

INSPECTIONS AND APPEALS DEPARTMENT[481]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code sections 10A.104(5) and 10A.801(7), the Department of Inspections and Appeals hereby adopts new Chapter 11, "Procedure for Contested Cases Involving Permits to Carry Weapons and Acquire Firearms," Iowa Administrative Code.

The new chapter implements provisions contained in 2010 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2379, section 14, requiring the Department to establish a procedural process through which Iowans who have been denied a permit to acquire firearms or carry weapons or whose permit has been suspended or revoked may appeal the decision of the sheriff or Commissioner of Public Safety to an administrative law judge.

Notice of Intended Action was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on December 29, 2010, as **ARC 9298B**. Additionally, the new chapter was Adopted and Filed Emergency and published in the December 29, 2010, Iowa Administrative Bulletin as **ARC 9299B**. The new chapter became effective January 1, 2011.

A public hearing on the new chapter was held January 19, 2011, at which time comments were received. One change has been made to the rules published under Notice of Intended Action. At the suggestion of Senator Merlin Bartz, subrule 11.2(1), pertaining to an individual's filing a notice of appeal, has been changed to remove the mandatory requirement regarding the content of the written request for an appeal; the change will give greater leniency to the appellant.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 724.21A.

These rules will become effective April 13, 2011, at which time the Adopted and Filed Emergency rules are hereby rescinded.

The following amendment is adopted.

Adopt the following new 481—Chapter 11:

CHAPTER 11
PROCEDURE FOR CONTESTED CASES INVOLVING PERMITS
TO CARRY WEAPONS AND ACQUIRE FIREARMS

481—11.1(17A,724) Definitions.

"Agency" means the commissioner of public safety or the sheriff of the county in which the aggrieved party resides.

"Applicant" means a person who has applied for a permit to carry weapons or acquire firearms.

"Contested case" means a proceeding defined by Iowa Code section 17A.2(5).

"Division" means the division of administrative hearings of the Iowa department of inspections and appeals.

"Party" means each person or agency named or admitted as a party.

"Permittee" means a person who has received a permit to carry weapons or acquire firearms.

481—11.2(724) Appeals. An applicant or permittee may appeal a decision by an agency to deny an application for a permit to carry weapons or acquire firearms or to suspend or revoke a permit to carry weapons or acquire firearms.

11.2(1) Written appeal. The appeal shall be in writing and should state the reasons for rebutting the denial, suspension, or revocation.

11.2(2) Filing of appeal. Within 30 days of the applicant's or permittee's receipt of the agency's decision, the applicant or permittee shall file the appeal, a copy of the agency's written decision, and a fee of \$10 with the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals, Division of Administrative Hearings, 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

11.2(3) Service on the agency. The applicant or permittee shall serve a copy of the appeal on the agency at the time the appeal is filed with the division.

11.2(4) Denial of appeal. The division may deny any appeal that does not meet each of the requirements in subrules 11.2(1) to 11.2(3).

481—11.3(17A,724) Notice of hearing. The division shall prepare and serve the notice of hearing.

11.3(1) The notice of hearing shall contain the following information:

- a. A statement of the time, place, and nature of the hearing;
- b. A statement of the legal authority and jurisdiction under which the hearing is to be held;
- c. A reference to the agency decision on appeal;
- d. Identification of the parties;
- e. Reference to the procedural rules governing the contested case proceeding;
- f. Identification of the administrative law judge, including the judge's address and telephone number; and
- g. Notification that failure to appear and participate in the contested case proceeding may result in the entry of a default judgment.

11.3(2) Service of the notice of hearing shall be accomplished by first-class mail.

481—11.4(17A,724) Agency record.

11.4(1) Upon receipt of a copy of the notice of hearing, the agency shall file with the division:

- a. A copy of all documents used by the agency in reaching the decision; and
- b. A form identifying the name, address, and telephone number of the agency's contact person or attorney representative.

11.4(2) The agency shall provide to the applicant or permittee a copy of all documents used by the agency in reaching the decision.

481—11.5(17A) Contested case hearing. The hearing shall be conducted pursuant to the standards established in Iowa Code chapter 17A for contested case hearings. The hearing shall be held by telephone conference call, unless a party to the proceeding requests an in-person hearing from the administrative law judge no later than five days before the hearing. All in-person hearings shall be held at the division's headquarters in Des Moines, Iowa. If the administrative law judge grants an in-person hearing, the administrative law judge may allow one party to appear by telephone.

481—11.6(17A) Service and filing of documents.

11.6(1) When service is required. Every document filed in a contested case proceeding shall be served on each party of record. Service shall be made by delivering or mailing a copy to the party's last-known address.

11.6(2) Filing. All documents in the contested case proceeding shall be filed with the administrative law judge. A document is deemed filed at the time it is received by the division. A document is deemed to be served when mailed by first-class mail, so long as there is proof of mailing.

11.6(3) Proof of mailing. Proof of mailing includes a legible United States Postal Service postmark on the envelope and a certificate of service, a notarized affidavit, or certification in substantially the following form:

I certify under penalty of perjury and pursuant to the laws of the state of Iowa, that on (date of mailing or hand-delivery), I mailed or hand-delivered copies (describe document(s)) addressed to (opposing party) by depositing the same in a United States post office mailbox with correct postage properly affixed, or I hand-delivered copies.

(Date)

(Signature)

11.6(4) Filing by electronic means. The administrative law judge may permit service or filing of particular documents by facsimile, electronic mail, or similar electronic means. When permitted, service by facsimile, electronic mail, or similar electronic means is complete upon transmission.

481—11.7(17A) Witness lists and exhibits. No later than five days before the hearing, a party shall serve on all parties and the administrative law judge a witness list and a copy of any exhibit(s) the party intends to introduce into evidence during the contested case proceeding. If a party fails to serve on all parties and the administrative law judge a witness list or any exhibit five days before the hearing, the party may be precluded from calling the witness at hearing or introducing the exhibit(s) into the record at hearing.

481—11.8(17A) Evidence. The administrative law judge shall rule on the admissibility of evidence and may take official notice of facts in accordance with applicable requirements of law. Evidence in the proceeding shall be confined to the issues for which the parties received notice prior to the hearing.

481—11.9(17A) Withdrawals and dismissals. A request for withdrawal or dismissal of the appeal may be made with the division prior to the hearing. Either request must be in writing or secured on the record.

11.9(1) Withdrawals. An applicant or permittee who requested a contested case proceeding may request a withdrawal of the appeal. Upon receipt of a request for withdrawal of the appeal, the administrative law judge shall issue an order dismissing the appeal and closing the case.

11.9(2) Dismissals. An agency may request a dismissal of the appeal by agreeing to grant the entire relief sought by the applicant or permittee. The administrative law judge shall review a request for dismissal to determine whether it grants all relief requested in the appeal. If the request grants all relief requested in the appeal, the administrative law judge shall issue an order dismissing the appeal, ordering the agency to grant the relief requested, and closing the case.

481—11.10(17A) Default. If a party fails to appear after proper service of notice, the administrative law judge may enter a default order against the party or may proceed with the hearing and make a decision in the absence of the party.

481—11.11(10A) Costs. Costs of the contested case hearing shall be paid by the agency.

481—11.12(724) Probable cause. Probable cause to deny an initial or renewal application for a permit to carry weapons or acquire firearms or to suspend or revoke a permit to carry weapons or acquire firearms means a reasonable ground exists for supposing that the basis for the denial, suspension or revocation is well-founded.

481—11.13(724) Clear and convincing evidence. Clear and convincing evidence means there is no serious or substantial doubt about the correctness of the conclusion drawn from the evidence.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 724.21A.

[Filed 2/7/11, effective 4/13/11]

[Published 3/9/11]

EDITOR'S NOTE: For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 3/9/11.