

CHAPTER 22

JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

Rule 22.1	Supervision of courts
Rule 22.2	Recall and transfer of judges
Rule 22.3	Selection of chief judges
Rule 22.4	Order appointing chief judge
Rule 22.5	Duties and powers of chief judges
Rule 22.6	Court and trial sessions
Rule 22.7	Case assignment
Rule 22.8	Judicial district scheduling
Rule 22.9	Change of venue to another judicial district
Rule 22.10	Judges — monthly report
Rule 22.11	Practice of law by judges
Rule 22.12	Senior judges
Rule 22.13	Service by retired judges
Rule 22.14	Judicial vacation
Rule 22.15	Quasi-judicial business
Rule 22.16	Preaudit travel claims of judiciary — definitions
Rule 22.17	Reimbursable travel
Rule 22.18	Transportation
Rule 22.19	Lodging
Rule 22.20	Meals
Rule 22.21	Miscellaneous travel provisions
Rule 22.22	Gifts
Rule 22.23	Honoraria
Rule 22.24	Interests in public contracts
Rule 22.25	Services against the state
Rule 22.26	Personal disclosure
Rule 22.27	Definitions
Rule 22.28	Transcripts — rates for transcribing a court reporter's official notes
Rule 22.29	Marriage fees received by a judicial officer
Rule 22.30	Use of signature facsimile
Rule 22.31	Juror compensation
Rule 22.32	Magistrates — annual school of instruction
Rule 22.33	Nepotism
Rule 22.34	Judicial branch appointments
Rule 22.35	Service copies
Rule 22.36	Paper size and requested copies
Rule 22.37	Judicial officer medical leave
Rule 22.38	Reserved
Rule 22.39	Staffing offices of clerks of court
Rule 22.40	Public business hours of offices of clerks of court
Rule 22.41	Treatment courts

CHAPTER 22

JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

Rule 22.1 Supervision of courts. The supreme court, by and through the chief justice, shall exercise supervisory and administrative control over all trial courts in the state, and over the judges and other personnel thereof, including but not limited to authority to make and issue any order a chief judge may make under rule 22.5, or to modify, amend or revoke any such order or court schedule.

[Report 1969; Court Order November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002]

Rule 22.2 Recall and transfer of judges. The supreme court by and through the chief justice may at any time order the recall of eligible retired judges for active service, and the transfer of active judges and other court personnel from one judicial district to another to provide a sufficient number of judges to handle the judicial business in all districts promptly and efficiently.

[Report 1969; Court Order November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002]

Rule 22.3 Selection of chief judges. Not later than December 15 in each odd-numbered year the chief justice, with the approval of the supreme court, shall appoint from the district judges of each district one of their number to serve as chief judge. The judge so appointed shall serve for a two-year term and shall be eligible for reappointment. Vacancies in the office of chief judge shall be filled in the same manner within 30 days after the vacancy occurs. During any period of vacancy the judge of longest service in the district shall be the acting chief judge.

[Report 1969; Court Order October 31, 1997, effective January 24, 1998; October 27, 1999, effective January 3, 2000; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002]

Rule 22.4 Order appointing chief judge. An order appointing a chief judge shall be filed with the clerk of the supreme court who shall mail a copy to the clerk of the district court in each county in the judicial district. The clerk of the supreme court may mail the copies of the order electronically.

[Report 1969; Court Order November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; April 11, 2007]

Rule 22.5 Duties and powers of chief judges. In addition to their ordinary judicial duties, chief judges shall exercise continuing administrative supervision within their respective districts over all district courts, judges, magistrates, officials and employees thereof for the purposes stated in Iowa R. Civ. P. 1.1807. They shall by order fix times and places of holding court and designate the respective presiding judges and magistrates; they shall supervise and direct the performance of all administrative business of their district courts; they may conduct judicial conferences of their district judges, district associate judges, and magistrates to consider, study and plan for improvement of the administration of justice; and may make such administrative orders as necessary. No chief judge shall at any time direct or influence any judge or magistrate in any ruling or decision in any proceeding or matter whatsoever.

The chief judge of a judicial district may appoint from the other district judges an assistant or assistants to serve on a judicial district-wide basis and at the chief judge's pleasure. When so acting, such an assistant shall have those powers and duties given to the chief judge by statute or rule of court which are specified in the order of appointment. Such appointment shall by general order be made a matter of record in each county in the judicial district.

[Report 1969; amendment 1972; amendment 1979; Court Order October 31, 1997, effective January 24, 1998; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002]

Rule 22.6 Court and trial sessions. Chief judges shall by order provide for the following:

22.6(1) A court session by a district judge at least once each week in each county of the district, announced in advance in the form of a written schedule, unless a different schedule is approved by the supreme court.

22.6(2) Additional sessions in each county for the trial of cases, and other judicial matters, of such duration and frequency as will best serve to expeditiously dispose of pending cases ready for trial, and other pending judicial matters.

[Report 1969; Court Order November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002]

Rule 22.7 Case assignment. The chief judge may assign and monitor cases within the district and may delegate this authority to the district court administrator by general supervisory order or on a case-by-case basis. District judges, district associate judges, associate juvenile judges, associate probate judges, and magistrates shall attend to any matter within their statutory jurisdiction assigned to them by the chief judge.

[Court Order May 30, 1986; February 14, 1996; July 26, 1996; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002]

Rule 22.8 Judicial district scheduling.

22.8(1) The chief judge of each judicial district shall by annual written order set the times and places of holding court within the judicial district and designate the respective presiding judges. The order shall provide for a court session at least once a week in each county of the judicial district, unless otherwise approved by the supreme court. The order shall provide for a scheduled trial session in each county of the judicial district at least four times each year, to be presided over by a different judge. In determining the schedule ordered, the chief judge shall rotate trial judges without regard to judicial election district lines to facilitate the administration of justice, integrate the district bench and promote the ideal of district administration.

22.8(2) An order of the chief judge demonstrating compliance with this rule for the next calendar year shall be filed by October 15 of the preceding calendar year with the clerk of the supreme court. Following supreme court approval, the chief judge shall file a copy of the order with the clerk of the district court in each county of the respective judicial district.

[Court Order October 15, 1985; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002]

Rule 22.9 Change of venue to another judicial district.

22.9(1) Definitions. As used in this rule:

a. “*Receiving county*” means the county to which a change of venue is ordered.

b. “*Sending county*” means the county from which a change of venue is ordered.

22.9(2) Communication prior to ordering a change of venue. Before ordering a change of venue to another judicial district for trial, a judge shall communicate with the office of the chief judge of the judicial district in which the intended receiving county is located. The judge shall determine from inquiry of the chief judge or the chief judge’s designee the availability of a courtroom, a jury panel if required, and any necessary court personnel in the receiving county. Subject to the approval of the chief justice, the judicial district in which the sending county is located shall provide the trial judge and court reporter for the transferred proceeding.

22.9(3) Transmission of copies of order changing venue. Copies of an order changing venue shall be promptly transmitted to all of the following:

a. The chief judge of the judicial district in which the receiving county is located.

b. The court administrator for the judicial district in which the receiving county is located.

c. The clerk of the district court for the receiving county.

d. The state court administrator, Iowa Judicial Branch Building, 1111 East Court Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

e. Any other persons required by law to receive copies of such an order.

22.9(4) Action brought in wrong county. This rule does not apply where the action was brought in the wrong county.

[Court Order October 20, 1981; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; April 9, 2003]

See also rule 2.11 and rule 2.65.

Rule 22.10 Judges — monthly report.

22.10(1) Each senior judge, district judge, district associate judge, full-time associate juvenile judge, full-time associate probate judge, and judicial magistrate shall report monthly to the supreme court, through the office of the state court administrator, all matters taken under advisement in any case for longer than 60 days, together with an explanation of the reasons for the delay and an expected date of decision. If no matters have been taken under advisement over 60 days, the report shall state “none.” Senior judges need only file reports for those months during which they perform judicial duties or have matters under advisement.

22.10(2) Any submission shall be reported when all hearings have been completed and the matter awaits decision without further appearance of the parties or their attorney. A matter shall be deemed submitted even though briefs or transcripts have been ordered but have not yet been filed.

22.10(3) The report shall be due on the tenth day of each calendar month for the period ending with the last day of the preceding calendar month. The report shall be signed by the judge or magistrate and submitted on a form prescribed by the state court administrator.

22.10(4) A judge who is reporting a matter or matters taken under advisement for longer than 60 days shall send to the district court administrator a copy of the report forwarded to the state court administrator. The chief judge of the district shall review the copies filed in the district court administrator's office and take such action as shall be appropriate. A chief judge may elect whether to report any action taken to the supreme court. A district chief judge reporting such matters to the supreme court shall forward a copy to the liaison justice for the chief judge's judicial district.

22.10(5) The state court administrator shall promptly cause all reports received to be filed in the office of the clerk of the supreme court as records available for public inspection.

[Court Order December 15, 1977; February 20, 1981; July 16, 1984 — received for publication October 25, 1984; June 28, 1985, effective July 1, 1985; July 26, 1996; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002]

Rule 22.11 Practice of law by judges.

22.11(1) A newly appointed full-time associate juvenile judge, full-time associate probate judge, district associate judge, district judge, court of appeals judge, or supreme court justice (hereinafter, judge) may have 30 days from the date of qualifying for office pursuant to Iowa Code section 63.6, or until the vacancy in the office actually occurs, whichever is later, in which to terminate any private law practice before assuming judicial duties. No newly appointed judge shall be placed on the state payroll or assume judicial duties until such private practice is concluded.

22.11(2) In terminating a law practice, the newly appointed judge shall undertake no new matters, shall conclude those matters which can be completed within the time provided in rule 22.11(1) and shall transfer those matters which cannot be so concluded or which require trial. While in the process of terminating a private practice, the newly appointed judge shall keep court appearances to a minimum.

22.11(3) Upon good cause shown, the supreme court may extend the time in which a newly appointed judge shall comply with this rule.

22.11(4) After assuming judicial duties and being placed on the payroll, a judge shall not engage in the practice of law. The practice of law includes but is not limited to the examination of abstracts, consummation of real estate transactions, preparation of legal briefs, deeds, buy and sell agreements, contracts, wills and tax returns.

[Court Order April 29, 1980; June 28, 1985, effective July 1, 1985; July 26, 1996; December 17, 1996, effective January 2, 1997; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; April 4, 2002]

Rule 22.12 Senior judges.

22.12(1) The supreme court will accept applications from judges for the senior judge program for judges who will be 62 years of age or older at the time the judge assumes senior status. The 62-years-of-age requirement in this rule is effective January 1, 2018, but it will not apply to judges who have 20 years of service prior to the effective date of this rule.

22.12(2) A senior judge must be a resident of the State of Iowa to serve as a senior judge.

22.12(3) In order for senior judges to provide the most effective service to the judicial branch, the supreme court may assign a senior judge:

- a. Within the district the judge served before taking senior status.
- b. To a district other than the judge served before taking senior status.
- c. To more than one district.
- d. To cross district lines, when necessary.
- e. To conduct court-sanctioned alternative dispute resolution.
- f. To the state court administrator to perform non-adjudicative duties such as working on special projects involving technology or education, mentoring other judges, or assisting the supreme court in its administrative or rule-making functions.
- g. To the court of appeals to assist it in its adjudicative duties.
- h. To serve in the capacity of an administrative law judge pursuant to Iowa Code section 602.9206.
- i. To any other duties the supreme court may approve.

22.12(4) Prior to submitting an application to become a senior judge, the judge, the chief judge of the district, the district court administrator, and the state court administrator may meet and discuss the judge's potential assignment together with the scope and parameters of the senior judge's service. If the judge decides to apply for senior status, the judge can request the supreme court to give that judge a preliminary determination as to whether the supreme court will approve the judge's application.

22.12(5) The supreme court, in ruling on an application for senior status, including reappointment of an applicant to an additional term, may consider the following factors:

- a. The applicant's demonstration of a willingness and ability to undertake and complete all assigned work during the applicant's service as a judge or a senior judge.
- b. The recommendation of the chief judge and court administrator made in consultation with other judges from the district, in the district where the judge has served.
- c. The result of the most recent Iowa State Bar Association judicial performance evaluation.
- d. The applicant's monthly rule 22.10 reports.
- e. The applicant's agreement to perform duties as scheduled and assigned by the chief judge of the district, by an appellate court where the senior judge is assigned, or by the state court administrator.
- f. The applicant's plans, if any, to regularly spend time or reside out-of-state.
- g. The applicant's work or plans to work as a mediator, arbitrator, or provider of other alternative dispute resolution services.

22.12(6) A person who files an election to become a senior judge any time after the date of retirement, pursuant to Iowa Code section 602.9203, shall file written evidence with the clerk of the supreme court that the person has not engaged in the practice of law between the person's date of retirement and date of senior judge election.

22.12(7) An applicant for appointment to become a senior judge or a senior judge who applies for reappointment to an additional term shall provide evidence to the satisfaction of the supreme court that the applicant or senior judge does not suffer from a physical or mental disability or an illness that would substantially interfere with the performance of duties agreed to under this rule. Evidence shall include:

- a. A statement of ability to serve by the applicant and a written opinion of a doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathic medicine and surgery.
- b. Prior to or following appointment or reappointment, a judge or senior judge must provide the court with additional information about the senior judge's physical and mental health and authorization for the release of medical information upon request.

22.12(8) A senior judge may only serve for a total period of six years. In any event, a senior judge shall cease holding office when the senior judge reaches 78 years of age. To be eligible for consideration, a senior judge must file an application for reappointment within 30 days prior to the expiration of the senior judge's term. The six-year-term-of-service limitation is effective January 1, 2018, but it will not apply to judges who have 20 years of service prior to January 1, 2018.

22.12(9) At the end of each calendar quarter, a senior judge shall file a report with the clerk of the supreme court indicating the dates on which the senior judge performed judicial or other assigned duties and the nature of the duties performed or the name of the cases over which the judge presided on each date of service. A senior judge assigned to a judicial district shall provide a copy of the report to the chief judge and the district court administrator. A senior judge assigned to an appellate court shall provide a copy of the report to the chief judge of the court of appeals or the chief justice, whichever is appropriate, and to the state court administrator. For purposes of this rule, a calendar quarter is a three-month period in the one-year period that commences on the date a retired judge becomes a senior judge and continues for each successive one-year period while the judge continues to be a senior judge.

22.12(10) Senior judges and applicants for appointment and reappointment to the senior judge program must provide information and reports required by this section on forms approved by the supreme court. The court administrator may require a senior judge to submit a statement of ability to serve by the senior judge and a written opinion of a doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathic medicine and surgery.

22.12(11) The following rules shall apply to senior judges, retired judges assigned to temporary judicial duties pursuant to Iowa Code section 602.1612, and retired senior judges assigned to temporary judicial duties pursuant to section 602.1612 who wish to engage in mediation, arbitration, or other forms of alternate dispute resolution:

a. A judge covered by this rule shall not act as an arbitrator, mediator, or provider of other forms of alternate dispute resolution while assigned to judicial service or when such action will interfere with an assignment to judicial service. A judge covered by this rule shall not use the title “senior judge” or the title “judge” in any form while acting as an arbitrator or mediator.

b. A senior judge shall disclose to the parties if the senior judge has mediated a dispute involving any party or any party’s insurer, lawyer, or law firm involved in a case before the senior judge, and any negotiations or agreements for the provision of mediation services between the senior judge and any party or any party’s insurer, lawyer, or law firm to a case before the senior judge. A senior judge shall not preside over any case involving a party or a party’s insurer, lawyer, or law firm that is using or negotiating to use the senior judge as a mediator, or has used or agreed to use the senior judge as a mediator in the past two years. A senior judge shall not serve as a mediator in any case in which the judge is currently presiding. A senior judge shall not mediate any dispute that is filed in or could be venued or filed in the judicial district or appellate court in which the judge serves. These restrictions cannot be waived by consent of the parties or lawyers. For purposes of this section, mediation includes arbitration and other forms of alternate dispute resolution.

c. At the end of each calendar quarter, a senior judge who has engaged in private mediation or dispute resolution activities during the quarter shall file a report with the clerk of the supreme court. The senior judge shall report the date or time period when the mediation occurred, the county where the mediation occurred, the county in which the dispute arose, the names of the parties, and the names of the lawyers and insurers, if any, involved in the mediation. A senior judge assigned to a judicial district shall provide a copy of the report to the chief judge and to the district court administrator. A senior judge assigned to an appellate court shall provide a copy of the report to the chief judge of the court of appeals or the chief justice, whichever is appropriate, and to the state court administrator. For purposes of this rule, a calendar quarter is a three-month period in the one-year period that commences on the date a retired judge becomes a senior judge and continues for each successive one-year period while the judge continues to be a senior judge.

[Court Order December 17, 1996, effective January 2, 1997; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; February 27, 2008; October 31, 2008, effective January 1, 2009; April 30, 2010, effective May 3, 2010; November 18, 2016, effective March 1, 2017]

Rule 22.13 Service by retired judges. No retired judge or retired senior judge shall be eligible for temporary service under the provisions of Iowa Code section 602.1612 after reaching the age of 78.

[Court Order September 30, 1987; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002]

Rule 22.14 Judicial vacation.

22.14(1) Supreme court justices, court of appeals judges, district judges, district associate judges, full-time associate juvenile judges, and full-time associate probate judges are entitled to 27 working days of vacation per calendar year. After 15 years of service with the judicial branch, supreme court justices, court of appeals judges, district judges, district associate judges, full-time associate juvenile judges, and full-time associate probate judges are entitled to 32 working days of vacation per calendar year.

Vacation schedules of district judges, district associate judges, full-time associate juvenile judges, and full-time associate probate judges shall be coordinated through the office of the chief judge of the district. The chief judge shall cause a record to be kept of the amount of vacation taken by each judicial officer in the district. The number of vacation days shall be prorated during the calendar years a judicial officer begins and separates from judicial service.

No more than 32 working days of accrued, unused vacation from a prior year may be carried into a calendar year. Separation from judicial office shall cancel all unused vacation time. No compensation shall be granted for unused vacation time remaining at the time of separation.

22.14(2) Schedules for judicial magistrates should be arranged by the chief judge of each district to accommodate a reasonable vacation period; however, a judicial magistrate shall not be entitled to any specific vacation days for which compensation may be granted, nor may compensation be granted for days not taken prior to separation from judicial service.

[Court Order May 20, 1980; May 23, 1985, effective August 1, 1985; September 18, 1992, effective January 2, 1993; July 26, 1996; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; August 29, 2002; November 22, 2004, effective January 1, 2005; June 2, 2023]

Rule 22.15 Quasi-judicial business.

22.15(1) Each supreme court justice, court of appeals judge, district judge, district associate judge, full-time associate juvenile judge, and full-time associate probate judge may take up to ten working days per calendar year for the purpose of quasi-judicial business. This right is subject to the ability of the chief judge of each district to make necessary scheduling adjustments to accommodate requests. The ten days shall be prorated during the calendar years a judicial officer begins and separates from judicial service. The chief justice of the supreme court may authorize exceptions to this rule.

22.15(2) “Quasi-judicial business” includes teaching, speaking, attending related educational programs, courses or seminars, and those duties specified in rule 22.16(5)(b)(8) and rule 22.16(5)(b)(13) but does not include time spent on other “official duties” enumerated in rule 22.16(5)(b), or teaching judicial branch educational programs when prior approval is obtained from the chief judge of the appropriate judicial district and chief justice of the supreme court.

[Court Order May 20, 1980; May 23, 1985, effective August 1, 1985; June 28, 1985, effective July 1, 1985; October 24, 1985, effective November 1, 1985; July 26, 1996; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; August 29, 2002]

Rule 22.16 Preaudit travel claims of judiciary — definitions. As used in this rule and rules 22.17 through 22.21:

22.16(1) “Court employee” or “employee of the judicial branch” means an officer or employee of the judicial branch except for a judicial officer or a court reporter.

22.16(2) “Court reporter” means every full-time or temporary court reporter compensated by the judicial branch pursuant to Iowa Code section 602.1502.

22.16(3) “Judicial officer” means every justice, judge, district associate judge, senior judge, associate juvenile judge, associate probate judge, judicial hospitalization referee, and magistrate, appointed to serve in the state of Iowa.

22.16(4) *Official domicile.*

a. “Court employee’s official domicile” means the work location to which that court employee is assigned. Transportation costs between any such employee’s permanent home and that employee’s official domicile are not reimbursable.

b. “Judicial officer and court reporter’s official domicile.” By December 15 of each year, the chief judge of the judicial district and the district court administrator shall designate a courthouse as an official domicile for each judicial officer and court reporter. The official domicile of a judicial officer and a court reporter shall be the courthouse in the county in which the judicial officer or court reporter resides unless the chief judge of the judicial district and the district court administrator agree to another location based on factors such as the percent of time spent working at another courthouse, court scheduling, or any other factor that should influence the selection of the domicile. Court reporters may reside outside of the judicial district in which they serve. If a court reporter resides outside of the judicial district in which the court reporter serves, the chief judge of the judicial district and the district court administrator shall designate the court reporter’s official domicile in a county adjacent to the judicial district in which the court reporter resides. If there is a change in any of the factors that affect the court reporter’s domicile location during the fiscal year, the chief judge of the judicial district and the district court administrator may change the court reporter’s official domicile. Notification of official domicile must be filed by the district court administrator with the state court administrator’s office by December 15 of each year.

22.16(5) “Official duties” means the following:

a. “Official duties” of a court reporter or court employee are the responsibilities and functions contained in the judicial branch job description for the position the individual holds.

b. “Official duties” of a judicial officer are the responsibilities and functions customarily and usually pertaining to the office of judge or referee. Subject to Iowa Code section 602.1509, and this rule and rules 22.17 through 22.21, official duties include the following:

(1) Attendance at court sittings and performance of the other work of the court.

(2) Attendance at judicial conferences called under Iowa Code section 602.1203.

(3) Attendance by district judges, district associate judges, associate juvenile judges, associate probate judges, and judicial magistrates at district judicial conferences called by chief judges of the district court.

(4) Attendance to give testimony before committees of the general assembly, at the committees’ request.

(5) Attendance at meetings of judicial nominating commissions as the judicial member of the commission.

(6) Performance of functions as a member of committees or commissions appointed by the supreme court, the chief justice, or a chief judge of the district court on court procedure, administration, or structure.

(7) Attendance at meetings when designated by the chief justice to represent the judicial branch.

(8) If approved in advance by the chief justice: attendance to serve as judge at moot court proceedings for Iowa Law School and Drake Law School not to exceed one attendance per calendar year by any one attending judge; attendance at legal or judicial educational and training sessions and courses outside the state; and attendance at meetings of national associations of chief justices, appellate court justices and judges, trial court judges, and judicial officers of limited jurisdiction.

(9) Performance by chief judges of the district court of their administrative functions.

(10) Attendance by members of the judicial council at meetings of the council and of its committees.

(11) Performance by liaison justices of their functions as such within their assigned judicial districts.

(12) Attendance by district associate judges and judicial magistrates at the Iowa judicial magistrates schools of instruction and traffic court conferences.

(13) Performance of functions for which reimbursement of travel expense is authorized by any other Iowa statute or rule of the supreme court.

[Court Order November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; August 29, 2002; Supervisory Order August 10, 2004; Court Order August 31, 2020, effective September 1, 2020]

Rule 22.17 Reimbursable travel.

22.17(1) *In-state.*

a. Expenses incurred for in-state travel outside the judicial district, except expenses incurred by juvenile court officers in the discharge of their official duties, are not reimbursable unless prior approval for the travel has been given by the chief justice or the chief justice's designee on a prescribed form. In-state travel for juvenile court officers shall include travel within a 100-mile radius outside the borders of the state of Iowa. Expenses incurred for in-state travel outside the judicial district by juvenile court officers in the discharge of their official duties are not reimbursable unless approval for the travel has been given by the chief juvenile court officer of the judicial district.

b. Reimbursement under this chapter for in-state travel expenses incurred by juvenile court officers in the discharge of their official duties shall be provided from funds administered by the judicial branch or pursuant to Iowa Code section 232.141, as applicable.

22.17(2) *Out-of-state.*

a. Requests to attend conferences, meetings, training courses, programs, and similar gatherings which require out-of-state travel shall be submitted to the chief justice or the chief justice's designee on a prescribed form at least two weeks prior to the proposed departure date. No reimbursement of out-of-state expenses shall be made unless the trip has received prior approval of the chief justice or the chief justice's designee except as otherwise provided in this rule.

b. Reimbursement for expenses incurred for out-of-state travel by juvenile court officers in the discharge of their official duties relating to court-ordered transportation and placement shall be allowed if oral or written approval is given by the chief juvenile court officer of the judicial district and the chief justice or the chief justice's designee at any time prior to the proposed departure.

c. Reimbursement under this chapter for out-of-state travel expenses incurred by juvenile court officers in the discharge of their official duties shall be provided from funds administered by the judicial branch or pursuant to Iowa Code section 232.141, as applicable.

[Court Order November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; August 29, 2002]

Rule 22.18 Transportation.

22.18(1) *Route and conveyance.* Transportation shall be by the usually traveled route. Mileage shall be based on mileage published by the department of transportation. Reimbursement shall be limited to the most economical means of conveyance available.

22.18(2) Mileage — personal car. Judicial officers and court employees shall be reimbursed their mileage expense when required in the discharge of official duties to travel outside their official domicile. Reimbursement shall be for the miles driven from the official domicile or employee's residence, whichever is less, to the work location. In no instance shall employees and judicial officers be reimbursed for more than actual miles driven. Carpooling is recommended whenever possible. The allowance for use of a private automobile on official judicial branch business shall be established by order of the supreme court and shall be presumed to include all automobile expenses. Additionally, judicial officers and court employees shall be reimbursed their mileage expense for travel required in the discharge of official duties within the continuous metropolitan area of their official domicile. Travel directly between employees' and judicial officers' residences and their official domiciles will not be reimbursed.

22.18(3) Transportation other than private automobile. Expenses for transportation other than private automobile are reimbursed on an actual incurred cost basis and must be claimed accompanied by an original receipt.

22.18(4) Reimbursement of parking. Reimbursement for parking expense is allowable when mileage is claimed. Receipts for parking, taxi and/or other transportation expenses, are not required when the total amount, per day, does not exceed \$15. Receipts must be attached to the travel voucher for employees to receive reimbursement for the above expenses in excess of \$15 per day.

[Court Order November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; August 29, 2002; Supervisory Order August 10, 2004; Court Order August 31, 2020, effective September 1, 2020]

Rule 22.19 Lodging.

22.19(1) In-state.

a. Lodging expense is reimbursed as incurred when a judicial officer, court reporter, or court employee is required, in the discharge of official duties, to leave the county of that person's official domicile. The name of the establishment where the expense is incurred shall be indicated on the claim form and the original receipt shall be attached. The single room rate is to be noted on the receipt when other than a single room was charged. Special rates for judicial officers, court reporters, and court employees are available at many motels and hotels in the state. An identification card identifying the holder as a judicial officer, court reporter, or court employee is usually necessary. Identification cards are available upon request from the office of the state court administrator. The allowance for lodging shall be the actual cost, but not exceeding \$80, plus applicable taxes, per day.

b. Judicial officers and court employees are to seek lodging facilities whose rates are within those prescribed in this rule or a reasonable explanation must be noted in the expense claim in order to be considered for reimbursement over the defined maximum rates. (*See* rule 22.21(6)). When seeking overnight lodging judicial officers and court employees should request the lowest of "state," "government," or "commercial" rates, as many facilities offer these "special" rates which a state employee can and should obtain.

22.19(2) Out-of-state. Lodging expense is not limited outside the state, but the incurred expenditures are to be reasonable. Lodging for approved out-of-state travel shall be reimbursed for the night preceding and the night of the ending date of the authorized meeting.

[Court Order November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; June 16, 2006, effective July 1, 2006; January 4, 2012; July 19, 2021, effective August 1, 2021]

Rule 22.20 Meals.

22.20(1) In-state. Incurred meal expense shall be reimbursed at "reasonable and necessary" cost when a judicial officer, court reporter, or court employee is required, in the discharge of official duties, to leave the county of that person's official domicile. A maximum of \$37 per day may be reimbursed for meals, as outlined below; however, if departure from the official domicile is before 6 a.m., a notation must be included on the Travel Voucher. At the return of the trip, if arrival back at the official domicile is after 7 p.m., a notation to this effect must be included on the Travel Voucher. Meal allowance for travel will be as follows:

a. Departure before 6 a.m. and return to official domicile after 7 p.m. may be reimbursed the actual cost for breakfast, lunch, and dinner up to a maximum of \$37.

b. Departure before 6 a.m. and return to official domicile before 7 p.m. may be reimbursed the actual cost for breakfast and lunch up to a maximum of \$18.

c. Departure after 6 a.m. and return to official domicile after 7 p.m. may be reimbursed the actual cost for lunch and dinner up to a maximum of \$29.

d. Departure after 6 a.m. and return to official domicile before 7 p.m. may be reimbursed the actual cost for lunch up to a maximum of \$10.

22.20(2) *Out-of-state.* Meal expenses are not limited out-of-state, but the incurred expenses are to be reasonable. When in travel status, lunch and dinner the day preceding the meeting, and breakfast and lunch the day after a meeting, are reimbursable expenditures.

22.20(3) *Overnight lodging required.* The provisions for meal reimbursement in rules 22.20(1) and 22.20(2) apply only when the travel includes overnight lodging.

[Court Order November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002, May 8, 2006; July 18, 2007, effective August 1, 2007; February 21, 2019, effective March 1, 2019]

Rule 22.21 Miscellaneous travel provisions.

22.21(1) *Continuing education expenses.* Provisions relating to “Official duties,” “Travel,” “Transportation,” “Lodging” and “Meals” as used in rules 22.16 through 22.21 shall not be applicable to expenses for continuing education requirements for court reporters or court employees, unless otherwise ordered by the chief justice or the chief justice’s designee.

22.21(2) *Examining Board expenses.* Board of Law Examiners and Shorthand Reporters Examiners will be reimbursed actual and necessary expenses not to exceed one and one-half times the reimbursement allowances provided in rules 22.19 and 22.20.

22.21(3) *Living outside official domicile.* When additional expense is incurred by reason of a court employee maintaining a permanent home in a city, town, or metropolitan area other than that person’s official domicile, unless otherwise determined by the state court administrator, the additional expense is not reimbursable.

22.21(4) *Registration fees.* Registration fees for authorized meetings and conferences are an allowable expense when accompanied by receipt.

22.21(5) *Claim preparation.*

a. All claims shall be typewritten, or printed in ink, and signed by the claimant. Receipts for lodging, public transportation, and any authorized miscellaneous expenses shall be attached to the upper left-hand corner of the form. Claim for reimbursement for out-of-state travel shall be submitted for payment upon completion of the trip.

b. Beginning March 1, 2019, any request for reimbursement of travel expenses must be submitted within 60 days of completion of travel.

c. If reimbursement is sought pursuant to Iowa Code section 232.141, the district court administrator shall process the claim per rules and procedures of the applicable county and the department of health and human services.

22.21(6) *Exceptions.* The chief justice or the chief justice’s designee may grant exceptions to rules 22.16 through 22.21 as necessitated by unusual circumstances.

22.21(7) *Refreshments.* The cost of refreshments served at meetings will not be reimbursed, except for educational programs sponsored and authorized by the chief justice or the chief justice’s designee.

22.21(8) Form. A written request for travel authority from the chief justice or the chief justice’s designee pursuant to rules 22.16 through 22.21 shall be in substantially the following form:

JUDICIAL BRANCH
REQUEST FOR TRAVEL AUTHORITY

_____ Outside of Iowa
_____ In-state, out of Judicial District

Date _____

Name _____
Title _____
Judicial District _____

Form to be submitted to Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or the Chief Justice’s designee prior to proposed departure date. See rules 22.16 to 22.21 for applicable travel and time for submission.

DEPARTURE FROM:

DESTINATION:

TRAVEL DATES (ROUND TRIP):

MODE OF TRAVEL:

PURPOSE OF TRAVEL:

(INCLUDE NATURE AND DATES OF MEETING OR OTHER PURPOSE OF TRAVEL AND JUSTIFICATION FOR PROFESSIONAL PURPOSES)

ESTIMATED COST:

Transportation:
Lodging:
Meals:
Other (Please Specify):
Total:

Anticipated Funding Source(s):

Approved as to form:

District Court Administrator
(initials)

Request Approved/Denied:

Request Approved/Denied:

Person requesting approval

Supervising authority (when applicable)

Chief Judge

Date

Chief Justice

Date

Supreme Court of Iowa
(or Chief Justice’s designee)

[Court Order June 11, 1981; November 30, 1981 (Received for publication January 5, 1983); June 28, 1984; June 28, 1985, effective July 1, 1985; October 3, 1985, effective October 15, 1985; May 15, 1986, effective July 1, 1986; November 20, 1986, effective December 1, 1986; July 21, 1988, effective August 1, 1988; October 12, 1989, effective November 1, 1989; November 13, 1990, effective January 2, 1991; January 17, 1991; July 12, 1991, effective July 12, 1991, for expenses on or after January 2, 1991; December 16, 1994, effective December 16, 1994; December 16, 1994, effective January 2, 1995; January 3, 1996; March 21, 1996; July 26, 1996; November 5, 1996; December 21, 1999, effective January 1, 2000; May 26, 2000, effective July 1, 2000; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; February 21, 2019, effective March 1, 2019; June 30, 2023, effective July 1, 2023]

Rule 22.22 Gifts.

22.22(1) Judicial officers are not subject to the provisions of this rule, but shall be subject to the gift provisions of the Iowa Code of Judicial Conduct.

22.22(2) Except as otherwise provided in this rule, an employee of the judicial branch or a member of that person’s immediate family shall not, directly or indirectly, accept, receive or solicit any gift or series of gifts.

22.22(3) As used in this rule:
a. “Employee” means any employee of the judicial branch other than a judicial officer subject to the gift provisions of the Iowa Code of Judicial Conduct.

b. “*Gift*” means a rendering of anything of value in return for which legal consideration of equal or greater value is not given or received, if the donor is:

- (1) A party or other person involved in a case pending before the donee.
- (2) A party or a person seeking to be a party to any sale, purchase, lease or contract involving the judicial branch or any of its offices, if the donee has authority to approve the sale, purchase, lease or contract, or if the donee assists or advises the person with authority to approve the sale, purchase, lease or contract.
- (3) A person who will be directly or substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the donee’s official duties in a way that is greater than the effect on the public generally or on a substantial class of persons to which the donor belongs as a member of a profession, occupation, industry or region.

c. “*Gift*” does not include:

- (1) Informational material relevant to the employee’s duties, such as books, pamphlets, reports, documents or periodicals, or the cost of registration for an education conference or seminar which is relevant to the employee’s duties.
- (2) Anything received from a person related within the fourth degree of kinship or marriage, unless the donor is acting as an agent or intermediary for another person not so related.
- (3) An inheritance or bequest.
- (4) Anything available or distributed to the public generally without regard to the official status of the recipient.
- (5) Actual expenses of a donee for food, beverages, travel, and lodging, which is given in return for participation at a meeting as a speaker, panel member or facilitator, when the expenses relate directly to the day or days on which the donee participates at the meeting, including necessary travel time.
- (6) Plaques or items of negligible resale value given as recognition for public service.
- (7) Nonmonetary items with a value of \$3 or less that are received from any one donor during one calendar day.
- (8) Items or services solicited by or given to a state, national or regional organization in which the state of Iowa or a political subdivision of the state is a member.
- (9) Items or services received as part of a regularly scheduled event that is part of a conference, seminar or other meeting that is sponsored and directed by any state, national or regional organization in which the judicial branch is a member.
- (10) Funeral flowers or memorials to a church or nonprofit organization.
- (11) Gifts which are given to an employee for the employee’s wedding or twenty-fifth or fiftieth wedding anniversary.

d. “*Immediate family*” means the spouse and minor children of an employee of the judicial branch.

22.22(4) For purposes of determining the value of an item, an individual who gives an item on behalf of more than one person shall not divide the value of the item by the number of persons on whose behalf the item is given and the value shall be the value actually received by the donee.

22.22(5) An employee of the judicial branch or the person’s immediate family member, may accept a nonmonetary gift or a series of nonmonetary gifts and not be in violation of this rule if the nonmonetary gift or series of nonmonetary gifts is donated within 30 days to a public body, the state court administrator, the department of general services, or a bona fide educational or charitable organization, if no part of the net earnings of the educational or charitable organization inures to the benefit of any private stockholder or other individual.

[Court Order June 30, 1980; July 31, 1987, effective August 3, 1987; December 29, 1992, effective January 1, 1993; August 19, 1993; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; April 30, 2010, effective May 3, 2010]

Rule 22.23 Honoraria.

22.23(1) An official or employee of the judicial branch shall not seek or accept an honorarium.

22.23(2) As used in this rule:

a. “*Honorarium*” means anything of value that is accepted by, or on behalf of, an official or employee of the judicial branch as consideration for an appearance, speech or article if the donor is:

- (1) A party or other person involved in a case pending before the donee.

(2) A party or person seeking to be a party to any sale, lease, or contract involving the judicial branch or any of its offices, if the donee has authority to approve the sale, lease, or contract or if the donee assists or advises the person with authority to approve the sale, lease, or contract.

(3) A person who will be directly and substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the donee's official duties in a way that is greater than the effect on the public generally or on a substantial class of persons to which the donor belongs as a member of a profession, occupation, industry or region.

b. "*Honorarium*" does not include:

(1) Actual expenses of a donee for food, beverages, travel, lodging and registration which is given in return for participation at a meeting as a speaker, panel member or facilitator when the expenses relate directly to the day or days on which the donee participates at the meeting, including necessary travel time.

(2) Payment to an employee for services rendered as part of outside employment which has been approved pursuant to the department's personnel policies, if the payment is commensurate with the actual activity or services rendered and not based upon the employee's position within the department, but, rather, because of some special expertise or other qualification.

(3) Payment to a judge or magistrate for officiating and making return for a marriage pursuant to rule 22.29.

(4) Payment to a judge or senior judge for instruction at an accredited education institution, if the payment is commensurate with the actual activity or services rendered and not based upon the judge's official position.

(5) Payment to a part-time judge for services rendered as part of a bona fide business or profession in which the judge is engaged, if the payment is commensurate with the actual activity or services rendered and not based upon the judge's official position.

(6) Payment to a senior judge for services rendered as an arbitrator or mediator, if the payment is commensurate with the actual activity or services rendered and not based upon the senior judge's official position. [Court Order December 29, 1992, effective January 1, 1993; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002]

Rule 22.24 Interests in public contracts.

22.24(1) A full-time official or employee of the judicial branch shall not sell any goods or services to any state agency.

22.24(2) As used in this rule, "services" does not include any of the following:

a. Instruction at an accredited education institution by a judge, senior judge or magistrate if permitted as a quasi-judicial or extrajudicial activity pursuant to the Code of Judicial Conduct or by an employee as part of outside employment which has been approved pursuant to the judicial branch's personnel policies.

b. The preparation of a transcript by an official court reporter.

[Court Order December 29, 1992, effective January 1, 1993; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; August 29, 2002]

Rule 22.25 Services against the state.

22.25(1) No official or employee of the judicial branch shall receive, directly or indirectly, or enter into an agreement, express or implied, for any compensation, in whatever form, for the appearance or rendition of services against the interest of the state in relation to any case, proceeding, application, or other matter before any state agency, any court of the state of Iowa, any federal court, or any federal bureau, agency, commission or department.

22.25(2) As used in this rule, "appearance or service against the interest of the state" means an appearance or service which conflicts with a person's duties or employment obligations owed to the state.

[Court Order December 29, 1992, effective January 1, 1993; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002]

Rule 22.26 Personal disclosure.

22.26(1) Each official shall file a statement of personal financial disclosure in the manner provided in this rule. The disclosure must be filed even if there is no financial information to report. The disclosure must contain:

a. A list of each business, occupation, or profession (other than employment by the judicial branch) in which the person is engaged and the nature of that business, occupation, or profession, unless already apparent.

b. A list of any sources of income (other than income from employment by the judicial branch) if the source produces more than one thousand dollars annually in gross income. "Sources of income" includes those sources which are held jointly with one or more persons and which in total generate more than \$1000 of income. "Jointly" means the ownership of the income source is undivided among the owners and all owners have one and the same interest in an undivided possession, each with full rights of use and enjoyment of the total income. Sources of income that are co-owned but with ownership interests that are legally divisible, without full rights of use or enjoyment of the total income, need not be reported unless the person's portion of the income from that source exceeds \$1000. For purposes of this rule, income earned solely by the spouse of a person subject to reporting is not income to that person and need not be reported as a source of income.

Sources of income listed pursuant to this rule may be listed under any of the following categories:

- (1) Securities.
- (2) Instruments of financial institutions.
- (3) Trusts.
- (4) Real estate.
- (5) Retirement systems.
- (6) Other income categories specified in state and federal income tax regulations.

22.26(2) The statement of personal financial disclosure shall be reported on forms prescribed by the state court administrator and shall be filed with the clerk of the supreme court on or by the first day of April each year or no later than 30 days after assuming office. The statement of personal financial disclosure forms shall be retained for a period of two years.

[Court Order December 29, 1992, effective January 1, 1993; Statement required April 1, 1994; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; November 22, 2004; December 22, 2022]

Rule 22.27 Definitions. As used in rules 22.22 to 22.26:

22.27(1) "*Employee*" means a paid employee of the state of Iowa, including independent contractors, and does not include a member of a board, commission, or committee.

22.27(2) "*Official*" means an officer of the judicial branch performing judicial functions, including an associate juvenile judge, a magistrate or referee, an associate probate judge, and the state court administrator, and does not include a member of a board, commission, or committee.

[Court Order December 29, 1992, effective January 1, 1993; July 26, 1996; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002]

Rule 22.28 Transcripts — rates for transcribing a court reporter's official notes.

22.28(1) Pursuant to Iowa Code section 602.3202, the maximum compensation of shorthand reporters for transcribing their official notes shall be as follows:

a. Ordinary transcript (a transcript of all or part of the proceedings) - \$4.55 per page for the original and one copy to the party ordering the original and \$1.00 per page for each additional copy.

b. Expedited transcript (a transcript of all or part of the proceedings to be delivered within seven calendar days after receipt of an order) - \$5.55 per page for the original and one copy to the party ordering the original and \$1.25 per page for each additional copy.

c. Daily transcript (a transcript of all or part of the proceedings to be delivered following adjournment for the day and prior to the normal opening hour of the court on the following morning whether or not it actually is a court day) - \$6.55 per page for the original and one copy to the party ordering the original and \$1.50 per page for each additional copy.

d. Unedited transcript (an unedited draft transcript produced as a byproduct of realtime or computer aided transcription software to be delivered on electronic media or paper) - \$3.30 per page for the original and \$0.75 per page for each copy. The unedited disk or printed draft transcript shall not be certified and may not be used to contradict the official district court transcript.

e. Realtime transcript (an unedited draft transcript produced by a certified realtime reporter as a byproduct of realtime to be delivered electronically during proceedings for viewing and retention) - \$3.80 per page for the original and \$1.50 per page for each copy. The unedited text of

the proceedings shall not be certified and may not be used to contradict the official district court transcript. Litigants who order realtime services, and subsequently order an original certified transcript of the same proceeding, will not receive credit toward the purchase cost of the certified transcript. Only certified realtime reporters may be compensated for such transcripts.

22.28(2) These rates of compensation shall apply to each separate page of transcript even if they are produced in a condensed transcript format.

22.28(3) These rates of compensation shall be the same whether the transcript is produced in an electronic or paper format. A certified transcript may be sold in an electronic format only if a paper transcript is produced, certified, and filed with the clerk of court for the records of the court or delivered to the custodial attorney. No additional charge is permitted for an ASCII disk or other form of electronic media when it accompanies a paper transcript.

22.28(4) Court reporters are only required to prepare ordinary transcripts. They may, but are not required to, produce the types of transcripts described in rule 22.28(1)(b-e).

[Court Order March 15, 2007; November 9, 2009; May 27, 2010; April 4, 2012; July 27, 2026, effective August 26, 2026]

Rule 22.29 Marriage fees received by a judicial officer.

22.29(1) A judge or magistrate may charge a fee for officiating and making return for each marriage solemnized at a time other than regular judicial working hours and at a place other than a court facility. This fee shall not exceed the sum of \$200.

22.29(2) A judge or magistrate may charge the parties to the marriage for expenses incurred in solemnizing the marriage. In no event shall the expenses charged exceed the maximum amounts set by rules 22.16 through 22.21.

22.29(3) The phrase “regular judicial working hours,” for purposes of this rule, shall mean 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (except for legal holidays) for all judicial officers except magistrates, and for them the schedule fixed by the chief judge of the judicial district.

[Court Order July 1, 1983; received for publication April 2, 1984; September 17, 1984; Court Order July 7, 1994, effective January 3, 1995; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; March 16, 2006]

Rule 22.30 Use of signature facsimile.

22.30(1) In all instances where a law of this state requires a written signature by a justice of the supreme court, judge of the court of appeals, district judge, district associate judge, judicial magistrate, clerk of the district court, county attorney, court reporter, associate juvenile judge, associate probate judge, judicial hospitalization referee, probate referee, or law enforcement officer, any such officer may use, or direct and authorize a designee to possess and use, a facsimile signature stamp bearing that officer’s signature or an electronically scanned signature of the officer pursuant to the provisions of this rule.

22.30(2) Whether used personally by the officer whose signature it bears or by a designee of that officer, a facsimile signature stamp or electronically scanned signature must contain a true facsimile of the actual signature of that officer. The stamp or electronically scanned signature shall be kept in the secure possession of the officer or that officer’s designee at all times, accessible only to the officer or the officer’s designee.

22.30(3) An officer directing and authorizing a designee to possess and use a facsimile signature stamp or electronically scanned signature bearing that officer’s signature shall execute a written designation of the authorization. The designation shall be addressed to the designee, by name or title, and shall specifically identify each category of documents to which the designee is authorized to affix the stamp or electronically scanned signature. The original of the written designation shall be filed with the district court administrator in the judicial district within which the officer is located; appellate judges and justices shall file their original designations with the clerk of the supreme court. A copy of the written designation shall be retained by the officer and by the designee.

22.30(4) A written designation made by an officer pursuant to rule 22.30(3) may be revoked, in writing, at any time by the officer who executed it, and shall stand automatically revoked upon that officer’s ceasing to hold the office for any reason. A written revocation of designation shall be addressed to the former designee, in the same manner as the original designation. A copy of the written revocation shall be retained by the officer and by the former designee. A facsimile signature stamp in the possession of a former designee shall be forthwith returned to the officer who issued it, if available, or shall be destroyed by the former designee. A revoked electronically scanned signature shall be deleted.

22.30(5) Nothing contained in this rule shall abrogate any provision of Iowa Code section 4.1(39).

[Court Order May 17, 1984; July 25, 1986, effective September 2, 1986; June 22, 1987, effective August 3, 1987; July 26, 1996; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; June 3, 2009; March 9, 2010]

Rule 22.31 Juror compensation.

22.31(1) Compensation for a juror's first seven days of attendance and service on a case shall be \$30 per day, including attendance required for the purpose of being considered for service.

22.31(2) When a juror's attendance and service on a case exceed seven days, the rate of compensation shall be \$50 for each day after the seventh day.

22.31(3) For purposes of juror compensation, the days of attendance and service do not have to be consecutive.

[Court Order September 25, 2006; October 22, 2007]

Rule 22.32 Magistrates — annual school of instruction. Each magistrate shall be required to attend a judicial branch school of instruction prior to taking office and annually thereafter unless excused by the chief justice for good cause. A magistrate appointed to fill a vacancy shall attend the first school of instruction that is held following the appointment, unless excused by the chief justice for good cause.

[Court Order September 23, 1985, effective October 15, 1985; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; August 29, 2002]

Rule 22.33 Nepotism. No judicial officer or employee of the judicial branch shall appoint, or continue to employ any person related by consanguinity or affinity within the third degree. This prohibition shall apply to any employment where a direct supervisory relationship exists between the judicial officer or employee and the person supervised.

In the event an employment situation exists within the judicial branch which is consistent with Iowa Code chapter 71 but inconsistent with this rule, the supervisor shall terminate the employment relationship prior to March 15, 1986. Every effort shall be made by the judicial branch to relocate within the branch any individual who is dismissed as a result of this rule.

[Court Order January 22, 1986, effective February 3, 1986; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002; August 29, 2002]

Rule 22.34 Judicial branch appointments. It is a policy of the judicial branch that all boards, commissions, and committees to which appointments are made or confirmed by any part of the judicial branch shall reflect, as much as possible, a gender balance. If there are multiple appointing authorities for a board, commission, or committee, they shall consult with each other to avoid contravention of this policy.

[Court Order June 30, 1986, effective July 1, 1986; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002]

Rule 22.35 Service copies.

22.35(1) After April 1, 1988, the clerk of court shall not make a part of the court file, or otherwise retain in the clerk's office, service copies of pleadings, orders, or writs.

22.35(2) "Service copy" means the copy of the pleading, order, or writ attached to either the return of service or the document proving service.

22.35(3) All returns of service shall specify what pleading, order, or writ was served. Returns of service of an original notice shall certify that a copy of the petition was served with the notice pursuant to Iowa R. Civ. P. 1.302.

[Court Order January 29, 1988, effective March 1, 1988; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002]

Rule 22.36 Paper size and requested copies.

22.36(1) *Paper size.* All pleadings and other papers filed in the Iowa district courts and their small claims divisions shall be on 8½ inch by 11 inch size white paper of standard weight, with a margin of at least one inch at the top of each page. Exhibits attached to pleadings shall be of the same size as pleadings, reduced from their original size if necessary. Original documents, including wills, bonds, notes, foreclosed mortgages, and real estate contracts, may be filed on longer paper. Uniform Citation forms and other court forms smaller than 8½ by 11 inches shall be accepted for filing. The clerks of court shall not accept filings which do not substantially comply with this rule.

22.36(2) Requested copies. If counsel or any party requests file-stamped copies of pleadings or other papers to be returned by mail, an extra copy and a self-addressed, postage prepaid envelope, large enough to accommodate the copy being returned, must be included with the filing. No copy shall be returned by mail unless this rule is followed.

[Court Order May 12, 1989, effective July 3, 1989; March 20, 1991, effective July 1, 1991; November 9, 2001, effective February 15, 2002]

Rule 22.37 Judicial officer medical leave.

22.37(1) Definitions. As used in this rule:

a. "Judicial officer" includes supreme court justices, court of appeals judges, district judges, district associate judges, associate juvenile judges, associate probate judges, and magistrates, as well as the judicial officer's next friend or guardian acting on the judicial officer's behalf. "Judicial officer" in this rule does not include senior judges or judicial hospitalization referees.

b. "Incapacity" means unable to substantially perform judicial work due to a serious physical or mental health condition, treatment for the condition, or recovery from the condition.

c. "Treating health care provider" means a licensed physician, psychiatrist, or other health care provider licensed, accredited, registered, or certified to perform diagnosis, prevention, treatment, cure, or relief of a health care condition, illness, injury, or disease.

22.37(2) Medical leave.

a. Any judicial officer who is incapacitated from performing his or her judicial duties for 10 or more business days within a period of 15 consecutive business days or for 12 or more business days within any 30-day period including holidays and nonbusiness days, must submit a request for medical leave.

(1) District judges, district associate judges, associate juvenile judges, associate probate judges, and magistrates must submit requests for medical leave to the chief judge or designee of their judicial district.

(2) Judges of the Iowa Court of Appeals must submit requests for medical leave to the Chief Judge of the Iowa Court of Appeals or designee.

(3) Justices of the Iowa Supreme Court must submit requests for medical leave to the Chief Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court or designee.

b. The judicial officer may request continuous or intermittent periods of leave, if known, in the request for medical leave.

c. The judicial officer must submit documentation from a treating health care provider supporting a claim of incapacity with the request for medical leave.

d. The chief judge, chief justice, or designee is responsible for granting, denying, or modifying requests for leave.

22.37(3) Medical documentation.

a. The judicial officer must provide a statement from a treating health care provider that certifies that the condition incapacitates the judicial officer from performing the officer's judicial duties and indicates the start date and anticipated duration of the incapacitation.

b. If the period of incapacity lasts beyond one month, the chief judge, chief justice, or designee may require the judicial officer to provide an updated statement periodically or as requested.

c. The chief judge, chief justice, or designee may require a second opinion, additional evaluations, or an independent medical review at judicial branch expense.

22.37(4) Return to work.

a. Prior to returning to work, the judicial officer must provide a statement from a treating health care provider certifying the judicial officer's fitness to return to work and ability to perform the judicial officer's duties.

b. If the judicial officer is authorized to return to work on a reduced schedule, the chief judge, chief justice, or designee may require the judicial officer to provide an updated treating health care provider statement periodically or as requested.

c. The chief judge, chief justice, or designee may require a second opinion, additional evaluations, or an independent medical review at judicial branch expense.

22.37(5) Authority.

a. Failure of a judicial officer to provide a proper statement from a treating health care provider as described in this rule may result in denial of medical leave or denial of a request to return to work.

b. Any refusal to cooperate or comply with the requirements of rule 22.37 may result in a referral to the Judicial Qualifications Commission.

c. If a judicial officer has been on prolonged medical leave, the chief judge, chief justice, or designee may recommend that the judicial officer apply for disability retirement under Iowa Code section 602.9112 or may refer the matter to the Judicial Qualifications Commission.

22.37(6) Confidentiality. Any request, documentation, or statement submitted pursuant to rule 22.37 is confidential and may be disclosed only to necessary judicial branch and administrative personnel, health care providers, and the Judicial Qualifications Commission.

[Court Order December 17, 2024, effective January 1, 2025]

Rule 22.38 Reserved.

Rule 22.39 Staffing offices of clerks of court. The supreme court shall allocate staff to the clerk of court office in each county. The court shall take into account workload and availability of funds for state court operations. The court shall set the business hours of each office. To facilitate case processing, the court may allow each office of the clerk of court to operate without being open to the public for a portion of each day the office is open for business to enable an office to process its work without interruption.

[Court Order November 12, 2009]

Rule 22.40 Public business hours of offices of clerks of court. For purposes of Iowa Code section 4.1(34), the word “day” means the period of time defined by the public business hours of an office of the clerk of court as established by order of the supreme court. If the supreme court has by order closed an office of the clerk of court for an entire day, that day shall be treated as a holiday or a weekend. Nothing in this rule shall prevent a party from filing with the court pursuant to Iowa Rule of Civil Procedure 1.442(5).

[Court Order November 12, 2009]

Rule 22.41 Treatment courts.

22.41(1) Definitions.

a. *Treatment court.* “Treatment court” is a court program that uses a collaborative multidisciplinary and therapeutic approach to address underlying factors such as a substance use disorder or mental health disorder that may be contributing to a person’s involvement in the judicial system. Procedures used include treatment; community supervision; appropriate incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic responses to address behavior; and periodic random testing for prohibited substances.

b. *Treatment court team.* “Treatment court team” includes the judicial officer, prosecuting attorney, defendant’s attorney, treatment provider representative, probation officer, case manager, court coordinator, law enforcement officer, peer support specialist, and other appropriate community representatives.

22.41(2) Establishment of treatment courts. An application to establish a treatment court must be submitted to the local district court administrator and state treatment court coordinator.

22.41(3) Ex parte communications allowed. A judge presiding over a treatment court may assume a more interactive role with the parties, attorneys, treatment providers, probation officers, social workers, and others. In this capacity, judges may initiate, permit, and consider ex parte communications. Substantive ex parte communications should be shared with the treatment court team as soon as practicable. To avoid the appearance of impropriety, judges should take care to limit ex parte communications with an active treatment court participant outside of treatment court related activities.

22.41(4) Fairness and impartiality. A judge who receives ex parte communications under rule 22.41(3) may preside over any subsequent proceeding involving the relevant treatment court participant so long as disqualification is not required under rule 51:2.11.

[Court Order July 27, 2023]