 12.1(272C) or 12.2(272C) within the required 30-day period shall constitute a basis for disciplinary action against the licensee who failed to report.

**653—12.4(272C) Additional grounds for discipline.** The board has authority to impose discipline for any violation of Iowa Code chapter 147, 148, or 272C or the rules promulgated thereunder. The board may impose any of the disciplinary sanctions set forth in rule 12.33(272C), including civil penalties in an amount not to exceed \$10,000, when the board determines that the licensee is guilty of any of the following acts or offenses.

**12.4(1)** Fraud in procuring a license. Fraud in procuring a license includes, but is not limited to, an intentional perversion of the truth in making application for a license to practice medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine and surgery or osteopathy in this state, and includes false representations of material fact, whether by word or by conduct, by false or misleading allegations, or by concealment of that which should have been disclosed when making application for a license in this state, or attempting to file or filing with the board any false or forged document submitted with an application for a license in this state.

**12.4(2)** Professional incompetency. Professional incompetency includes but is not limited to:

*a.* A substantial lack of knowledge or ability to discharge professional obligations within the scope of the physician's or surgeon's practice;

*b.* A substantial deviation by the physician from the standards of learning or skill ordinarily possessed and applied by other physicians or surgeons in the state of Iowa acting in the same or similar circumstances;

*c.* A failure by a physician or surgeon to exercise in a substantial respect that degree of care which is ordinarily exercised by the average physician or surgeon in the state of Iowa acting in the same or similar circumstances;

*d.* A willful or repeated departure from or the failure to conform to the minimal standard of acceptable and prevailing practice of medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine and surgery or osteopathy in the state of Iowa.

**12.4(3)** Knowingly making misleading, deceptive, untrue or fraudulent representations in the practice of a profession or engaging in unethical conduct or practice harmful or detrimental to the public. Proof of actual injury need not be established.

*a.* Knowingly making misleading, deceptive, untrue or fraudulent representations in the practice of a profession includes, but is not limited to, an intentional perversion of the truth, either orally or in writing, by a physician in the practice of medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine and surgery or osteopathy, and includes any representation contrary to the physician's legal or equitable duty, trust or confidence and is deemed by the board to be contrary to good conscience, prejudicial to the public welfare and may operate to the injury of another.

*b.* Engaging in unethical conduct includes, but is not limited to, a violation of the standards and principles of medical ethics and code of ethics set out in rules 653—13.10(147,148,272C) and 653—13.11(147,148,272C), as interpreted by the board.

*c.* Practice harmful or detrimental to the public includes, but is not limited to, the failure of a physician to possess and exercise that degree of skill, learning and care expected of a reasonable, prudent physician acting in the same or similar circumstances in this state, or when a physician is unable to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients as a result of a mental or physical impairment or chemical abuse.

*d.* Practice harmful or detrimental to the public includes, but is not limited to, the use of a rubber stamp to affix a signature to a prescription. A person who is unable, due to a disability, to make a written signature or mark, however, may substitute in lieu of a signature a rubber stamp which is adopted by the disabled person for all purposes requiring a signature and which is affixed by the disabled person or affixed by another person upon the request of the disabled person and in the presence of the disabled person.

*e.* Practice harmful or detrimental to the public includes, but is not limited to, the practice of maintaining any presigned prescription which is intended to be completed and issued at a later time.

**12.4(4)** Habitual intoxication or addiction to the use of drugs.

**12.4(5)** The inability of a physician to practice medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine and surgery, or osteopathy with reasonable skill and safety by reason of illness; drunkenness; excessive use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics, chemicals or other type of material on a continuing basis; excessive use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics, chemicals or other type of material in a manner which may impair a physician's ability to practice the profession with reasonable skill and safety; or as a result of a mental or physical condition.

**12.4(6)** Being convicted of a felony in the courts of this state or another state, territory, or country, including the courts of the United States, as defined in Iowa Code section 148.6(2) "b."

**12.4(7)** Fraud in representations as to skill or ability. Fraud in representations as to skill or ability includes, but is not limited to, a physician having made misleading, deceptive or untrue representations as to the physician's competency to perform professional services for which the physician is not qualified to perform by training or experience.

**12.4(8)** Use of untruthful or improbable statements in advertisements. Use of untruthful or improbable statements in advertisements includes, but is not limited to, an action by a physician in making information or intention known to the public which is false, deceptive, misleading or promoted through fraud or misrepresentation and includes statements which may consist of, but are not limited to:

- a. Inflated or unjustified expectations of favorable results;
- b. Self-laudatory claims that imply that the physician is a skilled physician engaged in a field or specialty of practice for which the physician is not qualified;
- c. Representations that are likely to cause the average person to misunderstand; or
- d. Extravagant claims or claims of extraordinary skills not recognized by the medical profession.

**12.4(9)** Willful or repeated violations of the provisions of these rules or the provisions of Iowa Code chapters 147, 148, and 272C. Willful or repeated violations of the provisions of these rules and Iowa Code chapters 147, 148, and 272C include, but are not limited to, a physician's having intentionally or repeatedly violated a lawful rule or regulation promulgated by the board of medical examiners or violated a lawful order of the board in a disciplinary hearing or has violated the provisions of Title IV, Code of Iowa.

**12.4(10)** Violating a statute or law of this state, another state, or the United States, without regard to its designation as either felony or misdemeanor, which statute or law relates to the practice of medicine.

**12.4(11)** Failure to report a license revocation, suspension or other disciplinary action taken by a licensing authority of another state, an agency of the United States government, territory or other country within 30 days of the final action by such licensing authority. A stay by an appellate court shall not negate this requirement; however, if such disciplinary action is overturned or reversed by a court of last resort, such report shall be expunged from the records of the board.

**12.4(12)** Failure of a licensee or an applicant for licensure in this state to report any voluntary agreement to restrict the practice of medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine and surgery or osteopathy entered into in another state, district, territory or country, including the United States.

**12.4(13)** Knowingly aiding, assisting, procuring, or advising a person to unlawfully practice medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine and surgery or osteopathy.

**12.4(14)** Being guilty of a willful or repeated departure from, or the failure to conform to, the minimal standard of acceptable and prevailing practice of medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine and surgery or osteopathy in which proceeding actual injury to a patient need not be established; or the committing by a physician of an act contrary to honesty, justice or good morals, whether the same is committed in the course of the physician's practice or otherwise, and whether committed within or without this state.

**12.4(15)** Willful or repeated violation of lawful rule or regulation adopted by the board.

**12.4(16)** Violating a lawful order of the board, previously entered by the board in a disciplinary or licensure hearing, or violating the terms and provisions of a consent agreement or informal settlement between a licensee and the board.

**12.4(17)** Being adjudged mentally incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction. Such adjudication shall automatically suspend a license for the duration of the license unless the board orders otherwise.

**12.4(18)** Making suggestive, lewd, lascivious or improper remarks or advances to a patient.

**12.4(19)** Indiscriminately or promiscuously prescribing, administering or dispensing any drug for other than lawful purpose.

*a.* Self-prescribing or self-dispensing controlled substances.

*b.* Prescribing or dispensing controlled substances to members of the licensee's immediate family for an extended period of time.

(1) Prescribing or dispensing controlled substances to members of the licensee's immediate family is allowable for an acute condition or on an emergency basis when the physician conducts an examination, establishes a medical record, and maintains proper documentation.

(2) Immediate family includes spouse or life-partner, natural or adopted children, grandparent, parent, sibling, or grandchild of the physician; and natural or adopted children, grandparent, parent, sibling, or grandchild of the physician's spouse or life-partner.

**12.4(20)** Knowingly submitting a false report of continuing education or failure to submit the annual report of continuing education.

**12.4(21)** Failure to notify the board within 30 days after occurrence of any judgment or settlement of a malpractice claim or action.

**12.4(22)** Failure to comply with a subpoena issued by the board.

**12.4(23)** Failure to file the reports required by rule 12.2(272C) concerning acts or omissions committed by another licensee.

**12.4(24)** Willful or repeated gross malpractice.

**12.4(25)** Willful or gross negligence.

**12.4(26)** Obtaining any fee by fraud or misrepresentation.

**12.4(27)** Failure to meet the acceptable and prevailing standard of care when delegating or supervising medical services provided by another physician, health care practitioner, or other individual who is collaborating with or acting as an agent, associate, or employee of the physician responsible for the patient's care, whether or not injury results.

**12.4(28)** Violating any of the grounds for the revocation or suspension of a license listed in Iowa Code section 147.55, 148.6 or 272C.10.

**12.4(29)** Failure to comply with the recommendations issued by the Centers for Disease Control of the United States Department of Health and Human Services for preventing transmission of human immunodeficiency virus and hepatitis B virus to patients during exposure-prone invasive procedures, or with the recommendations of the expert review panel established pursuant to Iowa Code section 139C.2(3), and applicable hospital protocols established pursuant to Iowa Code section 139C.2(1).

**12.4(30)** Noncompliance with a support order or with a written agreement for payment of support as evidenced by a certificate of noncompliance issued pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 252J. Disciplinary proceedings initiated under this subrule shall follow the procedures set forth in Iowa Code chapter 252J and 653—Chapter 15.

**12.4(31)** Student loan default or noncompliance with an agreement for payment of a student loan obligation as evidenced by a certificate of noncompliance issued pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 261 and rule 653—16.2(261).

**12.4(32)** Failure to transfer medical records to another physician in a timely fashion when legally requested to do so by the subject patient or by a legally designated representative of the subject patient.

**12.4(33)** Improper management of medical records, including failure to maintain timely, accurate, and complete medical records.

**12.4(34)** Failure to comply with an order of the board requiring a physician to submit to evaluation under Iowa Code section 148.6(2)“h” or 272C.9(1).

**12.4(35)** In a case which has been referred by the impaired physician review committee (IPRC) to the board, a violation of the terms of an initial agreement with the IPRC or an impaired physician recovery contract entered into with the IPRC.

**12.4(36)** Unprofessional conduct.

## COMPLAINTS

**653—12.5(17A,147,148,272C) Complaints.**

**12.5(1) *Form and content of the complaint.*** The complaint shall be made in writing, orally, or in any other form deemed acceptable by the board. A form provided by the board may be used. The form may be obtained from the office of the board upon request. The complaint shall contain the following information:

- a.* The full name and address of the complainant except in instances in which the identity of the complainant is unknown.
- b.* The full name, address and telephone number, if known, of the physician.
- c.* A clear and accurate statement of the facts that fully apprises the board of the allegations against the physician.

**12.5(2) *Place and time of filing of the complaint.*** The complaint may be delivered in person, by telephone, other telecommunications or electronic devices, or by mail to the executive director of the board. The current office address is Board of Medical Examiners, 1209 East Court Avenue, Executive Hills West, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0180.

Timely filing is required in order to ensure the availability of witnesses and to avoid initiation of an investigation under conditions which may have been significantly altered during the period of delay.

**12.5(3) *Complaints regarding physician supervision of physician assistants.*** Complaints received relating to physician supervision of physician assistants shall be copied or summarized and forwarded to the board of physician assistant examiners.

**12.5(4) *Immunities.*** A person shall not be civilly liable as a result of filing a report or complaint with the board or peer review committee, or for the disclosure to the board or its agents or employees, whether or not pursuant to a subpoena of records, documents, testimony or other forms of information which constitute privileged matter concerning a recipient of health care services or some other person, in connection with proceedings of a peer review committee, or in connection with duties of the board. However, such immunity from civil liability shall not apply if such act is done with malice.

## INVESTIGATIONS

**653—12.6(17A,147,148,272C) Investigations.**

**12.6(1) Investigations.** The board shall, upon receipt of a complaint, or upon its own motion, review and investigate alleged acts or omissions which the board reasonably believes constitute cause under applicable law or administrative rule for licensee discipline.

**12.6(2) Investigation of allegations.** For the board to determine if probable cause exists to commence a contested case proceeding, the executive director shall direct compliance staff to conduct an investigation of the allegations made in the complaint. The executive director may refer the complaint directly to a registered peer review committee or medical expert for investigation or consultation.

**12.6(3)** Prior to the commencement of a contested case proceeding, the licensee who is the subject of the complaint shall be contacted by the executive director, an investigator, a medical expert consulting with the agency, or peer review committee, and offered the opportunity to respond to the allegations made in the complaint. Contact with the licensee and the licensee's response to the allegations may be made in writing or through a personal interview or conference.

**12.6(4)** Issuance of investigatory subpoenas.

*a.* The board administrator or designee may, upon the written request of a board investigator or on the administrator's own initiative, subpoena books, papers, records, and other real evidence which is necessary for the board to decide whether to institute a contested case proceeding. In the case of a subpoena for mental health records, each of the following conditions shall be satisfied prior to the issuance of the subpoena:

- (1) The nature of the complaint reasonably justifies the issuance of a subpoena;
- (2) Adequate safeguards have been established to prevent unauthorized disclosure;
- (3) An express statutory mandate, articulated public policy, or other recognizable public interest favors access; and
- (4) An attempt was made to notify the patient and to secure an authorization from the patient for release of the records at issue.

*b.* A written request for a subpoena or the administrator's written memorandum in support of the issuance of a subpoena shall contain the following:

- (1) The name and address of the person to whom the subpoena will be directed;
- (2) A specific description of the books, papers, records or other real evidence requested;
- (3) An explanation of why the documents sought to be subpoenaed are necessary for the board to determine whether it should institute a contested case proceeding; and
- (4) In the case of a subpoena request for mental health records, confirmation that the conditions described in 12.6(4) "a" have been satisfied.

*c.* Each subpoena shall contain:

- (1) The name and address of the person to whom the subpoena is directed;
- (2) A description of the books, papers, records or other real evidence requested;
- (3) The date, time and location for production or inspection and copying;
- (4) The time within which a motion to quash or modify the subpoena must be filed;
- (5) The signature, address and telephone number of the board administrator or designee;
- (6) The date of issuance;
- (7) A return of service attached to the subpoena.

*d.* Any person who is aggrieved or adversely affected by compliance with the subpoena must, within 14 days after service of the subpoena, or before the time specified for compliance if such time is less than 14 days, file with the board a motion to quash or modify the subpoena. The motion shall describe the legal reasons why the subpoena should be quashed or modified and may be accompanied by legal briefs or factual affidavits.

*e.* Upon receipt of a timely motion to quash or modify a subpoena, the board may request an administrative law judge to hold a hearing and issue a decision, or the board may conduct a hearing and issue a decision. Oral argument may be scheduled at the discretion of the board or the administrative law judge. The administrative law judge or the board may quash or modify the subpoena, deny the motion, or issue an appropriate protective order.

*f.* A person aggrieved by a ruling of an administrative law judge who desires to challenge that ruling must appeal the ruling to the board by serving on the board's executive director, either in person or by certified mail, a notice of appeal within ten days after service of the decision of the administrative law judge.

*g.* If the person contesting the subpoena is not the person under investigation, the board's decision is final for purposes of judicial review. If the person contesting the subpoena is the person under investigation, the board's decision is not final for purposes of judicial review until either (1) the person is notified the investigation has been concluded with no formal action, or (2) there is a final decision in the contested case.

**12.6(5)** Investigation report. Upon completion of the investigation, the executive director or designee shall prepare a report for the board's consideration, which report shall set forth the information obtained in the course of the investigation, and the position or defense of the respondent.

**12.6(6)** Review of investigations.

*a. Closure.* If a determination is made by the board to close the case, the complainant and the physician who is the subject of the investigation shall be so notified by letter.

*b. Further investigation.* If the board determines the case shall be further investigated, it shall be returned to the investigator.

*c. Peer review.* The board may refer a case to a peer review committee for further review.

*d. Appearance.* The board or the physician may request that a physician appear before a committee of the board to discuss a pending investigation. By electing to participate in the committee appearance, the physician waives any objection to a board member both participating in the appearance and later participating as a decision maker in a contested case proceeding on the grounds that:

(1) Board members have personally investigated the case, and

(2) Board members have combined investigative and adjudicative functions.

If the executive director or director of compliance participates in the appearance, the physician further waives any objection to having the executive director or director of compliance assist the board in the contested case proceeding.

*e. Informal letter.* In the event the board concludes following investigation of a complaint that there is not probable cause for the filing of disciplinary charges, the board may issue the physician an informal letter of warning or education, which is not formal disciplinary action and not a public record.

*f. Probable cause for disciplinary action.* In the event the board finds following investigation of a complaint that there is probable cause for taking disciplinary action against a physician, the board shall order a contested case proceeding be commenced by the filing of a statement of charges and notice of hearing.

*g. Physician assistants.* Prior to the initiation of formal disciplinary charges in a case involving the supervision of a physician assistant, the board shall, before initiating such action, forward a copy of the investigative report to the board of physician assistant examiners for its advice and recommendations. The board of physician assistant examiners shall respond within six weeks or sooner if the issues warrant it. The board shall consider the advice and recommendations of the board of physician assistant examiners.

**653—12.7(272C) Peer review committees.** The board may assign any case to a peer review committee for review and report to the board.

**12.7(1)** The board may establish and register peer review committees by keeping a current list of peer review members in the board office.

**12.7(2)** The board shall determine which peer review committee will review a case and what complaints or other matters shall be referred to a peer review committee for investigation, review, and report to the board.

**12.7(3)** The board may provide investigatory and related services to peer review committees upon request.

**12.7(4)** The peer review committees shall observe the requirements of confidentiality imposed by Iowa Code section 272C.6.

**12.7(5)** Members of the peer review committees shall not be liable for acts, omissions or decisions made in connection with service on the peer review committee. However, such immunity from civil liability shall not apply if such act is done with malice.

**12.7(6)** The peer review committees shall review the information provided by the board and make a written report to the board.

*a.* The written report shall contain a statement of facts, an opinion, and the rationale supporting the opinion.

*b.* The written report shall be signed by the members of the peer review committees concurring in the report.

*c.* If the peer review committee finds that it is unable to review the complaint, the complaint shall be returned together with an explanation to the board.

**653—12.8(272C) Doctor-patient privileged communications.** The privilege of confidential communication between the recipient and the provider of health care services shall not extend to afford confidentiality to medical records maintained by or on behalf of the subject of an investigation by the board, or records maintained by any public or private agency or organization, which relate to a matter under investigation by the board. No provision of Iowa Code section 622.10, except as it relates to an attorney of the licensee, or stenographer or confidential clerk of the attorney, shall be interpreted to restrict access by the board, its staff or agents to information sought in an investigation being conducted by the board.

**653—12.9(272C) Investigation of reports of judgments and settlements.** Reports received by the board from the commissioner of insurance, insurance carriers and licensees involving adverse judgments in a professional malpractice action, and settlement of claims alleging malpractice, which involve acts or omissions which constitute negligence, careless acts or omissions in the practice of medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine and surgery or osteopathy, shall be reviewed and investigated by the board in the same manner as is prescribed in these rules for the review and investigation of written complaints.

**653—12.10(272C) Confidentiality of investigative files.** Complaint files, investigation files, and all other investigation reports and other investigative information in the possession of the board or peer review committee acting under the authority of the board or its employees or agents which relates to licensee discipline shall be privileged and confidential and shall not be subject to discovery, subpoena, or other means of legal compulsion for their release to any person other than the licensee and the board, its employees and agents involved in licensee discipline, or be admissible in evidence in any judicial or administrative proceeding other than the proceeding involving licensee discipline. However, a final settlement agreement or decision of the board in a contested case disciplinary proceeding shall be public record.

#### DISCIPLINARY HEARING PROCEDURE

**653—12.11(17A) Scope and applicability.** These rules apply to contested case proceedings conducted by the board of medical examiners.

**12.11(1) Definitions.** Except where otherwise specifically defined by law:

“*Contested case*” means a proceeding defined by Iowa Code section 17A.2(5) and includes any matter defined as a no factual dispute contested case under 1998 Iowa Acts, chapter 1202, section 14.

“*Issuance*” means the date of mailing of a decision or order or date of delivery if service is by other means unless another date is specified in the order.



“*Party*” means the state of Iowa or the respondent.

“*Presiding officer*” means the board of medical examiners or a panel of the board. In a disciplinary contested case proceeding, the board may request that an administrative law judge make initial rulings on prehearing matters, and assist and advise the board in presiding at the disciplinary contested case hearing.

“*Proposed decision*” means a hearing panel’s recommended findings of fact, conclusions of law, decision, and order in a contested case in which the full board did not preside.

**12.11(2) Probable cause.** In the event the board finds there is probable cause for taking disciplinary action against a licensee following investigation of a complaint, the board shall order a contested case hearing be commenced by the filing of a statement of charges and notice of hearing.

**12.11(3) Legal review.** Every statement of charges and notice of hearing prepared by the board shall be reviewed by the office of the attorney general before they are filed.

**12.11(4) Time requirements.**

*a.* Time shall be computed as provided in Iowa Code subsection 4.1(34).

*b.* For good cause, the presiding officer may extend or shorten the time to take any action, except as precluded by statute or by rule. Except for good cause stated in the record, before extending or shortening the time to take any action, the presiding officer shall afford all parties an opportunity to be heard or to file written arguments.

### **653—12.12(17A) Statement of charges and notice of hearing.**

**12.12(1) Delivery.** Delivery of the statement of charges and notice of hearing constitutes the commencement of the contested case proceeding. Delivery may be executed by:

- a.* Personal service as provided in the Iowa Rules of Civil Procedure; or
- b.* Restricted certified mail, return receipt requested; or
- c.* Publication, as provided in the Iowa Rules of Civil Procedure.

**12.12(2) Contents.** The statement of charges and notice of hearing shall contain the following information:

- a.* A statement of the time, place, and nature of the hearing;
- b.* A statement of the legal authority and jurisdiction under which the hearing is to be held;
- c.* A reference to the particular sections of the statutes and rules involved;
- d.* A short and plain statement of the matters asserted. This statement shall contain sufficient detail to give the respondent fair notice of the allegations so the respondent may adequately respond to the charges, and to give the public notice of the matters at issue;
- e.* A statement that the party may be represented by legal counsel at the party’s own expense;
- f.* Identification of all parties including the name, address and telephone number of the person who will act as advocate for the board or the state and of parties’ counsel where known;
- g.* Reference to the procedural rules governing conduct of the contested case proceeding;
- h.* Reference to the procedural rules governing informal settlement;
- i.* Identification of the board as the presiding officer;
- j.* A statement requiring the respondent to submit an answer pursuant to subrule 12.18(2) within 20 days after receipt of the notice of hearing; and
- k.* When applicable, notification of the time period in which a party may request pursuant to 1998 Iowa Acts, chapter 1202, section 15(1), and rule 12.15(17A), that the presiding officer be an administrative law judge.

**653—12.13(17A) Legal representation.** Following the filing of the statement of charges and notice of hearing, the office of the attorney general shall be responsible for the legal representation of the public interest in all proceedings before the board.

**653—12.14(17A) Presiding officer in a disciplinary contested case.** The presiding officer in a disciplinary contested case shall be the board or a panel of the board. However, the board may request that an administrative law judge assist the board with initial rulings on prehearing matters. Decisions of the administrative law judge serving in this capacity are subject to the interlocutory appeal provisions of rule 12.31(17A). In addition, an administrative law judge may assist and advise the board in presiding at the contested case hearing.

**653—12.15(17A) Presiding officer in a nondisciplinary contested case.**

**12.15(1)** Any party in a nondisciplinary contested case who wishes to request that the presiding officer assigned to render a proposed decision be an administrative law judge employed by the department of inspections and appeals must file a written request within 20 days after service of a notice of hearing which identifies or describes the presiding officer as the board.

**12.15(2)** The board may deny the request only upon a finding that one or more of the following apply:

- a. There is a compelling need to expedite issuance of a final decision in order to protect the public health, safety, or welfare.
- b. An administrative law judge with the qualifications identified in 12.15(4) is unavailable to hear the case within a reasonable time.
- c. The case involves significant policy issues of first impression that are inextricably intertwined with the factual issues presented.
- d. The demeanor of the witnesses is likely to be dispositive in resolving the disputed factual issues.
- e. Funds are unavailable to pay the costs of an administrative law judge and an interagency appeal.
- f. The request was not timely filed.
- g. The request is not consistent with a specified statute.

**12.15(3)** The board shall issue a written ruling specifying the grounds for its decision within 20 days after a request for an administrative law judge is filed. If the ruling is contingent upon the availability of an administrative law judge with the qualifications identified in 12.15(4), the parties shall be notified at least 10 days prior to hearing if a qualified administrative law judge will not be available.

**12.15(4)** An administrative law judge assigned to act as presiding officer in a nondisciplinary contested case shall have the following technical expertness unless waived by the agency: An administrative law judge shall have a J.D. degree.

**12.15(5)** Except as provided otherwise by another provision of law, all rulings by an administrative law judge acting as presiding officer in a nondisciplinary contested case are subject to appeal to the board. A party must seek any available intra-agency appeal in order to exhaust adequate administrative remedies. Such appeals must be filed within ten days of the date of the issuance of the challenged ruling, but no later than the time for compliance with the order or the date of hearing, whichever is first.

**12.15(6)** Unless otherwise provided by law, when reviewing a proposed decision of an administrative law judge in a nondisciplinary contested case upon intra-agency appeal, the board shall have the powers of and shall comply with the provisions of this chapter which apply to presiding officers.

**653—12.16(17A) Disqualification.**

**12.16(1)** A presiding officer or other person shall withdraw from participation in the making of any proposed or final decision in a contested case if that person:

- a.* Has a personal bias or prejudice concerning a party or a representative of a party;
- b.* Has personally investigated, prosecuted, or advocated in connection with that case, the specific controversy underlying that case, another pending factually related contested case, or a pending factually related controversy that may culminate in a contested case involving the same parties;
- c.* Is subject to the authority, direction or discretion of any person who has personally investigated, prosecuted or advocated in connection with that contested case, the specific controversy underlying that contested case, or a pending factually related contested case or controversy involving the same parties;
- d.* Has acted as counsel to any person who is a private party to that proceeding within the past two years;
- e.* Has a personal financial interest in the outcome of the case or any other significant personal interest that could be substantially affected by the outcome of the case;
- f.* Has a spouse or relative within the third degree of relationship that:
  - (1) Is a party to the case, or an officer, director or trustee of a party;
  - (2) Is a lawyer in the case;
  - (3) Is known to have an interest that could be substantially affected by the outcome of the case; or
  - (4) Is likely to be a material witness in the case; or
- g.* Has any other legally sufficient cause to withdraw from participation in the decision making in that case.

**12.16(2)** The term “personally investigated” means taking affirmative steps to interview witnesses directly or to obtain documents or other information directly. The term “personally investigated” does not include:

- a.* General direction and supervision of assigned investigators;
- b.* Unsolicited receipt of information which is relayed to assigned investigators;
- c.* Review of another person’s investigative work product in the course of determining whether there is probable cause to initiate a proceeding; or
- d.* Exposure to factual information while performing other agency functions, including fact gathering for purposes other than investigation of the matter which culminates in a contested case.

Factual information relevant to the merits of a contested case received by a person who later serves as presiding officer in that case shall be disclosed if required by Iowa Code section 17A.17(3) and subrules 12.16(3) and 12.29(9).

**12.16(3)** In a situation where a presiding officer or other person knows of information which might reasonably be deemed to be a basis for disqualification and decides voluntary withdrawal is unnecessary, that person shall submit the relevant information for the record by affidavit and shall provide for the record a statement of the reasons for the determination that withdrawal is unnecessary.

**12.16(4)** If a party asserts disqualification on any appropriate ground, including those listed in subrule 12.16(1), the party shall file a motion supported by an affidavit pursuant to 1998 Iowa Acts, chapter 1202, section 19(7). The motion must be filed as soon as practicable after the reason alleged in the motion becomes known to the party. The board shall determine the matter as part of the record in the case.

**653—12.17(17A) Consolidation—severance.**

**12.17(1) Consolidation.** The presiding officer may consolidate any or all matters at issue in two or more contested case proceedings where:

- a. The matters at issue involve common parties or common questions of fact or law;
- b. Consolidation would expedite and simplify consideration of the issues involved; and
- c. Consolidation would not adversely affect the rights of any of the parties to those proceedings.

**12.17(2) Severance.** The presiding officer may, for good cause shown, order any contested case proceedings or portions thereof severed.

**653—12.18(17A) Pleadings.**

**12.18(1)** Pleadings may be required by rule, by the notice of hearing, or by order of the presiding officer.

**12.18(2) Answer.** An answer shall be filed by the respondent within 20 days of service of the statement of charges and notice of hearing.

a. An answer shall show on whose behalf it is filed and specifically admit, deny, or otherwise answer all material allegations of the statement of charges. It shall state any facts deemed to show an affirmative defense and contain as many additional defenses as the respondent may claim.

b. An answer shall state the name, address and telephone number of the person filing the answer, the person or entity on whose behalf it is filed, and the attorney representing that person, if any.

c. Any allegation in the statement of charges not denied in the answer is considered admitted.

**12.18(3) Amendment.** Amendments to the statement of charges and to an answer may be allowed with the consent of the parties or in the discretion of the presiding officer who may impose terms or grant a continuance.

**653—12.19(17A) Service and filing.**

**12.19(1) Service—when required.** Except where otherwise provided by law, every document filed in a contested case proceeding shall be served upon each of the parties of record to the proceeding, including the assistant attorney general designated as prosecutor for the state or the agency, simultaneously with their filing. Except for the original notice of hearing and an application for rehearing as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.16(2), the party filing a document is responsible for service on all parties.

**12.19(2) Service—how made.** Service upon a party represented by an attorney shall be made upon the attorney unless otherwise ordered. Service is made by delivery or by mailing a copy to the person's last-known address. Service by mail is complete upon mailing, except where otherwise specifically provided by statute, rule, or order.

**12.19(3) Filing—when required.** After the notice of hearing, all documents in a contested case proceeding shall be filed with the board. All documents that are required to be served upon a party shall be filed simultaneously with the board.

**12.19(4) Filing—when made.** Except where otherwise provided by law, a document is deemed filed at the time it is delivered to the Board of Medical Examiners, 1209 East Court Avenue, Executive Hills West, Des Moines, Iowa 50319, delivered to an established courier service for immediate delivery to that office, or mailed by first-class mail or state interoffice mail to that office, so long as there is proof of mailing.

**12.19(5) Proof of mailing.** Proof of mailing includes either:

- a. A legible United States Postal Service postmark on the envelope;

- b. A certificate of service;
- c. A notarized affidavit; or
- d. A certification in substantially the following form:

I certify under penalty of perjury and pursuant to the laws of Iowa that, on (date of mailing), I mailed copies of (describe document) addressed to the Board of Medical Examiners, 1209 East Court Avenue, Executive Hills West, Des Moines, Iowa 50319, and to the names and addresses of the parties listed below by depositing the same in (a United States post office mailbox with correct postage properly affixed or state interoffice mail).

(Date)

(Signature)

#### DISCOVERY

### **653—12.20(17A) Discovery.**

**12.20(1)** Discovery procedures applicable in civil actions are applicable in contested cases. Unless lengthened or shortened by these rules or by order of the presiding officer, time periods for compliance with discovery shall be as provided in the Iowa Rules of Civil Procedure.

**12.20(2)** Any motion relating to discovery shall allege that the moving party has previously made a good-faith attempt to resolve the discovery issues involved with the opposing party. Motions in regard to discovery shall be ruled upon by the presiding officer. Opposing parties shall be afforded the opportunity to respond within ten days of the filing of the motion unless the time is shortened as provided in subrule 12.20(1). The presiding officer may rule on the basis of the written motion and any response, or may order argument on the motion.

### **653—12.21(17A,272C) Subpoenas in a contested case.**

**12.21(1)** Subpoenas issued in a contested case may compel the attendance of witnesses at depositions or hearing, and may compel the production of books, papers, records, and other real evidence. A command to produce evidence or to permit inspection may be joined with a command to appear at deposition or hearing, or may be issued separately. Subpoenas shall be issued by the board administrator or designee upon written request. A request for a subpoena of mental health records must confirm the conditions described in 12.6(4) "a" have been satisfied prior to the issuance of the subpoena.

**12.21(2)** A request for a subpoena shall include the following information, as applicable, unless the subpoena is requested to compel testimony or documents for rebuttal or impeachment purposes:

- a. The name, address and telephone number of the person requesting the subpoena;
- b. The name and address of the person to whom the subpoena shall be directed;
- c. The date, time, and location at which the person shall be commanded to attend and give testimony;
- d. Whether the testimony is requested in connection with a deposition or hearing;
- e. A description of the books, papers, records or other real evidence requested;
- f. The date, time and location for production, or inspection and copying; and
- g. In the case of a subpoena request for mental health records, confirmation that the conditions described in 12.6(4) "a" have been satisfied.

**12.21(3)** Each subpoena shall contain, as applicable:

- a. The caption of the case;
- b. The name, address and telephone number of the person who requested the subpoena;
- c. The name and address of the person to whom the subpoena is directed;
- d. The date, time, and location at which the person is commanded to appear;

- e.* Whether the testimony is commanded in connection with a deposition or hearing;
- f.* A description of the books, papers, records or other real evidence the person is commanded to produce;
- g.* The date, time and location for production, or inspection and copying;
- h.* The time within which a motion to quash or modify the subpoena must be filed;
- i.* The signature, address and telephone number of the board administrator or designee;
- j.* The date of issuance;
- k.* A return of service attached to the subpoena.

**12.21(4)** Unless a subpoena is requested to compel testimony or documents for rebuttal or impeachment purposes, the board administrator or designee shall mail copies of all subpoenas to the parties to the contested case. The person who requested the subpoena is responsible for serving the subpoena upon the subject of the subpoena.

**12.21(5)** Any person who is aggrieved or adversely affected by compliance with the subpoena, or any party to the contested case who desires to challenge the subpoena must, within 14 days after service of the subpoena, or before the time specified for compliance if such time is less than 14 days, file with the board a motion to quash or modify the subpoena. The motion shall describe the legal reasons why the subpoena should be quashed or modified, and may be accompanied by legal briefs or factual affidavits.

**12.21(6)** Upon receipt of a timely motion to quash or modify a subpoena, the board may request an administrative law judge to hold a hearing and issue a decision, or the board may conduct the hearing and issue a decision. Oral argument may be scheduled at the discretion of the board or the administrative law judge. The administrative law judge or the board may quash or modify the subpoena, deny the motion, or issue an appropriate protective order.

**12.21(7)** A person aggrieved by a ruling of an administrative law judge who desires to challenge that ruling must appeal the ruling to the board by serving on the board's executive director, either in person or by certified mail, a notice of appeal within ten days after service of the decision of the administrative law judge.

**12.21(8)** If the person contesting the subpoena is not the person under investigation, the board's decision is final for purposes of judicial review. If the person contesting the subpoena is the person under investigation, the board's decision is not final for purposes of judicial review until there is a final decision in the contested case.

### **653—12.22(17A) Motions.**

**12.22(1)** No technical form for motions is required. However, prehearing motions must be in writing, state the grounds for relief, and state the relief sought.

**12.22(2)** Any party may file a written response to a motion within ten days after the motion is served, unless the time period is extended or shortened by the presiding officer. The presiding officer may consider a failure to respond within the required time period in ruling on a motion.

**12.22(3)** The presiding officer may schedule oral argument on any motion.

**12.22(4)** Motions pertaining to the hearing must be filed and served at least ten days prior to the date of hearing unless there is good cause for permitting later action or the time for such action is lengthened or shortened by rule of the agency or an order of the presiding officer.

**653—12.23(17A) Prehearing conferences.**

**12.23(1)** Any party may request a prehearing conference. Prehearing conferences shall be conducted by the executive director, who may request the assistance of an administrative law judge. A written request for prehearing conference or an order for prehearing conference on the executive director's own motion shall be filed prior to the contested case hearing, but no later than 20 days prior to the hearing date.

**12.23(2)** The parties at a prehearing conference shall be prepared to discuss the following subjects, and the executive director or administrative law judge may issue appropriate orders concerning:

- a.* The possibility of settlement.
- b.* The entry of a scheduling order to include deadlines for completion of discovery.
- c.* Stipulations of law or fact.
- d.* Stipulations on the admissibility of exhibits.
- e.* Submission of expert and other witness lists. Witness lists may be amended subsequent to the prehearing conference within the time limits established by the executive director or administrative law judge at the prehearing conference. Any such amendments must be served on all parties. Witnesses not listed on the final witness list may be excluded from testifying unless there was good cause for the failure to include their names.
- f.* Submission of exhibit lists. Exhibit lists may be amended subsequent to the prehearing conference within the time limits established by the executive director or administrative law judge at the prehearing conference. Other than rebuttal exhibits, exhibits that are not listed on the final exhibit list may be excluded from admission into evidence unless there was good cause for the failure to include them.
- g.* Stipulations for waiver of any provision of law.
- h.* Identification of matters which the parties intend to request be officially noticed.
- i.* Consideration of any additional matters which will expedite the hearing.

**12.23(3)** Prehearing conferences may be conducted by telephone unless otherwise ordered.

**653—12.24(17A) Continuances.** Unless otherwise provided, applications for continuances shall be filed with the board. In the event the application for continuance is not contested, the executive director shall serve as presiding officer and issue the appropriate order. In the event the application for continuance is contested, the matter shall be heard by the board as presiding officer or may be delegated by the board to an administrative law judge. Within seven days of the date set for hearing, no continuances shall be granted except for extraordinary, extenuating or emergency circumstances.

**12.24(1)** A written application for a continuance shall:

- a.* Be made at the earliest possible time and no less than five working days before the hearing except in case of unanticipated emergencies;
- b.* State the specific reasons for the request; and
- c.* Be signed by the requesting party or the party's representative.

An oral application for a continuance may be made if the presiding officer waives the requirement for a written motion. However, a party making such an oral application for a continuance must confirm that request by written application within two days after the oral request unless that requirement is waived by the presiding officer. No application for continuance shall be made or granted without notice to all parties except in an emergency where notice is not feasible.

**12.24(2)** In determining whether to grant a continuance, the presiding officer may consider:

- a.* Prior continuances;
- b.* The interests of all parties;

- c. The public interest;
- d. The likelihood of informal settlement;
- e. The existence of an emergency;
- f. Any objection;
- g. Any applicable time requirements;
- h. The existence of a conflict in the schedules of counsel, parties, or witnesses;
- i. The timeliness of the request; and
- j. Other relevant factors.

The presiding officer may require documentation of any grounds for continuance.

#### **653—12.25(272C) Settlements.**

**12.25(1)** A contested case may be resolved by informal settlement. Settlement negotiations may be initiated at any stage of a contested case by the executive director, prosecuting attorney, or the respondent. No party is required to participate in the informal settlement process. The executive director and chairperson of the board, or the chairperson's designee, shall have authority to negotiate on behalf of the board.

**12.25(2)** The full board shall not be involved in negotiation until a written proposed settlement is submitted to the full board for approval, unless both parties waive this prohibition.

**12.25(3)** Consent to negotiation by the respondent during informal settlement negotiation constitutes a waiver of notice and opportunity to be heard pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 17A as amended by 1998 Iowa Acts, chapter 1202, section 19. Thereafter, the prosecuting attorney is authorized to discuss informal settlement with the board chairperson or designee.

**12.25(4)** Negotiations for a proposed settlement shall be completed at least seven days prior to the date scheduled for hearing. However, after consultation with the board chairperson or designee, the executive director shall have the power to grant additional time for continued negotiations in instances where additional time will likely lead to a satisfactory settlement prior to the hearing date.

#### **653—12.26(17A) Hearing procedures.**

**12.26(1)** A hearing may be conducted before the board or a panel of not less than three members of the board at least two of whom are licensed by the board.

**12.26(2)** When, in the opinion of a majority of the board, it is desirable to obtain specialists within an area of practice when holding disciplinary hearings, the board may appoint a panel of three specialists who are not board members to make findings of fact and to report to the board. Such findings shall not include any recommendation for or against licensee discipline.

**12.26(3)** The presiding officer shall have the authority to administer oaths, to admit or exclude testimony or other evidence, and to rule on all motions and objections. The presiding officer may request that an administrative law judge perform any of these functions, and may be assisted and advised by an administrative law judge.

**12.26(4)** All objections shall be timely made and stated on the record.

**12.26(5)** Parties have the right to participate or to be represented in all hearings or prehearing conferences related to their case. Any party may be represented by an attorney at the party's own expense.

**12.26(6)** Subject to terms and conditions prescribed by the presiding officer, parties have the right to introduce evidence on issues of material fact, cross-examine witnesses present at the hearing as necessary for a full and true disclosure of the facts, present evidence in rebuttal, and submit briefs and engage in oral argument.

**12.26(7)** The presiding officer shall maintain the decorum of the hearing and may refuse to admit or may expel anyone whose conduct is disorderly.



**12.26(8)** Witnesses may be sequestered during the hearing.

**12.26(9)** The presiding officer shall have authority to grant immunity from disciplinary action to a witness as provided by Iowa Code section 272C.6(3).

**12.26(10)** The presiding officer shall conduct the hearing in the following manner:

*a.* The presiding officer shall give an opening statement briefly describing the nature of the proceedings;

*b.* The parties shall be given an opportunity to present opening statements;

*c.* The parties shall present their cases in the sequence determined by the presiding officer;

*d.* Each witness shall be sworn or affirmed by the presiding officer or the court reporter, and be subject to examination and cross-examination. The presiding officer may limit questioning in a manner consistent with law;

*e.* When all parties and witnesses have been heard, the parties may be given the opportunity to present final arguments.

**12.26(11)** The board members and administrative law judge have the right to question a witness. Examination of witnesses by board members is subject to properly raised objections.

**12.26(12)** The hearing shall be open to the public unless the licensee requests that the hearing be closed.

### **653—12.27(17A) Evidence.**

**12.27(1)** The presiding officer shall rule on admissibility of evidence and may, where appropriate, take official notice of facts in accordance with all applicable requirements of law.

**12.27(2)** Stipulation of facts is encouraged. The presiding officer may make a decision based on stipulated facts.

**12.27(3)** Evidence in the proceeding shall be confined to the issues as to which the parties received notice prior to the hearing unless the parties waive their right to such notice or the presiding officer determines that good cause justifies expansion of the issues. If the presiding officer decides to admit evidence on issues outside the scope of the notice over the objection of a party who did not have actual notice of those issues, that party, upon timely request, shall receive a continuance sufficient to amend pleadings and to prepare on the additional issue.

**12.27(4)** The party seeking admission of an exhibit must provide opposing parties with an opportunity to examine the exhibit prior to the ruling on its admissibility. Copies of documents should normally be provided to opposing parties.

All exhibits admitted into evidence shall be appropriately marked and be made part of the record.

**12.27(5)** Any party may object to specific evidence or may request limits on the scope of any examination or cross-examination. Such an objection shall be accompanied by a brief statement of the grounds upon which it is based. The objection, the ruling on the objection, and the reasons for the ruling shall be noted in the record. The presiding officer may rule on the objection at the time it is made or may reserve a ruling until the written decision.

**12.27(6)** Whenever evidence is ruled inadmissible, the party offering that evidence may submit an offer of proof on the record. The party making the offer of proof for excluded oral testimony shall briefly summarize the testimony or, with permission of the presiding officer, present the testimony. If the excluded evidence consists of a document or exhibit, it shall be marked as part of an offer of proof and inserted in the record.

**653—12.28(17A) Default.**

**12.28(1)** If a party fails to appear or participate in a contested case proceeding after proper service of notice, the presiding officer may, if no adjournment is granted, enter a default decision or proceed with the hearing and render a decision in the absence of the party.

**12.28(2)** Where appropriate and not contrary to law, any party may move for default against a party who has failed to appear after proper service.

**12.28(3)** Default decisions or decisions rendered on the merits after a party has failed to appear or participate in a contested case proceeding become final agency action unless, within 15 days after the date of notification or mailing of the decision, a motion to vacate is filed and served on all parties or an appeal of a decision on the merits is timely initiated within the time provided by 12.32(2). A motion to vacate must state all facts relied upon by the moving party which establish that good cause existed for that party's failure to appear or participate at the contested case proceeding. Each fact so stated must be substantiated by at least one sworn affidavit of a person with personal knowledge of each such fact, which affidavit(s) must be attached to the motion.

**12.28(4)** The time for further appeal of a decision for which a timely motion to vacate has been filed is stayed pending a decision on the motion to vacate.

**12.28(5)** Properly substantiated and timely filed motions to vacate shall be granted only for good cause shown. The burden of proof as to good cause is on the moving party. Adverse parties shall have ten days to respond to a motion to vacate. Adverse parties shall be allowed to conduct discovery as to the issue of good cause and to present evidence on the issue prior to a decision on the motion, if a request to do so is included in that party's response.

**12.28(6)** "Good cause" for purposes of this rule shall have the same meaning as "good cause" for setting aside a default judgment under Iowa Rule of Civil Procedure 236.

**12.28(7)** A decision denying a motion to vacate is subject to further appeal within the time limit allowed for further appeal of a decision on the merits in the contested case proceeding. A decision granting a motion to vacate is subject to interlocutory appeal by the adverse party pursuant to rule 12.31(17A).

**12.28(8)** If a motion to vacate is granted and no timely interlocutory appeal has been taken, the presiding officer shall issue another notice of hearing and the contested case shall proceed accordingly.

**12.28(9)** A default decision may provide either that the default decision is to be stayed pending a timely motion to vacate or that the default decision is to take effect immediately, subject to a request for stay under rule 12.35(17A).

**653—12.29(17A) Ex parte communication.**

**12.29(1)** Prohibited communications. Unless required for the disposition of ex parte matters specifically authorized by statute, following issuance of the notice of hearing, there shall be no communication, directly or indirectly, between the presiding officer and any party or representative of any party or any other person with a direct or indirect interest in such case in connection with any issue of fact or law in the case except upon notice and opportunity for all parties to participate. Nothing in this provision is intended to preclude board members from communicating with other board members or members of the board staff, other than those with a personal interest in, or those engaged in personally investigating as defined in subrule 12.16(2), prosecuting, or advocating in, either the case under consideration or a pending factually related case involving the same parties, as long as those persons do not directly or indirectly communicate to the presiding officer any ex parte communications they have received of a type that the presiding officer would be prohibited from receiving or that furnish, augment, diminish, or modify the evidence in the record.

**12.29(2)** Prohibitions on ex parte communications commence with the issuance of the notice of hearing in a contested case and continue for as long as the case is pending before the board.

**12.29(3)** Written, oral or other forms of communication are “ex parte” if made without notice and opportunity for all parties to participate.

**12.29(4)** To avoid prohibited ex parte communications notice must be given in a manner reasonably calculated to give all parties a fair opportunity to participate. Notice of written communications shall not be provided in compliance with rule 12.19(17A) and may be supplemented by telephone, facsimile, electronic mail or other means of notification. Where permitted, oral communications may be initiated through conference telephone call including all parties or their representatives.

**12.29(5)** Persons who jointly act as presiding officer in a pending contested case may communicate with each other without notice or opportunity for parties to participate.

**12.29(6)** The executive director or director of compliance may be present in deliberations or otherwise advise the presiding officer without notice or opportunity for parties to participate as long as they are not disqualified from participating under rule 12.16(17A).

**12.29(7)** Communications with the presiding officer involving uncontested scheduling or procedural matters do not require notice or opportunity for parties to participate. Parties should notify other parties prior to initiating such contact with the presiding officer when feasible, and shall notify other parties when seeking to continue hearings or other deadlines pursuant to rule 12.24(17A).

**12.29(8)** Disclosure of prohibited communications. A presiding officer who receives a prohibited ex parte communication during the pendency of a contested case must initially determine if the effect of the communication is so prejudicial that the presiding officer should be disqualified.

*a.* If the presiding officer determines that disqualification is warranted, a copy of any prohibited written communication, all written responses to the communication, a written summary stating the substance of any prohibited oral or other communication not available in written form for disclosure, all responses made, and the identity of each person from whom the presiding officer received a prohibited ex parte communication shall be submitted for inclusion in the record under seal by protective order; or

*b.* If the presiding officer determines that disqualification is not warranted, such documents shall be submitted for inclusion in the record and served on all parties. Any party desiring to rebut the prohibited communication must be allowed the opportunity to do so upon written request filed within ten days after notice of the communication.

**12.29(9)** Promptly after being assigned to serve as presiding officer at any stage in a contested case proceeding, a presiding officer shall disclose to all parties material factual information received through ex parte communication prior to such assignment, unless the factual information has already been or shortly will be disclosed pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.13(2) or through discovery. Factual information contained in an investigative report or similar document need not be separately disclosed by the presiding officer as long as such documents have been or will shortly be provided to the parties.

**12.29(10)** The presiding officer may render a proposed or final decision imposing appropriate sanctions for violations of this rule including default, a decision against the offending party, censure, suspension or revocation of the privilege to practice before the board. Violation of ex parte communication prohibitions by board personnel shall be reported to the board and its executive director for possible sanctions including censure, suspension, dismissal, or other disciplinary action.

**653—12.30(17A) Recording costs.** Upon request, the board shall provide a copy of the whole or any portion of the record at cost. The cost of preparing a copy of the record or of transcribing the hearing record shall be paid by the requesting party.

**653—12.31(17A) Interlocutory appeals.** Upon written request of a party or on its own motion, the board may review an interlocutory order of the executive director, administrative law judge, or hearing panel. In determining whether to do so, the board shall consider:

**12.31(1)** The extent to which its granting the interlocutory appeal would expedite final resolution of the case; and

**12.31(2)** The extent to which review of that interlocutory order by the board at the time it reviews the proposed decision of the presiding officer would provide an adequate remedy.

Any request for interlocutory review must be filed within 14 days of issuance of the challenged order, but no later than the time for compliance with the order or the date of hearing, whichever is first.

**653—12.32(17A) Decisions.**

**12.32(1) Final decisions.** When a quorum of the board presides over the reception of the evidence at the hearing, its decision is a final decision.

**12.32(2) Proposed decisions.**

*a.* When a panel of three specialists presides over the hearing, the panel shall issue a proposed decision which shall include proposed findings of fact but shall not include conclusions of law. A proposed decision of a hearing panel of specialists, together with a transcript of the proceedings and the exhibits presented, shall be reviewed by the board within 30 days of the date the proposed decision was issued. The parties shall have the opportunity to submit briefs and arguments to the board. The decision of the board is a final decision.

*b.* When a panel of three board members presides over the hearing, the panel shall issue a proposed decision which shall include proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order. A proposed decision, together with a transcript of the proceedings and the exhibits presented, shall be reviewed by the board within 30 days of the date the proposed decision was issued. A proposed decision of a board hearing panel becomes a final decision without further proceedings unless appealed in accordance with the following provisions.

(1) The board may review a proposed decision on its own motion by serving a notice of appeal on the parties within 30 days after issuance of the proposed decision.

(2) A proposed decision may be appealed to the board by either party by serving on the executive director, either in person or by certified mail, a notice of appeal within 30 days after service of the proposed decision on the appealing party.

(3) Following receipt of a notice of appeal the board shall enter an order establishing a schedule for submission of briefs and oral argument. The parties shall serve their briefs on the board and shall furnish an additional copy to each party by first-class mail.

(4) Oral argument shall be heard by the board unless waived by both parties. The time granted each party for oral argument shall be established by the board.

(5) The record on appeal shall be the entire record made before the hearing panel or administrative law judge.

*c.* At no time prior to the release of the final decision by the board shall a proposed decision be made public or distributed to any person other than the parties.

*d.* Requests to present additional evidence. A party may request the taking of additional evidence after the issuance of a proposed decision only by establishing that:

- (1) The evidence is material; and
- (2) The evidence arose after the completion of the original hearing; or
- (3) Good cause exists for failure to present the evidence at the original hearing; and
- (4) The party has not waived the right to present additional evidence.

A written request to present additional evidence must be filed with the notice of appeal or, by a non-appelling party, within 14 days of service of the notice of appeal. The board may remand a case to the hearing panel for further hearing or may itself preside at the taking of additional evidence.

**653—12.33(272C) Disciplinary sanctions.**

**12.33(1)** If the board concludes following a contested case hearing that discipline is warranted, the board has authority to impose any of the following disciplinary sanctions:

- a.* Revocation of license.
- b.* Suspension of license until further order of the board or for a specified period.
- c.* Permanent prohibition, until further order of the board or for a specified period, from engaging in specified procedures, methods or acts.
- d.* Probation with imposition of appropriate term and conditions.
- e.* Requiring additional education or training.
- f.* Requiring reexamination.
- g.* Ordering a physical or mental examination, or ordering alcohol or drug screening within a time specified by the board.
- h.* Imposing civil penalties not to exceed \$10,000.
- i.* Issuing a citation and warning.
- j.* Imposing such other sanctions allowed by law as may be appropriate.

**12.33(2)** At the discretion of the board, the following factors may be considered by the board in determining the nature and severity of the disciplinary sanction to be imposed:

- a.* The relative seriousness of the violation as it relates to assuring the citizens of this state a high standard of professional care.
- b.* The facts of the particular violation.
- c.* Any extenuating circumstances or other countervailing considerations.
- d.* Number of prior violations or complaints.
- e.* Seriousness of prior violations or complaints.
- f.* Whether remedial action has been taken.
- g.* Such other factors as may reflect upon the competency, ethical standards and professional conduct of the licensee.

**653—12.34(17A) Applications for rehearing.**

**12.34(1)** *By whom filed.* Any party to a contested case proceeding may file an application for rehearing from a final order.

**12.34(2)** *Content of application.* The application for rehearing shall state on whose behalf it is filed, the specific grounds for rehearing, and the relief sought. In addition, the application shall state whether the applicant desires reconsideration of all or part of the agency decision on the existing record and whether, on the basis of the grounds enumerated in 12.32(2)“*d*” and 12.34(5), the applicant requests an opportunity to submit additional evidence.

**12.34(3)** *Time of filing.* The application shall be filed with the board within 20 days after issuance of the final decision.

**12.34(4) Notice to other parties.** A copy of the application shall be timely mailed by the applicant to all parties of record not joining therein.

**12.34(5) Additional evidence.** A request that additional evidence be considered on rehearing shall be governed by 12.32(2)“d.”

**12.34(6) Disposition.** Any application for a rehearing shall be deemed denied unless the agency grants the application within 20 days after its filing.

**653—12.35(17A) Stays of agency actions.**

**12.35(1) When available.** Any party to a contested case proceeding may petition the board for a stay of an order issued in that proceeding or for other temporary remedies, pending review by the board or pending judicial review. The petition shall state the reasons justifying a stay or other temporary remedy.

**12.35(2) When granted.** In determining whether to grant a stay, the board shall consider the factors listed in 1998 Iowa Acts, chapter 1202, section 23(5c). The board shall not grant a stay in any case in which the district court would be expressly prohibited by statute from granting a stay.

**653—12.36(17A) No factual dispute contested cases.** If the parties agree that no dispute of material fact exists as to a matter that would be a contested case if such a dispute of fact existed, the parties may present all relevant admissible evidence either by stipulation or otherwise as agreed by the parties, without necessity for the production of evidence at an evidentiary hearing. If such agreement is reached, a jointly submitted schedule detailing the method and timetable for submission of the record, briefs and oral argument should be submitted to the presiding officer for approval as soon as practicable.

**653—12.37(17A) Emergency adjudicative proceedings.**

**12.37(1) Emergency action.** To the extent necessary to prevent or avoid immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare, and consistent with the Constitution and other provisions of law, the board may issue a written order in compliance with Iowa Code section 17A.18 to suspend a license in whole or in part, order the cessation of any continuing activity, order affirmative action, or take other action within the jurisdiction of the board by emergency adjudicative order. Before issuing an emergency adjudicative order the board shall consider factors including, but not limited to, the following:

- a. Whether there has been a sufficient factual investigation to ensure that the board is proceeding on the basis of reliable information;
- b. Whether the specific circumstances which pose immediate danger to the public health, safety or welfare have been identified and determined to be continuing;
- c. Whether the person required to comply with the emergency adjudicative order may continue to engage in other activities without posing immediate danger to the public health, safety or welfare;
- d. Whether imposition of monitoring requirements or other interim safeguards would be sufficient to protect the public health, safety or welfare; and
- e. Whether the specific action contemplated by the board is necessary to avoid the immediate danger.

**12.37(2) Issuance of order.**

a. An emergency adjudicative order shall contain findings of fact, conclusions of law, and policy reasons to justify the determination of an immediate danger in the board's decision to take immediate action. The order is a public record.

b. The written emergency adjudicative order shall be immediately delivered to the person who is required to comply with the order by utilizing one or more of the following procedures:

- (1) Personal delivery;
- (2) Certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last address on file with the agency;
- (3) Certified mail to the last address on file with the agency; or
- (4) Fax. Fax may be used as the sole method of delivery if the person required to comply with the order has filed a written request that agency orders be sent by fax and has provided a fax number for that purpose.

c. To the degree practicable, the board shall select the procedure for providing written notice that best ensures prompt, reliable delivery.

**12.37(3) *Oral notice.*** Unless the written emergency adjudicative order is provided by personal delivery on the same day that the order issues, the board shall make reasonable immediate efforts to contact by telephone the person who is required to comply with the order.

**12.37(4) *Completion of proceedings.*** After the issuance of an emergency adjudicative order, the board shall proceed as quickly as feasible to complete any proceedings that would be required if the matter did not involve an immediate danger.

Issuance of a written emergency adjudicative order shall include notification of the date on which board proceedings are scheduled for completion. After issuance of an emergency adjudicative order, continuance of further agency proceedings to a later date will be granted only in compelling circumstances upon application in writing, unless the person who is required to comply with the order is the party requesting the continuance.

**653—12.38(17A) *Judicial review and appeal.*** Judicial review of the board's action may be sought in accordance with the terms of the Iowa administrative procedure Act, from and after the date of the director's order.

**653—12.39(17A) *Publication of decisions.*** Final decisions of the board relating to disciplinary procedures shall be transmitted to the appropriate professional association(s), Federation of State Medical Boards, and a newspaper(s) of general circulation to be selected by the board.

**653—12.40(17A) *Reinstatement.*** Any person whose license to practice medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine and surgery or osteopathy, has been revoked, or suspended by the board, may apply to the board for reinstatement in accordance with the terms and conditions of the order of revocation or suspension.

**12.40(1)** If the order of revocation or suspension did not establish terms and conditions upon which reinstatement might occur, or if the license was voluntarily surrendered, an initial application for reinstatement may not be made until one year has elapsed from the date of the director's order or the date of voluntary surrender.

**12.40(2)** All proceedings for reinstatement shall be initiated by the respondent, who shall file with the board an application for the reinstatement of the respondent's license. Such application shall be docketed in the original case in which the license was revoked, suspended, or relinquished. All proceedings upon the petition for reinstatement shall be subject to the same rules of procedure as other cases before the board.

**12.40(3)** An application for reinstatement shall allege facts which, if established, will be sufficient to enable the board to determine that the basis for the revocation or suspension of the respondent's license no longer exists and that it will be in the public interest for the license to be reinstated. The burden of proof to establish such facts shall be on the respondent.

**12.40(4)** An order of reinstatement shall be based upon a decision which incorporates findings of fact and conclusions of law, and must be based upon the affirmative vote of not fewer than six members of the board. The order of reinstatement shall be published as provided for in 12.39(17A).

**653—12.41(17A) License denial.** A decision of the board denying an application for licensure shall be appealed by filing a written notice of appeal with the board by certified mail, return receipt requested, within 30 days of a mailing of a notice of denial of license. The appeal of a license denial shall be conducted in accordance with the contested case hearing rules of this chapter.

**653—12.42(17A) Appeal of a contested case.** An appeal of a contested case decision taken pursuant to the provisions of Iowa Code section 148C.6A by a physician assistant involving discipline of the physician assistant shall be conducted pursuant to the provisions of rule 12.32(17A).

**653—12.43(272C) Disciplinary hearings—fees and costs.**

**12.43(1) Definitions.** As used in this rule in relation to a formal disciplinary action filed by the board against a licensee:

“*Deposition*” means the testimony of a person taken pursuant to subpoena or at the request of the state of Iowa taken in a setting other than a hearing.

“*Expenses*” means costs incurred by persons appearing pursuant to subpoena or at the request of the state of Iowa for purposes of providing testimony on the part of the state of Iowa in a hearing or other official proceeding and shall include mileage reimbursement at the rate specified in Iowa Code section 70A.9 or, if commercial air or ground transportation is used, the actual cost of transportation to and from the proceeding. Also included are actual costs incurred for meals and necessary lodging.

“*Medical examination fees*” means actual costs incurred by the board in a physical, mental, chemical abuse, or other impairment-related examination or evaluation of a licensee when the examination or evaluation is conducted pursuant to an order of the board.

“*Transcript*” means a printed verbatim reproduction of everything said on the record during a hearing or other official proceeding.

“*Witness fees*” means compensation paid by the board to persons appearing pursuant to subpoena or at the request of the state of Iowa for purposes of providing testimony on the part of the state of Iowa. For the purpose of this rule, compensation shall be the same as outlined in Iowa Code section 622.69 or 622.72 as the case may be.

**12.43(2) Disciplinary hearing fee.** The board may charge a fee not to exceed \$75 for conducting a disciplinary hearing which results in disciplinary action taken against the licensee by the board. An order assessing a fee shall be included as part of the board’s final decision. The order shall direct the licensee to deliver payment directly to the department of public health as provided in subrule 12.43(6).

**12.43(3) Recovery of related hearing costs.** The board may also recover from the licensee the costs for transcripts, witness fees and expenses, depositions, and medical examination fees. The board may assess these costs in the manner it deems most equitable in accordance with the following:

*a. Transcript costs.* The board may assess the transcript costs against the licensee pursuant to Iowa Code section 272C.6(6) or against the requesting party pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.12(7).

(1) The cost of the transcript includes the transcript of the original contested case hearing before the board, as well as transcripts of any other formal proceedings before the board which occur after the notice of the contested case hearing is filed.

(2) In the event of an appeal to the full board from a proposed decision, the appealing party shall timely request and pay for the transcript necessary for use in the agency appeal process.

*b. Witness fees and expenses.* The parties in a contested case shall be responsible for any witness fees and expenses incurred by witnesses appearing at the contested case hearing. In addition, the board may assess a licensee the witness fees and expenses incurred by witnesses called to testify on behalf of the state of Iowa, providing the costs are calculated as follows:

(1) The costs for lay witnesses shall be determined in accordance with Iowa Code section 622.69. For purposes of calculating the mileage expenses allowed under that section, the provisions of Iowa Code section 625.2 do not apply.



(2) The costs for expert witnesses shall be determined in accordance with Iowa Code section 622.72. For purposes of calculating the mileage expenses allowed under that section, the provisions of Iowa Code section 625.2 do not apply.

(3) The provisions of Iowa Code section 622.74 regarding advance payment of witness fees and the consequences of failure to make such payment are applicable with regard to witnesses who are subpoenaed by either party to testify at the hearing.

(4) The board may assess as costs the meal and lodging expenses necessarily incurred by witnesses testifying at the request of the state of Iowa. Meal and lodging costs shall not exceed the reimbursement employees of the state of Iowa receive for these expenses under the department of revenue and finance guidelines in effect on July 1, 1993.

*c. Deposition costs.* Deposition costs for purposes of allocating costs against a licensee include only those deposition costs incurred by the state of Iowa. The licensee is directly responsible for the payment of deposition costs incurred by the licensee.

(1) The costs for depositions include the cost of transcripts, the daily charge of the court reporter for attending and transcribing the deposition, and all mileage and travel time charges of the court reporter for traveling to and from the deposition which are charged in the ordinary course of business.

(2) If the deposition is of an expert witness, the deposition cost includes a reasonable expert witness fee. This fee shall not exceed the expert's customary hourly or daily fee, and shall include the time reasonably and necessarily spent in connection with such depositions, including the time spent in travel to and from the deposition, but excluding time spent in preparation for that deposition.

*d. Medical examination fees.* All costs of physical or mental examinations ordered by the board pursuant to Iowa Code section 272C.9(1) as part of an investigation of a pending complaint or as a sanction following a contested case shall be paid directly by the licensee.

**12.43(4) Certification of reimbursable costs.** Within ten days after conclusion of a contested case hearing and before issuance of any final decision assessing costs, the executive director/designated staff person shall certify any reimbursable costs to the board. The executive director shall calculate the specific costs, certify the cost calculated, and file the certification as part of the record in the contested case. A copy of the certification shall be served on each party of record at the time of the filing.

**12.43(5) Assessment of fees and costs.** A final decision of the board imposing disciplinary action against a licensee shall include the amount of any fee assessed, which shall not exceed \$75. If the board also assesses costs against the licensee, the final decision shall include a statement of costs delineating each category of costs and the amount assessed. The board shall specify the time period in which the fees and costs must be paid by the licensee.

*a.* A party shall file an objection to any fees or costs imposed in a final decision in order to exhaust administrative remedies. An objection shall be filed in the form of an application for rehearing pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.16(2).

*b.* The application shall be resolved by the board consistent with the procedures for ruling on an application for rehearing. Any dispute regarding the calculations of any fees or costs to be assessed may be resolved by the board upon receipt of the parties' written objections.

**12.43(6) Payment of fees and costs.** All fees and costs assessed pursuant to this subrule shall be made in the form of a check or money order made payable to the state of Iowa and delivered by the licensee to the department of public health.

**12.43(7) Failure to make payment.** Failure of a licensee to pay any fees and costs within the time specified in the board's decision shall constitute a violation of an order of the board and shall be grounds for disciplinary action.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 17A as amended by 1998 Iowa Acts, chapter 1202, and Iowa Code chapters 147, 148 and 272C.

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