

148.7 Procedure for licensee discipline.

A proceeding for the revocation or suspension of a license to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery or to discipline a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery shall be substantially in accord with the following procedure:

1. The board may, upon its own motion or upon receipt of a complaint in writing, order an investigation. The board may, upon its own motion, order a hearing. A written notice of the time and place of the hearing together with a statement of the charges shall be served upon the licensee at least ten days before the hearing in the manner required for the service of notice of the commencement of an ordinary action or by restricted certified mail.

2. If the whereabouts of the licensee is unknown, service may be had by publication as provided in the rules of civil procedure upon filing the affidavit required by the rules. In case the licensee fails to appear, either in person or by counsel at the time and place designated in the notice, the board shall proceed with the hearing as provided in [this section](#).

3. *a.* The hearing shall be before a member or members designated by the board or before an administrative law judge appointed by the board according to the requirements of [section 17A.11, subsection 1](#). The presiding board member or administrative law judge may issue subpoenas, administer oaths, and take or cause depositions to be taken in connection with the hearing. The presiding board member or administrative law judge shall issue subpoenas at the request and on behalf of the licensee.

b. The administrative law judge shall be an attorney vested with full authority of the board to schedule and conduct hearings. The administrative law judge shall prepare and file with the board the administrative law judge's findings of fact and conclusions of law, together with a complete written transcript of all testimony and evidence introduced at the hearing and all exhibits, pleas, motions, objections, and rulings of the administrative law judge.

4. Disciplinary hearings held pursuant to [section 272C.6, subsection 1](#), shall be heard by the board, or by a panel of not less than six members, at least three of whom are board members, and the remaining appointed pursuant to [section 148.2A](#), with no more than three of the six being public members. Notwithstanding [chapters 17A and 21](#), a disciplinary hearing shall be open to the public at the discretion of the licensee.

5. A record of the proceedings shall be kept. The licensee shall have the opportunity to appear personally and by an attorney, with the right to produce evidence on the licensee's own behalf, to examine and cross-examine witnesses, and to examine documentary evidence produced against the licensee.

6. If a person refuses to obey a subpoena issued by the presiding member or administrative law judge or to answer a proper question during the hearing, the presiding member or administrative law judge may invoke the aid of a court of competent jurisdiction or judge of this court in requiring the attendance and testimony of the person and the production of papers. A failure to obey the order of the court may be punished by the court as a civil contempt may be punished.

7. Unless the hearing is before the entire board, a transcript of the proceeding, together with exhibits presented, shall be considered by the entire board at the earliest practicable time. The licensee and the licensee's attorney shall have the opportunity to appear personally to present the licensee's position and arguments to the board. The board shall determine the charge or charges upon the merits on the basis of the evidence in the record before it.

8. If a majority of the members of the board vote in favor of finding the licensee guilty of an act or offense specified in [section 147.55](#) or [148.6](#), the board shall prepare written findings of fact and its decision imposing one or more of the following disciplinary measures:

a. Suspend the licensee's license to practice the profession for a period to be determined by the board.

b. Revoke the licensee's license to practice the profession.

c. Suspend imposition of judgment and penalty or impose the judgment and penalty, but suspend enforcement and place the physician on probation. The probation ordered may be vacated upon noncompliance. The board may restore and reissue a license to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery, but may impose a disciplinary or corrective measure which the board might originally have imposed. A copy of the board's

order, findings of fact, and decision, shall be served on the licensee in the manner of service of an original notice or by certified mail return receipt requested.

9. Judicial review of the board's action may be sought in accordance with the terms of the Iowa administrative procedure Act, [chapter 17A](#).

10. The board's order revoking or suspending a license to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery or to discipline a licensee shall remain in force and effect until the appeal is finally determined and disposed of upon its merit.

[C58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §148.7]

[88 Acts, ch 1109, §16](#); [90 Acts, ch 1086, §15](#); [92 Acts, ch 1183, §16, 17](#); [98 Acts, ch 1202, §31, 46](#); [2003 Acts, ch 44, §114](#); [2007 Acts, ch 10, §92](#); [2008 Acts, ch 1088, §51](#)

Referred to in [§272C.5](#)

Manner of service, R.C.P. 1.302 - 1.315