

CHAPTER 25
CONTESTED CASE PROCEEDINGS

[Prior to 7/19/06, see 653—Chapter 12]

653—25.1(17A) 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 Iowa Code section 17A.10A.

“*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 medicine 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 pre-hearing 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.

“*Quorum of the board*” means a majority of the members of the board. Official action, including filing of formal charges or imposition of discipline, requires a majority vote of the members present.

653—25.2(17A) Scope and applicability. These rules apply to contested case proceedings conducted by the board of medicine.

653—25.3(17A) Combined statement of charges and settlement agreement. Upon a determination by the board that probable cause exists to take formal disciplinary action, the board and the licensee may enter into a combined statement of charges and settlement agreement.

25.3(1) Board discretion. The board has the sole discretion to determine whether to offer a licensee a combined statement of charges and settlement agreement.

25.3(2) Voluntary agreement. Entering into a combined statement of charges and settlement agreement is completely voluntary.

25.3(3) Contents. The combined statement of charges and settlement agreement shall include a brief statement of the charges, the circumstances that led to the charges and the terms of settlement.

25.3(4) Resolution of the contested case. A combined statement of charges and settlement agreement shall constitute the resolution of a contested case proceeding.

25.3(5) Open record. A combined statement of charges and settlement agreement is an open record.

653—25.4(17A) Statement of charges.

25.4(1) Probable cause. In the event that the board finds there is probable cause for taking disciplinary action against a licensee, the board shall order that a contested case hearing be commenced by the filing of a statement of charges.

25.4(2) Legal review. Every statement of charges prepared by the board shall be reviewed by the office of the attorney general before it is filed.

25.4(3) Time requirements.

a. Time shall be computed as provided in Iowa Code section 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.

25.4(4) Delivery. Delivery of the statement of charges 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.

25.4(5) Contents. The statement of charges shall contain the following information:

- a. A statement by the board showing that there is probable cause to file the statement of charges;
- b. A statement of the time, place, and nature of the hearing;
- c. A statement of the legal authority and jurisdiction under which the hearing is to be held;
- d. A reference to the particular sections of the statutes and rules involved;
- e. 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;
- f. A statement that the party may be represented by legal counsel at the party's own expense;
- g. 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;
- h. Reference to the procedural rules governing conduct of the contested case proceeding;
- i. Reference to the procedural rules governing informal settlement;
- j. Identification of the board as the presiding officer;
- k. A statement requiring the respondent to submit an answer pursuant to subrule 25.10(2) within 20 days after receipt of the statement of charges; and
- l. When applicable, notification of the time period in which a party may request, pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.11(1) "a" and rule 25.7(17A), that the presiding officer be an administrative law judge.

653—25.5(17A) Legal representation. Following the filing of the statement of charges, the office of the attorney general shall be responsible for the legal representation of the public interest in all proceedings before the board.

653—25.6(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. 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 25.23(17A). In addition, an administrative law judge may assist and advise the board presiding at the contested case hearing.

653—25.7(17A) Presiding officer in a nondisciplinary contested case.

25.7(1) A "nondisciplinary contested case" includes license denial proceedings. Any party in a nondisciplinary contested case, including an appeal of a denial of licensure, 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 statement of charges which identifies or describes the presiding officer as the board.

25.7(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 subrule 25.7(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.

25.7(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 subrule 25.7(4), the parties shall be notified at least 10 days prior to hearing if a qualified administrative law judge will not be available.

25.7(4) An administrative law judge assigned to act as presiding officer in a nondisciplinary contested case shall have a juris doctorate degree.

25.7(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 10 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.

25.7(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—25.8(17A) Disqualification.

25.8(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. If the licensee elects to appear before the board in the investigative process pursuant to 653—paragraph 24.2(5)“d,” the licensee waives this provision.

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 who:

(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.

g. Has any other legally sufficient cause to withdraw from participation in the decision making in that case.

25.8(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 25.8(3) and 25.21(8).

By electing to participate in an appearance before the board pursuant to 653—paragraph 24.2(5) “d,” the licensee waives any objection to a board member’s both participating in the appearance and later participating as a decision maker in a contested case proceeding on the grounds that the board member “personally investigated” the matter under this provision.

25.8(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.

25.8(4) If a party asserts disqualification on any appropriate ground, including those listed in subrule 25.8(1), the party shall file a motion supported by an affidavit pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.17(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—25.9(17A) Consolidation—severance.

25.9(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.

25.9(2) *Severance.* The presiding officer may, for good cause shown, order any contested case proceedings or portions thereof severed.

653—25.10(17A) Pleadings.

25.10(1) Pleadings may be required by rule, by the statement of charges, or by order of the presiding officer.

25.10(2) Answer or appearance. An answer or appearance may be filed by the respondent within 20 days of service of the statement of charges. The answer or appearance 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. If the attorney is not licensed to practice law in Iowa, the attorney must fully comply with Iowa Court Rule 31.14.

25.10(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—25.11(17A) Service and filing.

25.11(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, simultaneously with its filing. Except for the original statement of charges 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.

25.11(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.

25.11(3) Filing—when required. After the statement of charges, 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.

25.11(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 Medicine, 400 S.W. 8th Street, Suite C, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-4686, 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.

25.11(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 Medicine, 400 S.W. 8th Street, Suite C, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-4686, 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)

653—25.12(17A) Discovery.

25.12(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, or by agreement of the parties, time periods for compliance with discovery shall be as provided in the Iowa Rules of Civil Procedure.

25.12(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 25.12(1). The presiding officer may rule on the basis of the written motion and any response, or may order argument on the motion.

653—25.13(17A,272C) Subpoenas in a contested case.

25.13(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, or 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 executive director or designee upon written request. A request for a subpoena of mental health records must confirm the conditions described in 653—paragraph 24.2(6)“d” have been satisfied prior to the issuance of the subpoena.

25.13(2) A request for a subpoena shall include the following information, as applicable, unless the subpoena is requested in order 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 653—paragraph 24.2(6)“d” have been satisfied.

25.13(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; and
- k. A return of service attached to the subpoena.

25.13(4) Unless a subpoena is requested in order to compel testimony or documents for rebuttal or impeachment purposes, the executive director or designee shall mail the subpoena to the requesting party, with a copy to the opposing party. The person who requested the subpoena is responsible for serving the subpoena upon the subject of the subpoena.

25.13(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.

25.13(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.

25.13(7) A person who is aggrieved by a ruling of an administrative law judge and 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.

25.13(8) If the person contesting the subpoena is not a party to the contested case, the board’s decision is final for purposes of judicial review. If the person contesting the subpoena is a party to the contested case, the board’s decision is not final for purposes of judicial review until there is a final decision in the contested case.

653—25.14(17A) Motions.

25.14(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.

25.14(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.

25.14(3) The presiding officer may schedule oral argument on any motion.

25.14(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 board or an order of the presiding officer.

653—25.15(17A) Prehearing conferences.

25.15(1) Any party may request a prehearing conference. Prehearing conferences shall be conducted by the executive director or designee, 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.

25.15(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.

25.15(3) Prehearing conferences may be conducted by telephone unless otherwise ordered.

653—25.16(17A) Continuances. Unless otherwise provided, applications for continuances shall be filed with the board at least seven days before the date scheduled for hearing. If the application for continuance is not contested, the executive director or designee shall issue the appropriate order. If 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. No continuance shall be granted within seven days of the date of hearing except for extraordinary, extenuating or emergency circumstances.

25.16(1) A written application for a continuance shall:

- a.* Be made at the earliest possible time and no less than seven days before the hearing except in case of unanticipated emergencies;
- b.* State the specific reasons for the request for continuance; and

c. Be signed by the requesting party or the party's representative.

An oral application for a continuance may be made if the board or 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 board or 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.

25.16(2) The board or presiding officer may require documentation of any grounds for continuance. 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.

653—25.17(272C) Settlement agreements.

25.17(1) A contested case may be resolved by settlement agreement. Settlement negotiations may be initiated by any party at any stage of a contested case. No party is required to participate in the settlement process. The executive director, director of legal affairs, or prosecuting attorney shall have authority to negotiate on behalf of the board.

25.17(2) The full board shall not be involved in negotiations until a written proposed settlement is submitted to the full board for approval, unless both parties waive this prohibition.

25.17(3) Consent to negotiation by the respondent during settlement negotiation constitutes a waiver of notice and opportunity to be heard pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.17. Thereafter, the prosecuting attorney is authorized to discuss settlement with the board chairperson or designee.

25.17(4) Settlement negotiations shall be completed at least seven days prior to the date scheduled for hearing whenever possible.

25.17(5) A settlement agreement is an open record.

653—25.18(17A) Hearing procedures.

25.18(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.

25.18(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.

25.18(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.

25.18(4) All objections shall be timely made and stated on the record.

25.18(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.

25.18(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.

25.18(7) The presiding officer shall maintain the decorum of the hearing and may refuse to admit or may expel anyone whose conduct is disorderly.

25.18(8) Witnesses may be sequestered during the hearing.

25.18(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).

25.18(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.

25.18(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.

25.18(12) The hearing shall be open to the public unless the licensee requests that the hearing be closed. At the request of either party, or on the board's own motion, the presiding officer may issue a protective order to protect documents which are privileged or confidential by law.

653—25.19(17A) Evidence.

25.19(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.

25.19(2) Stipulation of facts is encouraged. The presiding officer may make a decision based on stipulated facts.

25.19(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.

25.19(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.

25.19(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.

25.19(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—25.20(17A) Default.

25.20(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.

25.20(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.

25.20(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 subrule 25.24(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.

25.20(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.

25.20(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.

25.20(6) "Good cause" for purposes of this rule shall have the same meaning as "good cause" for setting aside a default judgment under the Iowa Rules of Civil Procedure.

25.20(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 25.23(17A).

25.20(8) If a motion to vacate is granted and no timely interlocutory appeal has been taken, the presiding officer shall issue another statement of charges and the contested case shall proceed accordingly.

25.20(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 25.27(17A).

653—25.21(17A) Ex parte communication.

25.21(1) Prohibited communications. Unless required for the disposition of ex parte matters specifically authorized by statute, following issuance of the statement of charges, 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 25.8(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.

25.21(2) Prohibitions on ex parte communications commence with the issuance of the statement of charges in a contested case and continue for as long as the case is pending before the board.

25.21(3) Written, oral or other forms of communication are “ex parte” if made without notice and opportunity for all parties to participate.

25.21(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 be provided in compliance with rule 25.11(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.

25.21(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 to the extent necessary to carry out their function as presiding officer.

25.21(6) The executive director or director of legal affairs may be present during deliberations as long as that person is not disqualified from participating under rule 25.8(17A). The executive director or director of legal affairs shall not attempt to influence the board’s decision in the proceeding.

25.21(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 25.16(17A).

25.21(8) Disclosure of prohibited communications. A presiding officer who receives a prohibited ex parte communication during the contested case process 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.

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.

25.21(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.

25.21(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, or 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—25.22(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—25.23(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. 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. In determining whether to do so, the board shall consider:

1. The extent to which its granting the interlocutory appeal would expedite final resolution of the case; and
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.

653—25.24(17A) Decisions.

25.24(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. A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum. A final decision of the board is an open record. Final decisions shall be served on the parties in accordance with subrule 25.11(2).

25.24(2) Proposed panel decisions.

a. Panel of specialists. When a panel of three specialists presides over the hearing, the panel shall issue a proposed panel decision which shall include findings of fact but shall not include conclusions of law. A proposed decision of a 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.

b. Panel of board members. When a panel of three or more board members presides over the hearing, the panel shall issue a proposed panel decision which shall include proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order. A proposed panel decision shall be reviewed by the board within 30 days of the date the proposed panel decision was issued. A proposed panel decision becomes a final decision without further proceedings unless appealed in accordance with paragraph 25.24(2) “c.”

c. Appeal of proposed panel decisions. A proposed panel decision pursuant to paragraph 25.24(2) “a” or “b” may be appealed to the full 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.

(1) 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.

(2) 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.

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

d. Confidentiality. 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.

e. 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-appealing 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—25.25(272C) Disciplinary sanctions.

25.25(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.
- b. Suspension.
- c. Restriction.
- d. Probation.
- e. Additional education or training.
- f. Reexamination.
- g. Physical or mental evaluation or substance abuse evaluation, or alcohol or drug screening or clinical competency evaluation.
- h. Civil penalties not to exceed \$10,000.
- i. Citation and warning.
- j. Imposition of such other sanctions allowed by law as may be appropriate.

25.25(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.
- b. The facts of the particular violation.
- c. Any extenuating circumstances or other countervailing considerations.
- d. Number of prior complaints, informal letters or disciplinary charges.
- e. Seriousness of prior complaints, informal letters or disciplinary charges.
- f. Whether the licensee has taken remedial action.
- g. Such other factors as may reflect upon the competency, ethical standards and professional conduct of the licensee.

653—25.26(17A) Application for rehearing.

25.26(1) *Who may file.* Any party to a contested case proceeding may file an application for rehearing from a final order.

25.26(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 paragraph 25.24(2)“e” and subrule 25.26(5), the applicant requests an opportunity to submit additional evidence.

25.26(3) *Filing deadline.* The application shall be filed with the board within 20 days after issuance of the final decision.

25.26(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.

25.26(5) *Additional evidence.* A request that additional evidence be considered on rehearing shall be governed by paragraph 25.24(2)“e.”

25.26(6) *Disposition.* Any application for a rehearing shall be deemed denied unless the agency grants the application within 20 days after its filing.

25.26(7) *Only remedy.* Application for rehearing is the only procedure by which a party may request that the board reconsider a final board decision.

653—25.27(17A) Stays of agency actions.

25.27(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.

25.27(2) When granted. In determining whether to grant a stay, the board shall consider the factors listed in Iowa Code section 17A.19(5) "c." 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—25.28(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—25.29(17A) Emergency adjudicative proceedings.

25.29(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.18A 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.

25.29(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 and the board's decision to take immediate action. The order is an open 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, which may be used as the sole method of delivery if the person required to comply with the order has filed a written request that board 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.

25.29(3) Oral notice. Unless the written emergency adjudicative order is provided by personal delivery on the same day that the order is issued, the board shall make reasonable immediate efforts to contact by telephone the person who is required to comply with the order.

25.29(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 hearing. The licensee subject to the emergency adjudicative order may request a continuance of the hearing at any time upon written application to the board. The board will be granted a continuance only in compelling circumstances upon written application.

653—25.30(17A) Appeal of license denial. An applicant may appeal a preliminary notice of denial of license by filing a written notice of appeal and request for hearing with the board within 30 days of the date that the preliminary notice of denial of license was mailed by the board. The hearing shall be a contested case and shall be conducted in accordance with this chapter.

653—25.31(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 board's order.

653—25.32(17A) Open record. The final decision of the board is an open record. The board shall report final decisions to the appropriate organizations, including but not limited to the National Practitioner Data Bank, the Federation of State Medical Boards and all media and other organizations that have filed a request for public information.

653—25.33(272C) Disciplinary hearings—fees and costs.

25.33(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.

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

“*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.

“*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 applicable.

25.33(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 board as provided in subrule 25.33(6).

25.33(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 recover the costs for the court reporter and 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, provided that 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 guidelines in effect on January 1, 2005.

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 fee for an expert witness. 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 deposition, 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 or substance abuse evaluations or drug screening or clinical competency evaluations 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.

25.33(4) Certification of reimbursable costs. The executive director or designee shall certify any reimbursable costs incurred by 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 the party responsible for payment of the certified costs at the time of the filing.

25.33(5) *Assessment of fees and costs.* A final decision of the board imposing disciplinary action against a licensee shall include the amount of any disciplinary hearing fee assessed, which shall not exceed \$75. If the board also assesses reimbursable costs against the licensee, the board shall file a Certification of Reimbursable Costs which includes 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. Prior to seeking judicial review, a party shall file an objection to any fees or costs imposed by the board 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.

25.33(6) *Payment of fees and costs.* All fees and costs assessed pursuant to this rule shall be made in the form of a check or money order made payable to Iowa Board of Medicine and delivered by the licensee to the board office.

25.33(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.

25.33(8) *Repayment receipts.* Fees and costs collected by the board pursuant to this rule shall be considered repayment receipts as defined in Iowa Code section 8.2.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 17A, 147, 148, and 272C.

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