

Regulatory Analysis

Notice of Intended Action to be published: 493—Chapter 7
“Definitions”

Iowa Code section(s) or chapter(s) authorizing rulemaking: 13B.4(8)

State or federal law(s) implemented by the rulemaking: Iowa Code section 13B.4 and chapter 815

Public Hearing

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

May 6, 2025
2 p.m.

Via videoconference:
meet.google.com/gbm-frju-oxh
Or dial: (US) +1 563.293.1803
PIN: 316 603 891#

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written or oral comments concerning this Regulatory Analysis, which must be received by the Office of the State Public Defender no later than 4:30 p.m. on the date of the public hearing. Comments should be directed to:

Kurt Swaim, First Assistant State Public Defender
6200 Park Avenue, Suite 100
Des Moines, Iowa 50321
Phone: 515.218.2445
Email: kswaim@spd.state.ia.us

Purpose and Summary

This proposed rulemaking repromulgates Chapter 7 pursuant to the requirements of Executive Order 10. Chapter 7 provides definitions for use throughout the State Public Defender’s rules.

Analysis of Impact

1. **Persons affected by the proposed rulemaking:**
 - **Classes of persons that will bear the costs of the proposed rulemaking:**
There are no expected additional costs to the State or individuals.
 - **Classes of persons that will benefit from the proposed rulemaking:**
The Office of the State Public Defender, indigent persons represented by court-appointed attorneys, and contract attorneys will benefit.
2. **Impact of the proposed rulemaking, economic or otherwise, including the nature and amount of all the different kinds of costs that would be incurred:**
 - **Quantitative description of impact:**
Not applicable. There are no expected additional costs to the State or individuals.
 - **Qualitative description of impact:**
Not applicable.
3. **Costs to the State:**
 - **Implementation and enforcement costs borne by the agency or any other agency:**
There are no expected additional costs to the State. No changes to the chapter have been made.
 - **Anticipated effect on state revenues:**

There is no anticipated effect.

4. Comparison of the costs and benefits of the proposed rulemaking to the costs and benefits of inaction:

Not applicable.

5. Determination whether less costly methods or less intrusive methods exist for achieving the purpose of the proposed rulemaking:

Not applicable.

6. Alternative methods considered by the agency:

• **Description of any alternative methods that were seriously considered by the agency:**

No alternative methods were considered.

• **Reasons why alternative methods were rejected in favor of the proposed rulemaking:**

No viable alternative was identified.

Small Business Impact

If the rulemaking will have a substantial impact on small business, include a discussion of whether it would be feasible and practicable to do any of the following to reduce the impact of the rulemaking on small business:

• Establish less stringent compliance or reporting requirements in the rulemaking for small business.

• Establish less stringent schedules or deadlines in the rulemaking for compliance or reporting requirements for small business.

• Consolidate or simplify the rulemaking's compliance or reporting requirements for small business.

• Establish performance standards to replace design or operational standards in the rulemaking for small business.

• Exempt small business from any or all requirements of the rulemaking.

If legal and feasible, how does the rulemaking use a method discussed above to reduce the substantial impact on small business?

There is no expected impact on small business.

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Rescind 493—Chapter 7 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 7
DEFINITIONS

493—7.1(13B,815) Definitions. As used in these rules, unless the context otherwise requires, the following definitions apply:

“*Affidavit of financial status*” means a full written disclosure of all income, assets, liabilities, dependents, and other information required to determine if an applicant qualifies for legal assistance by an appointed attorney.

“*Appeal*” means a proceeding, other than an interlocutory appeal, application for discretionary review, or juvenile court petition on appeal, filed with the Iowa supreme court.

“*Applicant*” means a person requesting legal assistance by an appointed attorney.

“*Appointed attorney*” means an attorney appointed by the court to represent an indigent person.

“*Assets*” means all resources or possessions of the applicant.

“*Attorney*” means an individual licensed to practice law in Iowa.

“Attorney time” means the total time the attorney appointed to a case spends on in-court time, out-of-court time, and travel time attributable to that specific case. Attorney time does not include time spent performing clerical activities.

“Case” means all charges or allegations arising from the same transaction or occurrence or contained in the same trial information or indictment in a criminal proceeding or in the same petition in a civil or juvenile proceeding. A probation violation or contempt proceeding is a case separate from the case out of which the violation or contempt arose and separate from a criminal case alleging new criminal charges. Multiple probation revocation proceedings pending at the same time, involving the same client, and arising from the same transaction or occurrence are a single “case.”

“Child” or *“juvenile”* means the same as defined in Iowa Code chapter 232.

“Claim” means an application or request for payment.

“Claimant” means an appointed attorney or other person seeking reimbursement of costs or fees payable from the indigent defense fund.

“Claims for other professional services” means claims submitted by nonattorneys, including but not limited to investigators, experts, certified shorthand reporters, and persons conducting medical or psychological evaluations.

“Contract” means a written agreement between the state public defender and an attorney to provide legal services to an indigent person. The contract may be for the provision of legal services at either the trial court level or the appellate court level.

“County base” means the amount of expenses in juvenile cases for which the county remains liable pursuant to Iowa Code section 232.141(2).

“Court-appointed attorney” means an attorney appointed by the court to represent an indigent person.

“Department” means the department of inspections, appeals, and licensing.

“Expert witness” or *“expert”* means a person who is retained to render an opinion regarding an issue relevant to a case, whether or not the person actually testifies in court.

“Family” or *“household”* means the applicant, applicant’s spouse, including a common-law spouse, and applicant’s children living in the same residence.

“Fee limitations” means the attorney fee limitations established by the state public defender for specific classes of cases as specified in rule 493—12.6(13B,815), together with out-of-pocket expenses approved by the state public defender, whether submitted by a public defender, by an appointed attorney pursuant to 493—Chapter 12, or by another professional pursuant to 493—Chapter 13.

“Fees” means the consideration paid to an appointed attorney to represent an indigent person.

“Fiscal year” means the 12-month period beginning July 1 and ending June 30.

“Governmental assistance program” means any public assistance program from which a person is receiving assistance.

“Income” means any money received from any source, including but not limited to remuneration for labor, products or services; money received from governmental assistance programs; tax refunds; prize winnings; pensions; investments; and money received from any other source.

“In-court time” means time spent by an appointed attorney engaged before a judge or jury, including but not limited to arraignments, bail hearings, pretrial conferences, pretrial motion hearings, evidentiary hearings, jury selection, trial, plea proceedings, posttrial hearings, and probation violation hearings. In-court time does not include time spent at foster care review board hearings, staffings, family drug court, or any other meetings with other state agencies.

“Indigent” means a person entitled to an appointed attorney pursuant to Iowa Code section 815.9.

“Juvenile proceeding” means a case in juvenile court wherein the attorney acts as guardian ad litem for the child in interest or provides legal counsel for the child, parent, guardian or custodian.

“Liabilities” means all living, business or farming expenses and fixed debts.

“Local public defender” means an attorney in the trial division of the state public defender system who performs the duties outlined in Iowa Code section 13B.9.

“Notice of action letter” means a letter sent by the state public defender to notify the claimant that the claimant’s fees or expenses were reduced.

“Out-of-court time” means time actually spent by the attorney appointed to the case in drafting documents, case preparation, depositions and other discovery, client or witness interviews, investigation, research, brief drafting, conferences or negotiations with opposing counsel or the court, reviewing records, and other productive case-related time that is not in-court time or travel time. Out-of-court time does not include clerical activities.

“Paralegal time,” which is payable from the indigent defense fund, means time spent in a Class A felony case at the trial court level in which only one attorney is appointed preparing pleadings and motions, reviewing transcripts, performing legal research, and interviewing witnesses and may include time spent in court assisting the appointed attorney. Paralegal time does not include typing, scheduling, answering the telephone, talking on the telephone except when interviewing witnesses, or other clerical activities or activities that duplicate work performed by the appointed attorney. Paralegal time is not payable in any other cases or in Class A felony cases in which two attorneys are appointed.

“Person” means an individual, corporation, limited liability company, government or governmental subdivision or association, or any legal entity.

“Poverty income guidelines” means the annual poverty income guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

“Returned fee claim letter” means a letter in which the state public defender returns the claim and notifies the claimant as to the reason the claim was returned.

“Rules of criminal procedure” means the rules prescribed by the supreme court that govern criminal actions and proceedings in all courts in the state.

“State public defender” means the state public defender appointed pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 13B and those other persons authorized to act on behalf of the state public defender.

“State public defender system” means a system for providing defense services within the state by means of a centrally administered organization having a full-time staff.

“Written,” as used in these rules, may include electronically transmitted communication except where a statute or rule expressly requires an original signature, mailing or any other special form of delivery other than electronic transmission.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 13B and 815.