

**PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS BOARD[621]**

[Prior to 11/5/86, Public Employment Relations Board [660]]

## CHAPTER 1

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 1.1(20) Construction and severability
- 1.2(20) General agency description
- 1.3(20) General course and method of operation
- 1.4(20) Method of obtaining information and making submissions or requests
- 1.5(20) Petition for rule making
- 1.6(20) Definitions
- 1.7(20) Computation of time
- 1.8 Reserved
- 1.9(17A,20) Waiver or variance of rules
- 1.10(20) Agency record and files

## CHAPTER 2

## GENERAL PRACTICE AND HEARING PROCEDURES

- 2.1(20) Hearing—time and place—administrative law judge
- 2.2(20) Notice of hearing—contents
- 2.3(20) Default
- 2.4(20) Intervention and additional parties
- 2.5(20) Continuance
- 2.6(20) Appearances and conduct of parties
- 2.7(20) Evidence—objections
- 2.8(20) Order of procedure
- 2.9(20) Amendments
- 2.10(20) Briefs and arguments
- 2.11(20) Sequestration of witnesses
- 2.12(20) Subpoenas
- 2.13(20) Form of documents and treatment of confidential or protected information
- 2.14(20) Captions
- 2.15(20) Service of pleadings and other papers
- 2.16(20) Consolidation
- 2.17(20) Prohibition against testimony of mediators, arbitrators and board employees
- 2.18(20) Delivery of decisions and orders
- 2.19(20) Stays of agency action
- 2.20(20) Ex parte communications
- 2.21(20) Transcripts of record
- 2.22(20) Dismissal
- 2.23(20) Informal disposition
- 2.24(20) Evidence of settlement negotiations

## CHAPTER 3

## PROHIBITED PRACTICE PROCEEDINGS

- 3.1(20) Filing of complaint
- 3.2(20) Contents of complaint
- 3.3(20) Clarification of complaint
- 3.4(20) Service of complaint
- 3.5(20) Answer to complaint
- 3.6(20) Voluntary dismissal or withdrawal of complaint
- 3.7 Reserved

- 3.8(20) Investigation of complaint
- 3.9 to 3.11 Reserved
- 3.12(20) Costs of certified shorthand reporters and transcripts

CHAPTER 4  
BARGAINING UNIT AND BARGAINING  
REPRESENTATIVE DETERMINATION

- 4.1(20) General procedures
- 4.2(20) Unit determination
- 4.3(20) Bargaining representative determination (election petitions)
- 4.4(20) Concurrent (combined) petitions
- 4.5(20) Unit reconsideration
- 4.6(20) Amendment of unit
- 4.7(20) Unit clarification
- 4.8(20) Amendment of certification

CHAPTER 5  
ELECTIONS

- 5.1(20) General procedures
- 5.2(20) Eligibility—voter eligibility list
- 5.3(20) Method of voting
- 5.4(20) Objections to an election
- 5.5(20) Certification elections
- 5.6(20) Retention and recertification elections
- 5.7(20) Decertification election
- 5.8(20) Professional and nonprofessional election
- 5.9(20) Amendment of unit elections
- 5.10(20) Destruction of ballots

CHAPTER 6  
NEGOTIATIONS AND NEGOTIABILITY DISPUTES

- 6.1(20) Scope of negotiations
- 6.2(20) Consolidated negotiations
- 6.3(20) Negotiability disputes
- 6.4(20) Public safety unit determination
- 6.5(20) Voluntary settlement procedures
- 6.6(20) Filing of agreement

CHAPTER 7  
IMPASSE PROCEDURES

- 7.1(20) General
- 7.2(20) Fees of neutrals
- 7.3(20) Mediation
- 7.4 Reserved
- 7.5(20) Binding arbitration
- 7.6(20) Impasse procedures after completion deadline
- 7.7(20) Impasse procedures for state employees

CHAPTER 8  
INTERNAL CONDUCT OF EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS

- 8.1(20) Requirements
- 8.2(20) Registration report
- 8.3(20) Constitution and bylaws

8.4(20)	Annual report
8.5(20)	Bond required
8.6(20)	Trusteeships
8.7(20)	Failure to comply with employee organization requirements

CHAPTER 9  
ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

9.1(17A,20)	Final decisions
9.2(17A,20)	Appeals or petitions for the board's review
9.3(17A,20)	Board's review on its own motion
9.4(17A,20)	Petition for amicus curiae status
9.5(17A,20)	Board proceedings on appeal or review
9.6(17A,20)	Rehearing
9.7(17A,20)	Stays of agency action

CHAPTER 10  
DECLARATORY ORDERS

10.1(17A,20)	Who may petition
10.2(20)	Contents of petition
10.3(17A,20)	Caption
10.4(17A,20)	Notice of petition
10.5(17A,20)	Intervention
10.6(17A,20)	Briefs
10.7(17A,20)	Service of petitions and other papers
10.8(17A,20)	Action on petition
10.9(17A,20)	Refusal to issue order
10.10(17A,20)	Copies of orders

CHAPTER 11  
STATE EMPLOYEE APPEALS OF GRIEVANCE DECISIONS  
AND DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

11.1(8A,20)	Notice of appeal rights
11.2(8A,20)	Filing of appeal
11.3(8A,20)	Service of appeal
11.4(8A,20)	Content of appeal
11.5(8A,20)	Content of director's response to the appeal
11.6(8A,20)	Right to a hearing
11.7(8A,20)	Final decisions
11.8(8A,20)	Review by board
11.9(8A,20)	Costs of certified shorthand reporters and transcripts
11.10(8A,20)	Other rules

CHAPTER 12  
PUBLIC RECORDS AND FAIR INFORMATION PRACTICES  
(Uniform Rules)

12.1(20,22)	Definitions
12.3(20,22)	Requests for access to records
12.6(20,22)	Procedure by which additions, dissents or objections may be entered into certain records
12.9(20,22)	Disclosures without the consent of the subject
12.10(20,22)	Routine use
12.11(20,22)	Consensual disclosure of confidential records
12.12(20,22)	Release to subject

- 12.13(20,22) Availability of records
- 12.14(20,22) Data processing systems
- 12.15(20,22) Applicability

### CHAPTER 13 MEDIATORS

- 13.1(20) Scope and authority
- 13.2(20) Definitions
- 13.3(20) List and status of members
- 13.4(20) Mediator listing
- 13.5(20) Independent contractor agreement
- 13.6(20) Conflict of interest
- 13.7(20) Confidentiality
- 13.8(20) Complaints
- 13.9(20) Inactive status

### CHAPTER 14 ARBITRATORS

- 14.1(20) Scope
- 14.2(20) Definitions
- 14.3(20) Roster and status of members
- 14.4(20) Fees of arbitrators
- 14.5(20) Arbitrator roster
- 14.6(20) Interest arbitrator mentorship program
- 14.7(20) Biography
- 14.8(20) Conflict of interest
- 14.9(20) Procedures for discipline and removal
- 14.10(20) Inactive status

### CHAPTER 15 Reserved

### CHAPTER 16

#### ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

- 16.1(20) Effective date and scope
- 16.2(20) Definitions
- 16.3(20) Registration, username, and passwords
- 16.4(20) Mandatory electronic filing and exceptions
- 16.5(20) Filing of paper documents
- 16.6(20) Date and time of filing
- 16.7(20) Signatures
- 16.8(20) Format and redaction of electronic documents
- 16.9(20) Exhibits and other attachments
- 16.10(20) Service
- 16.11(20) Discovery
- 16.12(20) Transcripts, briefs and exhibits

CHAPTER 1  
GENERAL PROVISIONS

**621—1.1(20) Construction and severability.** These rules shall be liberally construed to effectuate the purposes and provisions of the public employment relations Act. If any provisions of these rules are held to be invalid, it shall not be construed to invalidate any of the other provisions of these rules.

**621—1.2(20) General agency description.** The purpose of the public employment relations board established by the Public Employment Relations Act is to implement the provisions of the Act and adjudicate and conciliate employment related cases involving the state of Iowa and other public employers and employee organizations. For these purposes the powers and duties of the board include, but are not limited to, the following:

Determining appropriate bargaining units and conducting representation elections.

Adjudicating prohibited practice complaints and fashioning appropriate remedial relief for violations of the Act.

Adjudicating and serving as arbitrators regarding state merit system grievances and grievances arising under collective bargaining agreements between public employers and certified employee organizations.

Providing mediators and arbitrators to resolve impasses in negotiations.

Collecting and disseminating information concerning the wages, hours, and other conditions of employment of public employees.

Preparing legal briefs and presenting oral arguments in the district courts, the court of appeals and the supreme court in cases affecting the board.

[ARC 8953B, IAB 7/28/10, effective 9/1/10]

**621—1.3(20) General course and method of operation.** Upon receipt of a petition or complaint, the board may assign an administrative law judge to process the case. The board may determine that the petition or complaint is without basis and dismiss it without further proceedings. Petitions and complaints not dismissed are assigned for a hearing before either an administrative law judge or the board, unless the procedures for informal settlement described in these rules are followed. The administrative law judge or the board will conduct a hearing on the complaint or petition and issue a decision and order. The decisions of administrative law judges are appealable to the board, and final orders and decisions of the board are appealable to the district court under the Iowa administrative procedure Act.

**621—1.4(20) Method of obtaining information and making submissions or requests.** Any person may obtain information from, make submission to, or make a request of the board by writing to Chairperson, Iowa Public Employment Relations Board, 510 East 12th Street, Suite 1B, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

**621—1.5(20) Petition for rule making.** Any person may file a petition with the board for the adoption, amendment or repeal of a rule. Such petition shall be in writing and shall include:

**1.5(1)** The name and address of the person requesting the adoption, amendment or repeal of the rule.

**1.5(2)** A statement of the specific rule-making action sought by the petitioner including the text or a summary of the contents of the proposed rule or amendment to a rule and, if it is a petition to amend or repeal a rule, a citation to and the relevant language of the particular portion or portions of the rule proposed to be amended or repealed.

**1.5(3)** A brief summary of petitioner's arguments in support of the action urged in the petition.

**1.5(4)** A brief summary of any data supporting the action urged in the petition.

**1.5(5)** The names and addresses of other persons, or a description of any class of persons, known by petitioner to be affected by or interested in the proposed action which is the subject of the petition. Within 60 days after the filing of a petition, the board shall either deny the petition in writing, stating its reasons for the denial, or initiate rule-making proceedings in accordance with Iowa Code chapter 17A.

**621—1.6(20) Definitions.**

**1.6(1)** “*Act*” as used in these rules shall mean the public employment relations Act, Iowa Code chapter 20.

**1.6(2)** “*Board*” as used in these rules shall mean the public employment relations board. No official board action may be taken without the concurrence of at least two members of the board; provided, however, that when for compelling reasons only two members hear an appeal of a proposed decision in a contested case and the two members do not concur, the result shall be affirmation of the proposed decision. The board, in its discretion, may delegate to board employees duties which the Act does not specifically require be performed by the board.

**1.6(3)** *Petitioner—complainant—respondent—intervenor:*

*a.* “*Petitioner*” means the party filing a petition under Iowa Code section 20.13 or 20.14.

*b.* “*Complainant*” means the party filing a complaint under Iowa Code section 20.11, alleging the commission of a prohibited practice.

*c.* “*Respondent*” means the party accused of committing a prohibited practice.

*d.* “*Intervenor*” means a party who voluntarily interposes in a proceeding with the approval of the board or administrative law judge.

**1.6(4)** “*Party*” as used in these rules shall mean any person, employee organization or public employer who has filed a petition or complaint under the Act or these rules; who has been named as a party in a complaint, petition or other matter under these rules; or whose motion to intervene has been granted by the board.

**1.6(5)** “*Impasse item*” means any term which was a subject of negotiations and proposed to be included in a collective bargaining agreement upon which the parties have failed to reach agreement in the course of negotiations, except as provided for in 621—6.1(20). Failure of the parties to agree upon impasse procedures shall not constitute an impasse item or compel implementation of impasse procedures.

**1.6(6)** “*Impasse procedures*” means either the procedures set forth in Iowa Code sections 20.20 and 20.22 or any procedures agreed upon by the parties pursuant to Iowa Code section 20.19 which are designed to result in a binding collective bargaining agreement.

**1.6(7)** “*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 1998 Iowa Acts, chapter 1202, section 14.

**1.6(8)** “*Adjudicatory proceeding*” means a contested case, a proceeding that may culminate in a contested case, a petition for declaratory order, a petition for expedited resolution of a negotiability dispute, or any other proceeding which may require the board or its designee to issue a decision, order, or ruling.

**1.6(9)** “*Agency*” as used in these rules means the public employment relations board and the board’s employees.

**1.6(10)** “*Confidential information*” means information excluded from public access by federal or state law or administrative rule, court rule, court or administrative order, or case law.

**1.6(11)** “*Protected information*” means personal information, the nature of which warrants protection from unlimited public access, including:

*a.* Social security numbers.

*b.* Financial account numbers.

*c.* Dates of birth.

*d.* Names of minor children.

*e.* Individual taxpayer identification numbers.

*f.* Personal identification numbers.

*g.* Other unique identifying numbers.

**1.6(12)** “*Public safety employee*” means a public employee who is employed as one of the following:

*a.* A sheriff’s regular deputy.

*b.* A marshal or police officer of a city, township, or special-purpose district or authority who is a member of a paid police department.

c. A member, except a non-peace officer member, of the division of state patrol, narcotics enforcement, state fire marshal, or criminal investigation, including but not limited to a gaming enforcement officer, who has been duly appointed by the department of public safety in accordance with Iowa Code section 80.15.

d. A conservation officer or park ranger as authorized by Iowa Code section 456A.13.

e. A permanent or full-time fire fighter of a city, township, or special-purpose district or authority who is a member of a paid fire department.

f. A peace officer designated by the department of transportation under Iowa Code section 321.477 who is subject to mandated law enforcement training.

**1.6(13)** “*Public safety unit*” means a bargaining unit with at least 30 percent of employees in the unit who are public safety employees or as required by 2017 Iowa Acts, House File 291, section 18, for certain transit employees.

**1.6(14)** “*Supplemental pay*” means a payment of moneys or other thing of value that is in addition to compensation received pursuant to any other permitted subject of negotiation specified in Iowa Code section 20.9 as amended by 2017 Iowa Acts, House File 291, section 6, and is related to the employment relationship.

[ARC 8953B, IAB 7/28/10, effective 9/1/10; ARC 1583C, IAB 8/20/14, effective 9/24/14; ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]

**621—1.7(20) Computation of time.** Time periods established by these rules shall be computed pursuant to Iowa Code section 4.1(34).

**621—1.8(20,279) Fees of neutrals.** Rescinded ARC 1642C, IAB 10/1/14, effective 11/5/14.

**621—1.9(17A,20) Waiver or variance of rules.**

**1.9(1) Definitions.**

a. “*Waiver or variance*” as used in this rule means action by the board which suspends, in whole or in part, the requirements or provisions of a rule as applied to an identified individual or entity on the basis of the particular circumstances of that individual or entity. The term “waiver” as used herein shall include both a waiver and a variance.

b. “*Provision of law*” as used in this rule means a provision of law as defined by Iowa Code section 17A.2(10).

**1.9(2) Purpose and scope.** This rule creates a generally applicable process and specifies applicable criteria for granting individual waivers from rules adopted by the board in situations in which no other specifically applicable provision of law provides for waiver. To the extent another more specific provision of law governs the issuance of a waiver from a particular rule, the more specific waiver provision shall supersede this rule with respect to any waiver of that rule.

**1.9(3) When waiver unavailable.** No waiver may be granted pursuant to this rule unless the board has jurisdiction over the rule to which the waiver request applies and the requested waiver is consistent with any applicable statute, constitutional provision or other provision of law. The board may not waive requirements created or duties imposed by statute.

**1.9(4) Criteria for waiver.** In response to a petition filed in accordance with this rule the board may, in its sole discretion, issue an order waiving the requirements of a rule or rules if the board finds, based on clear and convincing evidence, all of the following:

a. The application of the rule would pose an undue hardship on the entity or individual for whom the waiver is requested;

b. The waiver of the rule in the particular case would not prejudice the substantial legal rights of any individual or entity;

c. The provisions of the rule or rules to which the waiver request applies are not specifically mandated by statute or other provision of law; and

d. Substantially equal protection of public health, safety and welfare will be afforded by a means other than that prescribed in the particular rule or rules to which the waiver request applies.

**1.9(5) *Filing of petition.*** All petitions requesting a waiver must be filed personally or by mail with the board at its offices at 510 East 12th Street, Suite 1B, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. If the petition relates to a pending contested case proceeding or a proceeding pending before the agency which could culminate in a contested case proceeding, the petition shall be filed in and bear the caption of that proceeding. The board shall acknowledge the filing of a petition by providing the petitioner with a file-stamped copy.

**1.9(6) *Content of petition.*** A petition requesting a waiver shall be in writing and shall include the following information where applicable and known to the petitioner:

*a.* The name, address and telephone number of the individual or entity requesting the waiver and of the individual's or entity's authorized representative, if any.

*b.* A citation of the specific rules, rule or part thereof from which a waiver is requested.

*c.* A description of the precise scope and duration of the waiver requested.

*d.* A statement of the relevant facts the petitioner believes would justify a waiver under each of the criteria specified in subrule 1.9(4), together with an affirmation signed by the petitioner attesting to the accuracy of the facts asserted in the petition.

*e.* A history of any prior contacts within the last five years by or between the board or its representatives and the petitioner concerning the matter which would be affected by the requested waiver, including references to all past or pending agency proceedings relating to the matter.

*f.* Any information known to the petitioner regarding the board's treatment of waiver requests by similarly situated individuals or entities under similar circumstances.

*g.* The name, address and telephone number of any other governmental agency or entity which also regulates the activity in question or which might be affected by the granting of the requested waiver.

*h.* The name, address and telephone number of each individual or entity, public or private, which might be adversely affected by the granting of the requested waiver.

*i.* The name, address and telephone number of each individual with knowledge of the relevant facts relating to the requested waiver.

*j.* Signed releases of information authorizing individuals with knowledge of relevant facts relating to the requested waiver to furnish the board with such information.

**1.9(7) *Timing and effect of petition.*** If the petition seeks waiver of a time requirement specified by a rule, it must be filed as soon as possible but, in every case, before the expiration of the time period sought to be waived. The filing of a petition does not itself stay the operation of any agency rule, including the rule which is the subject of the petition.

**1.9(8) *Service of petition.*** The petitioner shall, within ten days of the filing of the petition, serve a copy thereof, in accordance with the provisions of rule 621—2.15(20), upon all entities or individuals named in or potentially affected by the petition or to whom notice is required by any provision of law and shall file proof of such service with the board. The board may also give notice of the petition to other individuals or entities.

**1.9(9) *Additional information.*** Prior to issuing an order granting or denying a waiver, the board may request additional information from the petitioner or other individuals or entities relating to the petition and the surrounding circumstances. Unless the petition is filed in a pending contested case proceeding, the board may, on its own motion or at the request of the petitioner or other interested individual or entity, schedule and conduct a telephonic or in-person meeting with the petitioner to discuss the request and surrounding circumstances and may include other interested individuals or entities.

**1.9(10) *Procedure in contested cases.*** The provisions of Iowa Code sections 17A.10 through 17A.18A regarding contested case hearings shall apply to petitions for a waiver which are filed in a pending contested case proceeding, but shall otherwise apply to proceedings on such petitions only when required by statute or when the board so provides by rule or order.

**1.9(11) *Board discretion.*** The final decision to grant or deny a waiver is vested in the board and shall be made wholly at its discretion following its consideration of all relevant factors, including the unique, individual circumstances set out in the petition. When the rule to which the petition relates establishes administrative deadlines, the board's consideration shall include a balancing of the individual circumstances of the petitioner with the board's policy favoring the uniform treatment of all similarly situated individuals or entities.



**1.9(12) *Burden of persuasion.*** The petitioner bears the burden of demonstrating, by clear and convincing evidence, that the board should exercise its discretion to grant a waiver pursuant to this rule.

**1.9(13) *Ruling on petition.*** The board shall issue a written ruling which includes an order granting or denying the requested waiver. The ruling shall contain a statement of the relevant facts and reasons upon which the order is based and a description of the precise scope and duration of any waiver granted.

**1.9(14) *Time for ruling.*** The board will issue its ruling as soon as practicable, but shall do so within 120 days of its receipt of the petition unless the petitioner agrees to a later date. However, if the petition was filed in a contested case proceeding or in a pending agency proceeding which has subsequently become a contested case proceeding, ruling on the petition may be withheld until the issuance of the final agency decision in that case.

**1.9(15) *Deemed denial of petition.*** Failure by the board to grant or deny a petition within the time required by subrule 1.9(14) shall be deemed a denial of the petition. However, notwithstanding such deemed denial, the board shall remain responsible for issuing a ruling pursuant to subrule 1.9(13).

**1.9(16) *Scope and conditions of waiver.*** Any waiver granted shall provide the narrowest exception possible to the provisions of the rule being waived. The board may include as a part of its granting of a waiver such conditions as it finds desirable to protect the public welfare or to achieve through alternative means the objectives of the particular rules, rule or part thereof being waived. A waiver shall not be permanent unless the petitioner has shown that a temporary waiver would be impracticable. Should a temporary waiver be granted, there is no automatic right to its renewal. A waiver may be renewed, in the sole discretion of the board, upon the filing and service of a petition for renewal which complies with the provisions of this rule and a finding by the board that grounds for a waiver continue to exist.

**1.9(17) *Service of ruling.*** Within seven days of its issuance, the board's ruling on the petition shall be served by the board by ordinary mail upon the petitioner, any entity or individual to whom the ruling pertains and any other individuals or entities entitled to notice pursuant to any other provision of law.

**1.9(18) *Indexing and public availability.*** The board shall maintain a record of all rulings on petitions filed pursuant to this rule, which shall be indexed and available for public inspection at the board's offices subject to the provisions of Iowa Code section 17A.3. Because petitions and rulings may contain information which the board is authorized or required to keep confidential, the board may redact such confidential information from such petitions and rulings prior to public inspection.

**1.9(19) *Effect of waiver.*** Any waiver granted by the board shall constitute a defense, within the terms and the specific facts set forth therein, for the entity or individual to whom the waiver pertains in any proceeding in which the rule in question is sought to be invoked. The waiver is effective only as to the entity or individual to whom it was granted, is not assignable and does not inure to the benefit of the individual's or entity's successor(s) in interest.

**1.9(20) *Cancellation of waiver.*** A waiver granted pursuant to this rule may be canceled, withdrawn or modified if, after appropriate notice and hearing, the board finds:

*a.* An entity or individual who requested or was the subject of the waiver withheld from or knowingly misrepresented to the board material facts relevant to the propriety or desirability of the waiver; or

*b.* The alternative means for ensuring that the public welfare will be adequately protected and the purposes of the rule or set of rules waived will be adequately served after issuance of the waiver have been demonstrated to be insufficient, or

*c.* The subject of the waiver has failed to comply with all of the conditions specified in the order granting the waiver.

**1.9(21) *Violations.*** A violation of a condition specified in an order granting a waiver shall be treated as a violation of the particular rules, rule or portion thereof waived by the board. As a result, the recipient of a waiver under this rule who violates such a condition may be subject to the same remedies or penalties as an entity or individual who violates the rules, rule or portion thereof waived by the board.

**1.9(22) *Appeals.*** Any intra-agency or judicial review of rulings granting or denying waivers pursuant to this rule shall be in accordance with other applicable board rules and Iowa Code chapter 17A.

**1.9(23) Summary reports.** All orders granting or denying a waiver pursuant to this rule shall be summarized in semiannual reports which comply with and are distributed pursuant to the requirements of Iowa Code section 17A.9A.

**621—1.10(20) Agency record and files.**

**1.10(1) Agency record.** The official agency record for all adjudicatory proceedings includes the following:

- a. Electronic files maintained in the agency's electronic document management system;
- b. Paper documents maintained by the agency in paper form when permitted by the board's order; and
- c. Exhibits and other materials filed with or delivered to and maintained by the agency as part of the case file.

**1.10(2) Paper case files.** Except as otherwise provided in the agency's rules or directed by the board, the agency will not maintain paper case files in adjudicatory proceedings filed on or after January 1, 2015. [ARC 1583C, IAB 8/20/14, effective 9/24/14]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 17A.9A and chapters 20 and 279.

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CHAPTER 2  
GENERAL PRACTICE AND HEARING PROCEDURES

**621—2.1(20) Hearing—time and place—administrative law judge.** A member of the board or an administrative law judge shall fix the time and place for all hearings. Hearings may be conducted by the board, or by one or more of its members, or by an administrative law judge designated by the board. At their discretion the board or administrative law judge may order a prehearing conference.

**621—2.2(20) Notice of hearing—contents.** Written notice of a contested case hearing shall be delivered by the board to all parties by ordinary mail. The notice shall include:

- 2.2(1) A statement of the date, time, place and nature of the hearing.
- 2.2(2) A statement of the legal authority and jurisdiction under which the hearing is to be held.
- 2.2(3) A reference to the particular sections of the statutes and rules involved.
- 2.2(4) A short and plain statement of the matters asserted.

**621—2.3(20) Default.**

2.3(1) If a party fails to appear or participate in a contested case hearing after proper service of notice, the presiding officer may, if no continuance is granted, enter a default decision or proceed with the hearing and render a decision in the absence of the party.

2.3(2) Default decisions or decisions rendered on the merits after a party has failed to appear or participate in a contested case hearing become final agency action unless, within 20 days after the mailing of the decision to the parties, a motion to vacate pursuant to subrule 2.3(3) is filed and served on all parties or, if the decision is a proposed decision within the meaning of Iowa Code section 17A.15(2), an appeal from the decision to the board on the merits is filed within the time provided by rule 621—9.2(20) or, in cases brought pursuant to Iowa Code section 19A.14, a petition for review by the board on the merits is filed within the time provided by rule 621—11.8(19A,20).

2.3(3) A motion to vacate may be filed only by a party who failed to appear for the hearing and against whom the decision was rendered. The motion must state all facts relied upon by the moving party which establish that good cause existed for that party's failure to appear. 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 and filed and served with the motion.

2.3(4) Properly substantiated and timely filed motions to vacate shall be granted only for good cause shown. The burden of proof as to the existence of good cause is on the moving party. Adverse parties may, within ten days of the service of the motion and supporting affidavit(s) upon them, file a response to the motion. Adverse parties shall be allowed to conduct discovery as to the issue of the existence of good cause and to present evidence on the issue prior to a ruling on the motion, if a request to do so is included in that party's response.

2.3(5) The time for the filing of an intra-agency appeal from or petition for review of a decision for which a timely motion to vacate has been filed is stayed pending the issuance of the presiding officer's ruling on the motion to vacate.

**621—2.4(20) Intervention and additional parties.** Any interested person may request intervention in any proceeding before the public employment relations board. An application for intervention shall be in writing, except that applications made during a hearing may be made orally to the hearing officer, and shall contain a statement of the reasons for such intervention. When an application for intervention is filed regarding a petition for bargaining representative determination, 621—subrules 4.3(2), 4.4(4), 5.1(2), 5.5(2), and 5.5(3) shall apply.

Where necessary to achieve a more proper decision, the board or administrative law judge may, on its own motion or the motion of any party, order the bringing in of additional parties. When so ordered, the board shall serve upon such additional parties all relevant pleadings and allow such parties a reasonable time to respond thereto where appropriate.

[ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]

**621—2.5(20) Continuance.** Hearings or proceedings on any matter may be continued by order of the board or an administrative law judge, with the reasons therefor set out in said order, and notice thereof to all parties. Parties may, upon written application to the board prior to commencement of the hearing or other proceeding, or oral application to the administrative law judge during the hearing, but not ex parte, request a continuance. A continuance may be allowed for any cause not growing out of the fault or negligence of the applicant, which satisfies the board or administrative law judge that a proper decision or result will be more nearly obtained by granting a continuance. The continuance may also be granted if agreed to by all parties and approved by the board or administrative law judge.

**621—2.6(20) Appearances and conduct of parties.** Any party may appear and be heard on its own behalf, or by its designated representative. Designated representatives shall file a notice of appearance with the board for each case in which they appear for a party. Filing of pleadings on behalf of a party shall be equivalent to filing a notice of appearance. All persons appearing in proceedings before the board shall conform to the standard of ethical conduct required of attorneys before the courts of the state of Iowa. If any person refuses to conform to such standards, the board may decline to permit such person to appear in any proceeding.

**621—2.7(20) Evidence—objections.** Rules of evidence shall be those set forth in the Administrative Procedure Act. Any objection with respect to the conduct of the hearing, including an objection to the introduction of evidence, may be stated orally or in writing, accompanied by a short statement of the grounds of such objection, and included in the record. No such objection shall be deemed waived by further participation in the hearing.

**621—2.8(20) Order of procedure.** The employer shall present its evidence first in unit determination hearings. The complainant shall present its evidence first and shall have the burden of proof in prohibited practice hearings. Intervenors shall follow the parties in whose behalf the intervention is made; if not made in support of a principal party, the administrative law judge shall designate at what stage such intervenors shall be heard. The order of other parties shall be determined by the administrative law judge. All parties shall be allowed cross-examination and an opportunity for rebuttal. At any stage of the hearing or after the close of the hearing but prior to decision, the board or administrative law judge may call for further evidence to be presented by the party or parties concerned.

**621—2.9(20) Amendments.** A petition, complaint or answer may be amended for good cause shown, but not ex parte, upon motion at any time prior to the decision. Allowance of such amendments, including those to conform to the proof, shall be within the discretion of the board or administrative law judge. The board or administrative law judge may impose terms, or grant a continuance with or without terms, as a condition of such allowance. Such motions prior to hearing shall be in writing filed with the board, and the moving party shall serve a copy thereof upon all parties by ordinary mail.

**621—2.10(20) Briefs and arguments.** At the discretion of the board or administrative law judge, oral arguments may be presented by the parties with such time limits as determined by the board or administrative law judge. Briefs may be filed in such order and within such time limits as set by the board or administrative law judge.

**621—2.11(20) Sequestration of witnesses.** Upon its own motion, or the motion of any party, the board or administrative law judge may order the sequestration of witnesses in any proceeding.

**621—2.12(20) Subpoenas.**

**2.12(1) Attendance of witnesses.** The board, an administrative law judge, or an arbitrator selected pursuant to Iowa Code section 20.22 shall issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of relevant records upon written application of any party filed with the agency prior to the hearing. The application shall specify the names and addresses of the witnesses or the person or party having possession of the requested documents and shall list with specificity the records or other items

sought. The requested subpoenas may be provided electronically to a registered user of the electronic document management system. A motion to quash a subpoena may be filed, and when the subpoena has been served more than seven days prior to the hearing, the motion shall be filed not less than three days prior to the hearing.

**2.12(2) *Witness fees.*** Witnesses shall receive from the subpoenaing party fees and expenses as are prescribed by statute for witnesses in civil actions before a district court. Witnesses may, however, waive such fees and expenses.

**2.12(3) *Service of subpoenas.*** Subpoenas shall be served as provided in Iowa Code section 622.63. [ARC 8953B, IAB 7/28/10, effective 9/1/10; ARC 1583C, IAB 8/20/14, effective 9/24/14]

**621—2.13(20) Form of documents and treatment of confidential or protected information.**

**2.13(1) *Form.*** All documents which relate to any proceeding before the agency should be typewritten and bear the docket number of the proceeding to which it relates. Such documents may be single- or double-spaced at the option of the submitting party.

**2.13(2) *Confidential information.*** When a party files any document which contains material or a reproduction, quotation, or extensive paraphrase of confidential information as defined by 621—subrule 1.6(10), it is the responsibility of the filer to ensure that confidential information is omitted or redacted, or to certify the confidential nature of the document in the manner provided by the electronic document management system. If a document is certified as confidential, omission or redaction of the confidential information contained in the document is not required. The agency will not review filings to determine whether appropriate omissions or redactions have been made.

**2.13(3) *Protected information.*** When a party files any document which contains protected information as defined by 621—subrule 1.6(11), it is the responsibility of the filer to ensure that the protected information is omitted or redacted from the document before the document is filed unless the protected information is required by statute or rule to be included or is material to the proceeding. The agency will not review filings to determine whether appropriate omissions or redactions have been made.

[ARC 1583C, IAB 8/20/14, effective 9/24/14]

**621—2.14(20) Captions.** The following captions for documents other than forms provided by the board are suggested for use in practice before the board:

**2.14(1) In prohibited practice proceedings:**  
Before the Public Employment Relations Board

XYZ, Complainant  and  J. Doe, Respondent	}	[name of document]  Case No. <u>1234</u>
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**2.14(2) In proceedings pursuant to a petition:**  
Before the Public Employment Relations Board

In the matter of  XYZ, Public Employer  and  J. Doe, Petitioner	}	[name of document]  Case No. <u>1234</u>
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**621—2.15(20) Service of pleadings and other papers.**

**2.15(1) Service—upon whom made.** Whenever under these rules nonelectronic service is required or permitted to be made upon a person or party, such service shall be as follows:

- a. Upon any city, or board, commission, council or agency thereof, by serving the mayor or city clerk.
- b. Upon any county, or office, board, commission or agency thereof, by serving the county auditor or the chairperson of the county board of supervisors.
- c. Upon any school district, school township, or school corporation, by serving the presiding officer or secretary of its governing body.
- d. Upon the state of Iowa, or board, commission, council, office or agency thereof, by serving the governor or the director of the department of administrative services.
- e. Upon the state judicial department, by serving the state court administrator.
- f. Upon any other governing body, by serving its presiding officer, clerk or secretary.
- g. Upon an employee organization, by serving the person designated by the employee organization to receive service pursuant to 621—subrule 8.2(2) or by service upon the president or secretary of the employee organization.
- h. Upon any other person, by serving that person or that person’s attorney of record.

**2.15(2) Service—how made.** Except as provided in rule 621—3.4(20) and subrule 2.12(3) and 621—subrule 4.2(2), whenever nonelectronic service of any document is permitted or required by these rules, the service shall be sufficient if made by ordinary mail. If the document served is an initial filing in a proceeding, the serving party shall also serve with the document an agency-approved information sheet regarding mandatory electronic filing.

**2.15(3) Proof of service.** Where personal service or service by certified or ordinary mail is permitted or required by these rules, the serving party shall file the return of personal service or certified mail return receipt with the agency. Where service by ordinary mail is permitted under these rules, the serving party shall include the following or a substantially similar certificate on the original document filed with the agency:

“I hereby certify that on \_\_\_\_\_ I sent a copy of the foregoing matter to  
(date)

the following parties of record or their representatives at the addresses indicated, by depositing same in a United States mail receptacle with sufficient postage affixed.

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_”  
(party or representative)

Unless excepted by 621—subrule 16.4(2), proof of service shall be filed electronically in accordance with 621—Chapter 16.

[ARC 1583C, IAB 8/20/14, effective 9/24/14; ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]

**621—2.16(20) Consolidation.** Upon application of any party or upon its own motion, the board or an administrative law judge may consolidate for hearing any cases which involve common questions of law or fact.

**621—2.17(20) Prohibition against testimony of mediators, arbitrators and board employees.** Except as authorized by Iowa Code section 20.31, a mediator, arbitrator, administrative law judge, member of the board or other officer or employee of the board shall not testify on behalf of any party to a prohibited practice, representation or impasse resolution proceeding, pending in any court or before the board, with respect to any information, facts, or other matter coming to that individual’s knowledge through a party or parties in an official capacity as a resolver of disputes.

[ARC 8953B, IAB 7/28/10, effective 9/1/10]

**621—2.18(20) Delivery of decisions and orders.** Decisions and orders of the board or administrative law judge shall be filed and served in accordance with 621—Chapter 16.

[ARC 1583C, IAB 8/20/14, effective 9/24/14]

**621—2.19(20) Stays of agency action.** Application for stays of agency actions must be filed with the board and served upon all interested parties pursuant to rule 621—2.15(20). The board may in its discretion and on such terms as it deems proper, grant or deny an application.

**621—2.20(20) Ex parte communications.**

**2.20(1)** Prohibited communications. Unless required for the disposition of ex parte matters specifically authorized by statute, a presiding officer in a contested case or in proceedings on a petition for declaratory order in which there are two or more parties, shall not communicate directly or indirectly with any party, representative of any party or any other person with a direct or indirect interest in such case, nor shall any such party, representative or person communicate directly or indirectly with the presiding officer concerning any issues of fact or law in that case, except upon notice and opportunity for all parties to participate. Nothing in this provision precludes the presiding officer, without such notice and opportunity for all parties to participate, from communicating with members of the agency or seeking the advice or help of persons other than those with a personal interest in, or those engaged in personally investigating, 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. 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 general direction and supervision of assigned investigators, unsolicited receipt of information which is relayed to assigned investigators, review of another’s investigative work product in the course of determining whether to initiate a proceeding or 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 a presiding officer in that case shall be disclosed if required by Iowa Code section 17A.17 as amended by 1998 Iowa Acts, chapter 1202.

**2.20(2)** Prohibitions on ex parte communications commence with the issuance of the notice of hearing in a contested case and with the filing of the petition in a declaratory order proceeding in which there are two or more parties, and continue for as long as the case is pending.

**2.20(3)** Communications with a 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 prior to seeking to continue hearings or other deadlines.

**2.20(4)** Disclosure of prohibited communications. A presiding officer who receives a prohibited ex parte communication during the pendency of a contested case or proceedings on a petition for declaratory order in which there are two or more parties shall disclose to all parties and place on the record of the pending matter all such written communications, all written responses to the communication, and a memorandum stating the substance of all such oral and other communications received, all responses made and the identity of each person from whom the presiding officer received a prohibited ex parte communication. The presiding officer shall notify all parties that these matters have been placed on the record. Any party desiring to rebut the prohibited communication will be allowed the opportunity to do so upon written request filed within ten days after the giving of notice that the matters have been placed on the record.

**2.20(5)** If the presiding officer determines that the effect of a prohibited ex parte communication is so prejudicial that it cannot be cured by the procedure specified in subrule 2.20(4), the presiding officer shall be disqualified and the portions of the record pertaining to the communication shall be sealed by protective order.

**2.20(6)** Promptly after being assigned to serve as presiding officer, either individually, on a hearing panel or on an intra-agency appeal, a presiding officer shall disclose to all parties any material factual information received through ex parte communication prior to such assignment, unless the factual information has or soon will be disclosed pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.13(2) or through discovery.

**2.20(7) Sanctions for prohibited communications.**

*a.* The agency and any party may report any violation of this rule to appropriate authorities for any disciplinary proceedings provided by law.

*b.* The presiding officer may render a proposed decision or, in the case of the board or a majority thereof, a final decision, imposing appropriate sanctions for violations of this rule including a decision against the offending party, censure, suspension, or revocation of the privilege to practice before the agency.

*c.* Alleged violations of ex parte communication prohibitions by agency personnel shall be reported to the chairperson for the possible imposition of sanctions including censure, suspension, dismissal or other disciplinary action.

**621—2.21(20) Transcripts of record.** Oral proceedings in all hearings shall be recorded by a certified shorthand reporter or by mechanized means. The board does not furnish transcriptions, but oral proceedings shall be transcribed at the expense of any party requesting the transcription. Arguments on motions, oral arguments on appeal to the board, and arguments made in declaratory order and expedited negotiability dispute proceedings need not be recorded.

**621—2.22(20) Dismissal.** The board or an administrative law judge may dismiss cases for want of prosecution if, after receiving notice by certified mail, the parties do not show good cause why the case should be retained.

**621—2.23(20) Informal disposition.** The board may assign an administrative law judge to assist the parties in reaching a settlement of any dispute which is the subject of an adjudicatory proceeding. However, no party shall be required to participate in mediation or settle the dispute pursuant to this rule. An administrative law judge assisting the parties under this rule shall not serve as a presiding officer in any proceeding related to the dispute. Adjudicatory proceedings may be voluntarily dismissed without consent of the board except as provided in rule 621—3.6(20) and 621—subrule 4.1(3).

[ARC 1773C, IAB 12/10/14, effective 1/14/15]

**621—2.24(20) Evidence of settlement negotiations.** Evidence of proposed offers of settlement of a contested case or a proceeding that may culminate in a contested case shall be inadmissible at the hearing thereon.

[ARC 1773C, IAB 12/10/14, effective 1/14/15]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 20.

[Filed 3/4/75]

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[Filed ARC 1773C (Notice ARC 1670C, IAB 10/15/14), IAB 12/10/14, effective 1/14/15]

[Filed Emergency ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]



CHAPTER 3  
PROHIBITED PRACTICE PROCEEDINGS

**621—3.1(20) Filing of complaint.** A complaint that any public employer, public employee or employee organization has committed a prohibited practice within the meaning of Iowa Code section 20.10(1), that any public employer or the employer's designated representative has committed a prohibited practice within the meaning of Iowa Code section 20.10(2), or that any public employee, employee organization, person, union or organization or its agents have committed a prohibited practice within the meaning of Iowa Code section 20.10(3) may be filed with the agency by any person, employee organization or public employer with standing within 90 days following the alleged commission of the prohibited practice.  
[ARC 1773C, IAB 12/10/14, effective 1/14/15]

**621—3.2(20) Contents of complaint.** The complaint, which may utilize the form available from the board's Web site, shall be in writing, shall be signed by the complainant or its designated representative, and shall include the following:

**3.2(1)** The name, address, telephone number and e-mail address of the complainant, and, if filed by the complainant's designated representative, the name, title, telephone number and e-mail address of that representative.

**3.2(2)** The name and address of the respondent(s) alleged to have committed the prohibited practice.

**3.2(3)** A clear and concise statement of the facts constituting the alleged prohibited practice, including the names of the individuals involved in the alleged act(s), the date(s) and place(s) of the alleged act(s), and the specific subsection(s) and paragraph(s) of Iowa Code section 20.10 alleged to have been violated.

[ARC 1773C, IAB 12/10/14, effective 1/14/15]

**621—3.3(20) Clarification of complaint.** Although compliance with technical rules of pleading is not required, the agency may, on either its own motion or motion of the respondent, require the complainant to make the complaint more specific.

[ARC 1773C, IAB 12/10/14, effective 1/14/15]

**621—3.4(20) Service of complaint.** The complainant shall, within a reasonable time following the filing of a complaint, serve all named respondents with a copy of the complaint in the manner of an original notice or by certified mail, return receipt requested, together with an agency-approved information sheet regarding mandatory electronic filing. Such service shall be upon the person(s) designated for service by 621—subrule 2.15(1), and the complainant shall file proof thereof with the agency in accordance with 621—subrule 2.15(3) and 621—subrule 16.10(1).

[ARC 1583C, IAB 8/20/14, effective 9/24/14; ARC 1773C, IAB 12/10/14, effective 1/14/15]

**621—3.5(20) Answer to complaint.**

**3.5(1) Filing and service.** Within ten days of service of a complaint, the respondent(s) shall file with the agency an answer to the complaint. The answer shall be signed by the respondent(s) or its designated representative. The answer shall be served through the electronic document management system unless the respondent is exempted from electronic filing in the proceeding, in which case service shall be in accordance with 621—subrules 2.15(2) and 2.15(3), and upon the person who signed the complaint being answered.

**3.5(2) Extension of time to answer.** The parties may agree to an extension of the time to answer and shall inform the agency of their agreement, or the board may, upon application and good cause shown, extend the time to answer.

**3.5(3) Contents of answer.** The answer shall specifically admit or deny each allegation of the complaint and may set forth additional facts deemed to constitute a defense. If the respondent is without knowledge sufficient to make an admission or denial concerning an allegation, the answer shall so state and such statement shall operate as a denial. Admissions or denials may be made to all or part of an allegation but shall fairly meet the substance of the allegation. Additional facts set forth in the answer shall be deemed denied by the complainant.

**3.5(4) Admission by failure to answer.** If the respondent fails to file a timely answer, such failure may be deemed by the board to constitute an admission of the material facts alleged in the complaint and a waiver of a hearing.

[ARC 1773C, IAB 12/10/14, effective 1/14/15]

**621—3.6(20) Voluntary dismissal or withdrawal of complaint.** At any time prior to the issuance of a proposed decision (or final decision if heard originally by the board), a complaint or any part thereof may be voluntarily dismissed by the complainant. Following the issuance of a proposed decision, but before the proposed decision becomes the agency's final decision, complaints may be withdrawn only with the consent of the board and upon conditions the board deems proper.

[ARC 1773C, IAB 12/10/14, effective 1/14/15]

**621—3.7(20) Amendment of complaint or answer.** Rescinded ARC 1773C, IAB 12/10/14, effective 1/14/15.

**621—3.8(20) Investigation of complaint.** The board or its designee may conduct a preliminary investigation of the allegations of any complaint. In conducting such investigation, the board may require the complainant and respondent to furnish evidence, including affidavits and other documents if appropriate. If a review of the evidence shows that the complaint has no basis in fact, the complaint may be dismissed with prejudice by the board and the parties notified. Administrative law judges involved in investigations under this rule shall not act as presiding officers in any proceeding related to the prohibited practice complaint.

[ARC 1773C, IAB 12/10/14, effective 1/14/15]

**621—3.9** Rescinded, effective December 22, 1976.

**621—3.10(20) Informal disposition.** Rescinded ARC 1773C, IAB 12/10/14, effective 1/14/15.

**621—3.11(20) Evidence of settlement negotiations.** Rescinded ARC 1773C, IAB 12/10/14, effective 1/14/15.

**621—3.12(20) Costs of certified shorthand reporters and transcripts.**

**3.12(1) Initial payment.** The agency will arrange for a certified shorthand reporter to report the contested case hearing and request that an original transcript of the hearing be prepared by the reporter for the agency's use. The agency initially shall pay the reporter's reasonable compensation for reporting the hearing and producing the agency-requested transcript.

**3.12(2) Taxation as costs.** The cost of reporting and of the agency-requested transcript shall be taxed as costs against the nonprevailing party or parties although the presiding officer, or the board on appeal or review of a proposed decision and order, may apportion such costs in another manner if appropriate under the circumstances.

**3.12(3) Payment of taxed costs.** Following final agency action in a case, the agency will prepare and serve a bill of costs upon the party or parties against whom the costs have been taxed. Those parties shall, within 30 days of such service, remit to the agency the amount specified in the bill of costs. Sums remitted to the agency shall be considered repayment receipts as defined in Iowa Code section 8.2.

[ARC 1773C, IAB 12/10/14, effective 1/14/15]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 20.

[Filed 3/4/75]

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CHAPTER 4  
BARGAINING UNIT AND BARGAINING  
REPRESENTATIVE DETERMINATION

**621—4.1(20) General procedures.**

**4.1(1) *Separate or combined petitions.*** Request for bargaining unit determination and bargaining representative determination shall be by petitions which may be filed separately. Where a request has been made to a public employer to bargain collectively with a designated group of public employees and the board has not previously determined the bargaining unit, the petitions shall be filed jointly or on a combined form provided by the board.

**4.1(2) *Intervention and additional parties.*** See rule 2.4(20).

**4.1(3) *Withdrawal of petitions.*** Petitions may be withdrawn only with the consent of the board.  
[ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]

**621—4.2(20) Unit determination.**

**4.2(1) *Content of petition.*** A petition for bargaining unit determination shall be on an agency-prescribed form and filed with the agency. The petition shall contain an identification and description of the proposed unit.

**4.2(2) *Notice to parties.*** Upon the filing of a proper petition, the agency shall serve copies thereof upon other interested parties by certified mail, return receipt requested. The agency shall file a notice to employees, giving notice that the petition has been filed and setting forth the rights of employees under the Act. The employer shall promptly post the petition and notice to employees in the manner and locations customarily used for the posting of information to employees. If the public employer customarily distributes information to employees by additional means, such as by e-mail or hard copy, the public employer shall also promptly distribute the petition and notice to employees by those means.

**4.2(3) *Notice of hearing.*** The board or administrative law judge shall file a notice of hearing setting forth the time, date and place of the hearing and any other relevant information. The public employer shall promptly post the notice in the manner and locations customarily used for the posting of information to employees. If the public employer customarily distributes information to employees by additional means, such as by e-mail or hard copy, the employer shall also promptly distribute the notice to employees by those means.

**4.2(4) *Intervention.*** See rule 621—2.4(20).

**4.2(5) *Professional and nonprofessional elections.*** Should the agency determine, in any case, that professional and nonprofessional employees are appropriately included in the same bargaining unit, the agency shall file an order directing that an election be conducted to determine whether the professional and nonprofessional employees wish to be represented in a single bargaining unit. The election shall be conducted in accordance with rule 621—5.8(20).

**4.2(6) *Informal settlement of bargaining unit determination.*** Cases on bargaining unit determination may be informally settled in the following manner:

*a.* The petitioning party shall prepare a stipulation setting forth in detail the composition of the bargaining unit as agreed upon by all parties. The stipulation shall be signed by the authorized representatives of the parties involved and shall be filed with the agency for informal review and tentative approval. In the event the parties agree to a combined unit of professional and nonprofessional employees, the stipulation shall set forth both those job classifications included within the professional category and those job classifications included within the nonprofessional category. If the agency fails to tentatively approve the stipulation, the agency shall notify the parties and, unless the parties amend the stipulation in a manner to gain tentative approval of the agency, the matter shall proceed to hearing. If the agency tentatively approves the stipulation, the agency shall file a public notice of proposed decision. The public employer shall promptly post copies of the notice of the proposed decision, for a period of not less than one calendar week, in a prominent place in the main office of the public employer accessible to the general public and in the manner and locations customarily used for the posting of information to employees. If the public employer customarily distributes information to employees

by additional means, such as by e-mail or hard copy, the employer shall also promptly distribute such notice to employees by those means. The public employer shall also have copies of the notice available for distribution to the public upon request.

*b.* Notice of the proposed decision shall identify the parties; specify the terms of the proposed decision; list the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the parties or their authorized representatives to whom inquiries by the public should be directed; and, further, state the date by which written objection to the proposed decision must be filed with the agency and the address to which such objections should be sent.

*c.* Objections to the proposed decision must be filed with the agency, electronically, by ordinary mail or by personal delivery, by the date posted in the notice of proposed decision. Objections shall be in writing and shall set out the specific grounds of objection. The objecting party must identify itself and provide a mailing address and telephone number. The agency shall promptly advise the parties of the objections and make any investigation deemed appropriate. If the agency deems the objections to be of substance, the parties may, with agency approval, amend their proposed decision to conform therewith, and the objecting party shall be notified by the agency of the amendment. If the objections cannot be informally resolved, they may be dismissed or resolved at hearing.

*d.* Final board decision on the informed settlement shall be reserved until expiration of the time for filing of objections. If no objections have been filed; or if filed objections have been resolved through amendment of the proposed decision; or if filed objections, after inquiry by the board, were found to be frivolous, the board shall endorse the proposed decision as final.

*e.* If interested parties are unable to informally settle a case on bargaining unit determination within 15 days of service of a petition, the board or administrative law judge may order any interested party to file with the board its proposed unit description.

[ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]

#### **621—4.3(20) Bargaining representative determination (election petitions).**

**4.3(1) *Form of petition.*** Petitions for bargaining representative determination (election petition) shall be on an agency-prescribed form and filed with the agency. These petitions shall be of three types:

*a.* A certification petition, filed by an employee organization requesting that through an election it be certified as the exclusive bargaining representative of an appropriate unit of public employees. The name of the employee organization which appears on the petition, or the petition as amended, shall be the name which appears on the election ballot.

*b.* A decertification petition, filed by an employee requesting an election to determine whether a majority of the employees in the bargaining unit wish to continue to be represented by a certified employee organization.

*c.* A representation petition, filed by a public employer requesting an election to determine the bargaining representative, if any, of the employees in the bargaining unit.

**4.3(2) *Showing of interest—certification—decertification—intervention.*** Whenever a petition for certification or decertification is filed, or whenever intervention is requested for the purpose of being placed on an election ballot, the petitioner or intervenor shall submit, by ordinary mail or personal delivery, evidence that the petition or application for intervention is supported by 30 percent of the employees in the bargaining unit. In petitions for certification or applications for intervention, such interest showing shall be dated and signed not more than one year prior to its submission; shall contain the job classification of the signatory; and shall contain a statement that the signatory is a member of the employee organization or has authorized it to bargain collectively on the signatory's behalf. In petitions for decertification, evidence of interest shall be as provided above, except the evidence of interest shall instead contain a statement that the signatory no longer wishes to be represented by the certified employee organization. When a representation petition is filed by an employer, no show of interest will be required.

**4.3(3) *Determination of showing of interest.*** The public employer shall, within seven days of receipt of notice of a certification or decertification petition, submit to the agency a list of the names and job classifications of the employees in the unit which is the subject of the petition or, in the

case of a combined petition, the employees in the unit requested by the petitioner. The agency shall administratively determine the sufficiency of the showing of interest upon receipt of the list. This determination, including the identification and number of signers of the showing of interest, shall be confidential and not subject to review, and parties other than the party submitting the interest showing shall not be entitled to a copy or examination of the showing of interest. If the employer fails to furnish the list of employees, the agency shall determine the sufficiency of the showing of interest by whatever means it deems appropriate.

**4.3(4) Notice.** Upon the filing of a petition for certification, decertification or representation, the agency shall file a notice to employees, giving notice that an election petition has been filed and setting forth the rights of employees under the Act. The employer shall promptly post the notice in the manner and locations customarily used for the posting of information to employees. If the public employer customarily distributes information to employees by additional means, such as by e-mail or hard copy, the employer shall also promptly distribute the notice to employees by those means.

**4.3(5) Direction of election.** Whenever an election petition is filed which conforms to these rules and the Act and the appropriate bargaining unit has been previously determined, an election shall be directed and conducted.

**4.3(6) Intervention.** See 4.1(2).  
[ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]

#### **621—4.4(20) Concurrent (combined) petitions.**

**4.4(1) When to file.** A combined petition for both bargaining unit determination and bargaining representative determination shall be filed whenever a question of representation exists and the bargaining unit has not been previously determined by the board.

**4.4(2) Content of petition.** A combined petition for unit determination and representative determination (election) shall be on a form provided by the board and shall be filed by delivery to the board.

**4.4(3) Notice of petition, hearing, and notice to employees.** Upon receipt of a combined petition, notice shall be as provided in 4.2(2), 4.2(3) and 4.3(4).

**4.4(4) Showing of interest.** Showing of interest shall be as provided in 4.3(2) and 4.3(3). Should the board determine an appropriate unit different than that requested, any employee organization affected may request a reasonable period of time to submit additional evidence of interest sufficient to satisfy the requirements of the Act.

**4.4(5) Scope of hearing.** Hearings on combined petitions shall resolve all issues with regard to both bargaining unit determination and bargaining representative determination.

**4.4(6) Intervention.** See 4.1(2).

**4.4(7) Professional and nonprofessional elections.** See 4.2(5).

**621—4.5(20) Unit reconsideration.** A petition for reconsideration of an agency-established bargaining unit may be filed by an employee organization, public employer, or an employee of the public employer. This petition may be filed only in combination with a certification petition. Rules 621—4.1(20), 621—4.2(20), 621—4.3(20) and 621—4.4(20) shall apply. A petition for reconsideration of an agency-established bargaining unit covering state employees may not be filed for at least one year after the initial unit determination.

[ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]

#### **621—4.6(20) Amendment of unit.**

**4.6(1) Petition.** A petition for amendment of an agency-determined bargaining unit may be filed by the public employer or the certified employee organization. The petition shall contain:

*a.* The names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of the public employer, the employee organization, and their respective representatives.

*b.* An identification and description of the proposed amended unit.

c. The names and addresses of any other employee organizations which claim to represent any employees affected by the proposed amendment or a statement that the petitioner has no knowledge of any other such organization.

d. Job classifications of the employees as to whom the issue is raised, the number of employees, if any, in each classification, and whether each job classification qualifies as a public safety employee.

e. A statement identifying the current status of the unit as either a public safety or a non-public safety unit and the change, if any, to the status of the unit which would result from the requested amendment.

f. A specific statement of the petitioner's reasons for seeking amendment of the unit and any other relevant facts.

**4.6(2) Procedure—decision.** Insofar as applicable, rule 621—4.2(20) shall apply.

**4.6(3) Elections; when required.** When a question of representation exists, the agency will conduct an amendment of unit election pursuant to rule 621—5.9(20). A question of representation exists when the job classification(s) sought to be amended into a bargaining unit was in existence at the time the employee organization was certified to represent the bargaining unit and the job classification(s) separately constitutes an appropriate bargaining unit.

[ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]

**621—4.7(20) Unit clarification.** A petition to clarify the inclusion or exclusion of job classifications or employees in an agency-determined bargaining unit may be filed by the public employer, an affected public employee, or the certified employee organization. Such petition must be in the absence of a question of representation. Insofar as applicable, the procedures for such filing shall be as provided in subrule 4.6(1).

[ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]

**621—4.8(20) Amendment of certification.**

**4.8(1) Petitions.** A petition for the amendment of a certified employee organization's certification may be filed by the certified employee organization, the public employer or the agency to reflect an act or occurrence affecting the organization or the public employer, such as a name change or merger.

**4.8(2) Employee organization.** The employee organization must file its petition with the following:

a. An affidavit(s) that establishes:

(1) The act or occurrence, which the requested amendment would reflect, was authorized by and accomplished in accordance with the certified employee organization's constitution and bylaws, which provided members with adequate due process; and

(2) Substantial continuity of representation has been maintained.

b. Updated agency reports if there is a change in the employee organization's name or if there is a change to the employee organization's governing body. The reports shall include the following:

(1) An updated PERB annual report that covers the time period from the last annual report to the time of the filing of the petition.

(2) An updated PERB registration report.

(3) An updated constitution and bylaws.

c. Final agency reports for dissolved organizations resulting from a merger. The final agency report shall include a PERB annual report that covers the time period from the last annual report to the time of the merger and shall reflect the closing of the books and accounts of the dissolved employee organization.

**4.8(3) Public employer.** The public employer must file its petition with an affidavit, affidavits or other documents, such as board minutes, establishing a change in the name of the public employer.

**4.8(4) Agency.** The agency may, at any time, file a petition with a document or documents establishing the basis for the amendment.

**4.8(5) Public employer posting, decisions and objection period.** When a petition for amendment of certification is filed which the agency deems sufficient to fulfill the requirements of this rule, the agency shall file a public notice of its proposed decision to amend the employee organization's certification upon the non-petitioning interested parties. Upon receipt, the public employer shall promptly post the notice of



proposed decision, for a period of not less than one calendar week, in a prominent place in the main office of the public employer accessible to the general public and in the manner and locations customarily used for the posting of information to employees. If the public employer customarily distributes information to employees by additional means, such as by e-mail or hard copy, the employer shall also promptly distribute such notice to employees by those means. The public employer shall also have copies of the proposed decision available for distribution to the public upon request.

*a.* The notice of the proposed decision shall identify the parties; specify the terms of the proposed decision; list the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the parties or their authorized representatives to whom inquiries by the public should be directed; and state the date by which written objection to the proposed decision must be filed .

*b.* Objections to the proposed decision must be filed with the agency, electronically, by ordinary mail or by personal delivery, by the date specified in the notice. Objections shall be in writing and shall set out the specific grounds of objection. The objecting party must identify itself and provide a mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address. The agency shall promptly advise the parties of the objections and make any investigation deemed appropriate. When an objection is raised, the agency may investigate and dismiss the objection or conduct a hearing pursuant to 621—Chapter 2.

*c.* A final agency decision shall be reserved until the expiration of the time for filing objections. If no objections have been filed, the agency may endorse the proposed decision as final.

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These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 20.

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CHAPTER 5  
ELECTIONS

**621—5.1(20) General procedures.** The agency shall determine the date of the election or election period, and the place, method, and other procedural aspects of conducting an election held pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 20. Elections shall be conducted under the direction and supervision of the agency or its election agent and shall be by secret ballot.

**5.1(1) Election types.** There are five types of elections:

- a. Certification election.
- b. Retention and recertification election.
- c. Decertification election.
- d. Professional and nonprofessional election.
- e. Amendment of unit election.

**5.1(2) Election fees.**

a. For certification, retention and recertification, and decertification elections, the employee organization is responsible for and shall prepay the election fees in accordance with this chapter and rules relevant to the specific election. Employee organizations intervening in a certification election shall pay a proportionate share of the election fees.

b. A certified employee organization may make written request to the agency for an extension of time in which to pay its election fees. The employee organization may make the request after the filing of a certification or decertification petition, but no later than 7 days after the agency's filing of an order of election. For a retention and recertification election, a certified employee organization may make a request after the agency's filing of its intent to conduct an election, but no later than 30 days prior to the commencement of the election period. In no event will the agency conduct an election prior to an employee organization's payment of election fees.

c. A certified employee organization may file notice of nonpayment to indicate that it will not pay the election fees for a decertification or retention and recertification election. The notice of nonpayment must be filed no later than 7 days after the agency's filing of an order for a decertification election or no later than 30 days prior to the commencement of a retention and recertification election period. The notice shall be signed by an authorized representative of the organization, state that the organization will not pay the election fees, and acknowledge that the agency will not conduct the applicable election and the employee organization's certification will be revoked.

d. The applicable election fee is based upon the number of employees on the voter eligibility list submitted to the agency pursuant to paragraph 5.2(2) "a." When the list contains 10 or fewer eligible voters, the election fee is \$10.00. When the list contains more than 10 eligible voters, the election fee is \$1.00 per eligible voter. When the list contains more than 50 eligible voters and subsequent increases or decreases as contemplated by paragraph 5.2(2) "b" or successful challenges pursuant to subrule 5.2(3) alter the number of eligible voters by 5 percent or more, the employee organization shall make an additional payment to reflect the increased number of eligible voters or, in the case of a decrease, the agency shall reimburse the employee organization for its overpayment.

**5.1(3) Date of elections.** For purposes of this chapter, the date of an election shall be the date on which the ballots were counted.

[ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]

**621—5.2(20) Eligibility—voter eligibility list.**

**5.2(1) Eligible voters.** Eligible voters are those employees who:

- a. Were employed in the bargaining unit during the payroll period immediately preceding the direction of election unless another date is agreed upon by the parties and the agency, and
- b. Are employed in the bargaining unit on the date of the election.

**5.2(2) Eligible voter list.**

a. When the agency files a notice of intent to conduct a retention and recertification election or an order that an election be conducted, the employer shall, within seven days of the notice or order, e-mail

to the agency an alphabetical list of the names, addresses, e-mail addresses, and job classifications of the employees eligible to vote, except as provided in subrule 5.6(8). Where a telephonic/Web-based election is ordered, the list of eligible voters shall also include the employee's date of birth, the last four digits of the employee's social security number and any other information required by the agency.

*b.* The agency shall file the list of eligible voters' names and job classifications. This list shall become the official voting list for the election to be conducted. The agency shall provide to the employee organization the voter list with the employees' contact information. The employer shall e-mail additions or deletions of employees' names, changes in job classifications or addresses to the agency to reflect the current status of eligible voters. The parties may further amend the list by agreement.

**5.2(3) Challenges.** A party may challenge, for good cause, the eligibility of any voter in accordance with subrule 5.3(2), 5.3(3) or 5.3(4), whichever is applicable to the election being conducted. Whenever challenged ballots are determinative of the outcome of an election, a hearing shall be scheduled.

[ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]

### **621—5.3(20) Method of voting.**

**5.3(1) Types of elections.** The agency may conduct an election, in whole or in part, in person, by mail balloting, or through a telephonic/Web-based system.

**5.3(2) In-person election.** An eligible voter shall cast the voter's ballot by marking the voter's choice on the ballot and depositing it in the ballot box. If a voter inadvertently spoils a ballot, the ballot may be returned to the agent who shall void and retain it and provide another ballot to the voter. An absentee ballot shall be delivered to an eligible voter upon the voter's written notice to the agency of the voter's inability to be present at the election for good cause. The voted ballot must be in the possession of the election agent prior to the close of the in-person election in order to be counted and shall be contained in the official envelopes provided for this purpose.

*a. Observers.* Each party to an election may designate an equal number of representatives, not to exceed one per voting site, to act as the party's observers during the election and tally of ballots. Unless agreed to by the parties, observers shall not be supervisory employees of the public employer.

*b. Ballot box.* Upon examination by the observers and prior to the opening of the polls, the election agent shall seal the ballot box so that entry thereto is limited to one slot. In the event that the election is continued for more than one polling period or at more than one polling place, the ballot box shall be sealed in its entirety and shall remain in the custody of the election agent until immediately prior to the next polling period or the counting of the ballots.

*c. Challenges and tally.* A challenge to a voter's eligibility shall be made with good cause prior to the time the voter deposits the voter's ballot in the ballot box. In the event of a challenge, the challenged voter may mark the ballot in secret and the election agent shall segregate the ballot by causing it to be placed in a challenged ballot envelope with appropriate markings and depositing it in the ballot box. The agency shall file the tally of ballots after the close of the election.

**5.3(3) Mail ballot election.** When conducting a mail ballot election, the agency shall send an official voting package to each eligible voter by ordinary mail and direct a date by which voted ballots must be received by the agency in order to be counted.

*a. Contents of official voting packages.* Voting packages sent to eligible voters shall consist of voting instructions, a ballot, a secret envelope in which said ballot is to be inserted, and a postage-paid return-addressed outer envelope which identifies the voter for purposes of proposing challenges to the voter's eligibility. In the event of a challenge, both envelopes shall remain sealed until such time as the challenge is resolved.

*b. Tally of ballots—observers—challenges.* The agency shall set a time and place for the tally of ballots, at which time representatives of the parties to the election shall be entitled to be present and challenge for good cause the eligibility of any voter. Challenges must be made prior to the time the outer envelope containing the voter's secret envelope and ballot is opened. In the event of a challenge, both the secret envelope and the outer envelope shall remain sealed until the challenge is resolved. In the absence of a challenge, the voter's outer envelope shall be opened and the secret envelope containing

the voter's ballot shall be deposited in the ballot box. The agency shall file the tally of ballots after the close of the election.

**5.3(4) Telephonic/Web-based election.** The agency may utilize an election services vendor for the receipt of telephonic and Web-based ballots and for the tallying of those ballots.

*a. Notice of election.* When conducting a telephonic/Web-based election, whether in whole or in part, the agency shall include in the notice of election the telephone number the voter is to call to cast a ballot and the Web-site address for Web-based voting, as well as the script of the ballot.

*b. Tally and challenges.* The agency shall file the tally of ballots after the close of the election period. A party wishing to challenge for good cause the eligibility of any voter shall do so at least two hours prior to the close of the election period. In the event of a challenge, the tally of ballots will not include such vote until the challenge is resolved.

**5.3(5) Alternate voting method.** When a voter promptly informs the agency of the voter's inability to cast a ballot using the designated method of voting, the agency shall assist the voter in using an alternate method to cast a secret ballot.

[ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]

#### **621—5.4(20) Objections to an election.**

**5.4(1) Objections.** Whenever a party, or the board on its motion, files a timely objection, a hearing shall be scheduled. Objections to an election must be filed within ten days of the filing of the tally of ballots, even when challenged ballots are determinative of the outcome of the election, and must contain a statement of facts upon which the objections are based. The objections shall be electronically filed with the agency.

**5.4(2) Objectionable conduct during election campaigns.** The following types of activity, if conducted during the period beginning with the filing of an election petition with the agency or the agency's notice of intent to conduct a retention and recertification election and ending at the conclusion of the election, if determined by the agency that such activity could have affected the results of the election, shall be considered to be objectionable conduct sufficient to invalidate the results of an election:

*a.* Electioneering within 300 feet or within sound of the polling place established by the agency during the conduct of an in-person election;

*b.* Misstatements of material facts by any party to the election or its representative without sufficient time for the adversely affected party to adequately respond;

*c.* Any misuse of agency documents, including an indication that the agency endorses any particular choice appearing on the ballot;

*d.* Campaign speeches to assembled groups of employees during working hours within the 24-hour period before the opening of the polls, mailing of ballots, or commencement of the telephonic/Web-based election period;

*e.* Any polling of employees by a public employer which relates to the employees' preference for or against a bargaining representative;

*f.* Commission of a prohibited practice;

*g.* Any other misconduct or other circumstance which prevents employees from freely expressing their preferences in the election.

[ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]

#### **621—5.5(20) Certification elections.**

**5.5(1) General procedures—notice of election.**

*a.* Upon the agency's determination that a certification petition is supported by an adequate showing of interest in accordance with rule 621—4.3(20), the agency shall file an order directing that an election be conducted in a specified manner and that the employer submit a list of eligible voters pursuant to rule 621—5.2(20).

*b.* Following the employer's submission of the list of eligible voters, the agency shall file a notice of election containing a sample ballot and setting forth the date, time, place, method, and purpose of the election, and such additional information as the agency may deem appropriate. The employer shall

promptly post the notice in the manner and locations customarily used for the posting of information to employees. If a public employer customarily distributes information to employees by additional means, such as by e-mail or hard copy, the public employer shall also promptly distribute such notice to employees by those means.

**5.5(2) *Payment of election fee.***

*a.* Upon the filing of a certification petition, but no later than seven days after the agency's filing of an order directing an election, an employee organization shall pay the applicable election fee to the agency, unless an extension of time, upon written request, is granted by the agency. The agency will not conduct an election prior to receiving the applicable election fee from the petitioner. An employee organization's failure to pay the applicable election fee in a timely manner will result in the agency's dismissal of the certification petition.

*b.* An intervening employee organization shall pay the applicable election fee to the agency within seven days after the agency's grant of its application to intervene. Failure to pay the applicable election fee in a timely manner will result in the intervenor's exclusion from the ballot.

**5.5(3) *Time for intervention.*** No employee organization other than the petitioner shall be placed on the ballot unless application for intervention, as provided in rule 621—2.4(20), is filed with the agency within seven days after the filing of the agency's order directing the election in which intervention is sought. An employee organization seeking intervention shall submit to the agency, by ordinary mail or personal delivery, an adequate showing of interest as provided in 621—subrule 4.3(2) within seven days after the agency's direction of an election.

**5.5(4) *Withdrawal from ballot.*** An intervening employee organization may, upon its request, be removed from the ballot with the approval of the agency.

**5.5(5) *Ballots.*** Ballots shall contain the question required by Iowa Code section 20.15 as amended by 2017 Iowa Acts, House File 291, section 9. The question in an election where only one employee organization appears on the ballot shall ask, "Do you wish to be represented for purposes of collective bargaining by [name of employee organization]?" followed by the choices "Yes, I wish to be represented by [name of employee organization]" or "No, I do not wish to be represented"; the question in an election where more than one employee organization appears on the ballot shall ask: "Do you wish to be represented for purposes of collective bargaining by:" and shall then list horizontally or vertically thereafter the choices available, including the name of each employee organization and the choice of "Neither" or "No Representative," as is applicable.

**5.5(6) *Certification of results and compliance with Iowa Code section 20.25.***

*a.* Upon completion of a valid certification election in which an employee organization received the votes of a majority of the employees in the bargaining unit and the employee organization complies with the provisions of Iowa Code section 20.25, the agency shall file an order certifying that employee organization as the exclusive bargaining representative of the employees in the bargaining unit.

*b.* Upon completion of a valid certification election in which none of the employee organizations on the ballot received the votes of a majority of the employees in the bargaining unit, the agency shall file an order of noncertification.

*c.* If an employee organization fails to comply with the provisions of Iowa Code section 20.25 within 90 days of the completion of a valid election, the agency shall file an order of noncertification; provided, however, that extensions of time to comply may be granted by the board upon good cause shown.

**5.5(7) *Bars to certification elections.***

*a.* The agency shall not consider a petition for certification of an employee organization as the exclusive representative of a bargaining unit unless a period of two years has elapsed from the date of any of the following:

(1) The last certification election in which an employee organization was not certified as the exclusive representative of that bargaining unit.

(2) The last retention and recertification election in which an employee organization was not retained and recertified as the exclusive representative of that bargaining unit.

(3) The last decertification election in which an employee organization was decertified as the exclusive representative of that bargaining unit.

*b.* The agency shall not consider a petition for certification of an employee organization as the exclusive bargaining representative of a bargaining unit if the bargaining unit is already represented by a certified bargaining representative.

[ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]

#### **621—5.6(20) Retention and recertification elections.**

##### **5.6(1) *Timing of election periods.***

*a.* The agency shall conduct an election, prior to the expiration of a collective bargaining agreement between an employer and a certified employee organization, to determine if the employees in a represented bargaining unit wish to retain and recertify the unit's certified representative. Elections will be conducted not less than once every five years.

*b.* For a certified employee organization that is a party to a collective bargaining agreement with a June 30 expiration date, the organization's retention and recertification election shall occur not earlier than June 1 nor later than November 1 in the year prior to the expiration of the agreement.

*c.* For a certified employee organization that is a party to a collective bargaining agreement with an expiration date other than June 30, the organization's retention and recertification election shall occur not earlier than 365 days nor later than 270 days prior to the expiration of the agreement.

*d.* If the certified employee organization has paid the applicable election fee in a timely manner as provided in subrule 5.6(4), the organization's status shall not be adversely affected if the election is not concluded or the results of the election are not certified in compliance with this rule.

*e.* When scheduling a retention and recertification election, the agency will presume the collective bargaining agreement is for a term of one year commencing July 1 and ending June 30 unless the agreement clearly states an alternate term and dates.

*f.* Should an employer fail to file a collective bargaining agreement with the agency as required by Iowa Code section 20.29 as amended by 2017 Iowa Acts, House File 291, section 15, or if the parties have no agreement, the agency will, for purposes of scheduling the election, presume a maximum expiration date of five years pursuant to Iowa Code section 20.9 as amended by 2017 Iowa Acts, House File 291, section 6, or two years pursuant to Iowa Code section 20.15 as amended by 2017 Iowa Acts, House File 291, section 9, whichever is applicable, unless the employer subsequently submits a collective bargaining agreement that allows the agency to conduct an earlier election in accordance with subrule 5.6(1).

*g.* Should the parties' collective bargaining agreement inclusive of any extensions exceed five years, the agency will, for purposes of scheduling the election, presume a maximum duration of five years pursuant to Iowa Code section 20.9 as amended by 2017 Iowa Acts, House File 291, section 6, or two years pursuant to Iowa Code section 20.15 as amended by 2017 Iowa Acts, House File 291, section 9, whichever is applicable.

*h.* A public employer shall notify the agency if the certified employee organization has not been correctly identified as one which requires an upcoming election. The public employer shall submit to the agency all relevant information requested.

##### **5.6(2) *General procedure.***

*a.* Upon determining that a retention and recertification election is required, the agency shall file a notice of intent to conduct an election which shall contain the dates of the election period; the place, method, and purpose of the election; and the date upon which the employee organization shall pay the applicable election fee. The agency shall order the public employer's submission of the voter eligibility list in accordance with rule 621—5.2(20) and subrule 5.6(4).

*b.* Following the agency's receipt of the applicable election fee from the certified employee organization, the agency will file an order directing a retention and recertification election.

*c.* The agency will file a notice of election, copies of which shall be promptly posted by the employer in the manner and locations customarily used for the posting of information to employees. If a public employer customarily distributes information to employees by additional means, such as by e-mail or hard copy, the public employer shall also promptly distribute such notice to employees by those

means. Such notices shall contain a sample ballot or script and shall set forth the dates of the election period; time, place, method, and purpose of the election; and such additional information as the board may deem appropriate.

**5.6(3) *Objection to notice of intent to conduct an election.***

*a.* The employee organization or public employer may file an objection asserting that the election should not be conducted for reasons set forth in the objection. The objection shall be in writing and electronically filed no later than seven days following the date of the notice of intent to conduct an election.

*b.* The agency may conduct a preliminary investigation of the objection and determine if the objection has merit. The agency will dismiss objections without merit and schedule hearings for all other objections. Hearings on objections shall be conducted pursuant to 621—Chapter 2. The objecting party shall present its evidence first.

**5.6(4) *Eligible voter list.***

*a.* The public employer shall submit to the agency by e-mail a list of the employees in the bargaining unit in question within seven days of the filing of the notice of intent to conduct an election, except as provided in subrule 5.6(8). This list shall be organized alphabetically and contain the names, addresses, e-mail addresses, job classifications, dates of birth, the last four digits of the employees' social security numbers, and any other information required by the agency. The agency shall file the list following its redaction of employee dates of birth and partial social security numbers. This list shall become the official voting list for the election to be conducted. The employer shall e-mail additions or deletions of employees' names or any other changes in the list to the agency. The parties may further amend the list by agreement.

*b.* If the public employer fails to submit the list of eligible voters to the agency in a timely fashion, the agency will refrain from conducting the election, will file an order recertifying the employee organization, and may require the employer to reimburse the agency or the employee organization for the cost of the election.

**5.6(5) *Payment of fee.*** A certified employee organization shall pay the applicable election fee at least 30 days prior to the commencement of the election period as set forth in the notice of intent to conduct the election, except as otherwise authorized by this subrule or provided in subrule 5.6(8). The agency may grant a certified employee organization's written request for an extension of time to pay the fee if the request is filed at least 30 days prior to the commencement of the election period. The agency will not conduct an election prior to receiving the applicable election fee. The certified employee organization's failure to pay the applicable election fee in a timely manner shall result in revocation of the organization's certification.

**5.6(6) *Ballots.*** Ballots shall contain the question required by Iowa Code section 20.15 as amended by 2017 Iowa Acts, House File 291, section 9, asking "Do you want [name of certified employee organization] to be retained and recertified and continue to be your exclusive bargaining representative?" followed by the choices "Yes, I want [name of certified employee organization] to continue to represent me" or "No, I do not want [name of certified employee organization] to continue to represent me."

**5.6(7) *Certification of results.***

*a.* Upon completion of a valid retention and recertification election in which an employee organization received the votes of a majority of employees in the bargaining unit, the agency shall file an order recertifying the employee organization as the exclusive bargaining representative of the employees in the bargaining unit.

*b.* Upon completion of a valid retention and recertification election in which an employee organization did not receive the votes of a majority of employees in the bargaining unit, the agency shall file an order decertifying the employee organization as the exclusive bargaining representative of the employees in the bargaining unit.

**5.6(8) *Elections for school districts, area education agencies and community colleges.***

*a.* If a certified employee organization representing employees of a school district, area education agency, or community college is scheduled for a retention and recertification election to be held in September of any given year, the following timeline applies:



The employer shall submit to the agency an employee list as described in subrule 5.6(4) at least 15 days prior to the commencement date of the election period. The certified employee organization shall pay the applicable election fee at least 10 days prior to the commencement of the election period.

*b.* If certified employee organizations representing employees of a school district, area education agency, or community college would otherwise be scheduled for a retention and recertification election to be held between May 1 and August 31, the agency will postpone those elections until October of that calendar year and the timelines of subrules 5.6(2), 5.6(4), and 5.6(5) will apply.  
[ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]

#### **621—5.7(20) Decertification election.**

##### **5.7(1) General procedure—eligibility list—notice of election.**

*a.* Upon the agency's determination that a decertification petition is supported by an adequate showing of interest in accordance with rule 621—4.3(20), the agency shall file an order directing that an election be conducted in a specified manner not less than 150 days before the expiration date of the bargaining unit's collective bargaining agreement and that the employer submit a list of eligible voters pursuant to rule 621—5.2(20), unless the election is barred by subrule 5.7(5).

*b.* Following the employer's submission of the list of eligible voters, the agency shall file a notice of election containing a sample ballot and setting forth the date, time, place, method, and purpose of the election, and such additional information as the board may deem appropriate. The employer shall promptly post the notice in the manner and locations customarily used for the posting of information to employees. If a public employer customarily distributes information to employees by additional means, such as by e-mail or hard copy, the public employer shall also promptly distribute such notice to employees by those means.

**5.7(2) Payment of fee.** After the filing of a decertification petition, but no later than seven days after the agency's filing of an order directing an election, a certified employee organization shall pay the applicable election fee to the agency, unless an extension of time, upon written request, is granted by the agency. The agency will not conduct an election prior to receiving the applicable election fee. A certified employee organization's failure to pay the applicable election fee in a timely manner shall result in the revocation of the employee organization's certification.

**5.7(3) Ballots.** Ballots shall contain the question required by Iowa Code section 20.15 as amended by 2017 Iowa Acts, House File 291, section 9, asking "Do you want [name of certified employee organization] to be decertified by the Public Employment Relations Board and cease to be your exclusive bargaining representative?" followed by the choices "Yes, I no longer wish to be represented by [name of certified employee organization]" or "No, I want to continue to be represented by [name of certified employee organization]."

##### **5.7(4) Certification of results.**

*a.* Upon completion of a valid decertification election in which a majority of the employees in the bargaining unit voted to decertify the employee organization, the agency shall file an order decertifying the employee organization as the exclusive bargaining representative of the employees in the bargaining unit.

*b.* Upon completion of a valid decertification election in which a majority of the employees in the bargaining unit did not vote to decertify the employee organization, the agency shall file an order continuing the certification of the employee organization as the exclusive bargaining representative of the employees in the bargaining unit.

##### **5.7(5) Bars to decertification election.**

*a.* The agency shall not consider a petition for decertification of an employee organization unless the collective bargaining agreement exceeds two years in duration. The agency shall not consider a decertification petition during the pendency of a retention and recertification proceeding.

*b.* The agency shall not schedule a decertification election within one year of a prior certification, retention and recertification, or decertification election involving the bargaining unit.

[ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]

**621—5.8(20) Professional and nonprofessional election.****5.8(1) General procedure—eligibility list—notice of election.**

a. Should the agency determine, in any case, that professional and nonprofessional employees are appropriately included in the same bargaining unit, the agency shall file an order directing that an election be conducted to determine whether those professional and nonprofessional employees agree to be represented in a single bargaining unit and that the employer submit by e-mail separate lists of eligible professional and nonprofessional voters pursuant to rule 621—5.2(20).

b. The public employer shall e-mail the lists of employees in the professional and nonprofessional categories to the agency within seven days of the agency's order. The lists shall be organized alphabetically and contain the names, addresses, e-mail addresses, and job classifications of the employees eligible to vote, and any other information required by the agency. The lists submitted by the employer shall be filed by the agency and shall become the official voting lists for the election to be conducted. The employer shall e-mail additions or deletions of employees' names or any other changes in the list to the agency. The lists may be further amended by agreement of the parties.

c. Following the employer's submission of the lists of eligible voters, the agency shall file a notice of election containing a sample ballot for each category of employee and setting forth the date, time, place, method, and purpose of the election, and such additional information as the agency may deem appropriate. The employer shall promptly post the notice in the manner and locations customarily used for the posting of information to employees. If a public employer customarily distributes information to employees by additional means, such as by e-mail or hard copy, the public employer shall also promptly distribute such notice to employees by those means.

d. No election fee is assessed for an election held pursuant to this rule.

**5.8(2) Ballots.** Ballots shall contain the following question, "Do you agree to the inclusion of professional and nonprofessional employees in the same bargaining unit?" followed by the choices "Yes" or "No."

**5.8(3) Certification of results.**

a. Upon completion of a valid professional/nonprofessional election in which separate majorities of both the professional and nonprofessional employees in the proposed unit voted in favor of their inclusion in the same bargaining unit, the agency shall define a bargaining unit which includes both professional and nonprofessional employees.

b. Upon completion of a valid professional/nonprofessional election in which separate majorities of both the professional and nonprofessional employees in the proposed unit did not vote in favor of their inclusion in the same bargaining unit, the agency shall not define a bargaining unit which includes both professional and nonprofessional employees.

[ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]

**621—5.9(20) Amendment of unit elections.**

**5.9(1) General procedure—eligibility list—notice of election.** Should the agency determine that a job classification or classifications are appropriately amended into a bargaining unit, but that those classifications existed at the time the employee organization was certified and would separately constitute an appropriate unit, the agency shall file an order directing that an election be conducted. The election will determine whether a majority of the employees in those classifications wish to be represented by the existing certified employee organization. The employer shall submit by e-mail a list of the employees in those classifications pursuant to rule 621—5.2(20).

a. The public employer shall e-mail the list of employees to the agency within seven days of the agency's order. The list shall be organized alphabetically and contain the names, addresses, e-mail addresses, and job classifications of the employees eligible to vote. The agency shall file the list, which shall become the official voting list for the election to be conducted. The employer shall e-mail additions or deletions of employees' names or any other changes in the list to the agency. The parties may further amend the list by agreement.

b. Following the employer's submission of the list of eligible voters, the agency shall file a notice of election containing a sample ballot and setting forth the date, time, place, method, and purpose of

the election, and such additional information as the board may deem appropriate. The employer shall promptly post the notice in the manner and locations customarily used for the posting of information to employees. If a public employer customarily distributes information to employees by additional means, such as by e-mail or hard copy, the public employer shall also promptly distribute such notice to employees by those means.

c. No election fee is assessed for an election held pursuant to this rule.

**5.9(2) Ballots.** Ballots shall contain the following question, “Do you wish to be represented for purposes of collective bargaining by [name of employee organization]?” followed by the choices “Yes, I wish to be represented by [name of employee organization]” or “No, I do not wish to be represented.”

**5.9(3) Certification of results.**

a. Upon completion of a valid amendment of unit election in which a majority of the eligible voters cast ballots in favor of representation by the certified employee organization, the agency shall file an order amending the unit as previously determined to be appropriate by the agency.

b. Upon completion of a valid amendment of unit election in which a majority of the eligible voters did not cast ballots in favor of representation by the certified employee organization, the agency shall file an order dismissing the amendment of unit petition.

[ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]

**621—5.10(20) Destruction of ballots.** In the absence of litigation over the validity or outcome of an election and after a period of 60 days has elapsed from the date of the filing of an order of certification, noncertification, retention and recertification, decertification or continued certification of an employee organization pursuant to the election, the agency will cause the ballots cast in the election to be destroyed.

[ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 20 as amended by 2017 Iowa Acts, House File 291.

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[Filed Emergency ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]



CHAPTER 6  
NEGOTIATIONS AND NEGOTIABILITY DISPUTES

**621—6.1(20) Scope of negotiations.** The scope of negotiations shall include the mandatory subjects of collective bargaining as provided in Iowa Code section 20.9. “Permissive” matters are all other subjects upon which bargaining is not prohibited. Either party may introduce permissive matters for negotiation, and negotiation on these matters may continue until resolved by mutual agreement of the parties or until negotiations reach the arbitration stage of impasse; however, no party is required to negotiate on permissive subjects of bargaining. Unresolved permissive matters shall be excluded from arbitration unless submission of the matter has been mutually agreed upon by the parties. Such an agreement is applicable only to negotiations toward the collective bargaining agreement then sought and is not binding upon the parties for future negotiations.

[ARC 8953B, IAB 7/28/10, effective 9/1/10; ARC 2308C, IAB 12/9/15, effective 1/13/16]

**621—6.2(20) Consolidated negotiations.** Nothing in these rules shall prohibit, by agreement of the parties, more than one certified bargaining representative from bargaining jointly with a common public employer, or more than one public employer from bargaining jointly with a common certified bargaining representative, or any other combination thereof.

**621—6.3(20) Negotiability disputes.**

**6.3(1) Defined.** A “negotiability dispute” is a dispute arising in good faith during the course of collective bargaining as to whether a proposal made during bargaining is a mandatory, permissive, or prohibited subject of collective bargaining under Iowa Code section 20.9.

**6.3(2) Petitions for expedited resolution.**

*a.* In the event that a negotiability dispute arises between the employer and the certified employee organization, either party may petition the agency for expedited resolution of the dispute. The petition shall be filed and set forth the following:

- (1) The name and address of the petitioner and the name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the petitioner’s representative;
- (2) The name and address of the respondent and the name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the respondent’s representative;
- (3) The material facts of the dispute; and
- (4) The verbatim text of the proposal at issue.

*b.* The petitioner shall promptly serve the other party with a copy of the petition and file proof thereof with the agency in accordance with 621—subrules 2.15(3) and 16.10(1).

**6.3(3) Preliminary ruling.** The agency will give priority to a petition for expedited resolution of a negotiability dispute. Parties may file briefs in support of their positions within the time specified by the agency, and the agency may set the matter for oral argument. The agency may issue a preliminary ruling, without analysis, that the proposal is mandatory, permissive, or prohibited.

**6.3(4) Final ruling.** Within 20 days following the issuance of a preliminary ruling, either party may request the agency to issue a final ruling, which will set forth the agency’s analysis and conclusions.

**6.3(5) Arbitration.** Unless the dispute is resolved prior to the arbitration hearing, the parties shall present evidence on all items to the arbitrator, including the item which is the subject of the negotiability dispute. A negotiability dispute raised at the arbitration hearing shall be upon written objection to the submission of the proposal to the arbitrator. The objection shall state that the objecting party will file a petition for resolution of the dispute with the agency, which petition shall be filed within five days of the making of the objection. Arbitrators shall rule on all items submitted to them including the item which is the subject of the negotiability dispute, unless explicitly stayed by the agency. Arbitration awards issued prior to the final determination of the negotiability dispute are contingent upon the agency’s determination.

**6.3(6) *Negotiability outside of bargaining.*** Questions of negotiability which do not arise during the course of bargaining are not negotiability disputes within the scope of this rule but may be posed to the agency by a petition for declaratory order filed pursuant to 621—Chapter 10.

[ARC 8953B, IAB 7/28/10, effective 9/1/10; ARC 1583C, IAB 8/20/14, effective 9/24/14; ARC 2308C, IAB 12/9/15, effective 1/13/16]

**621—6.4(20) Public safety unit determination.**

**6.4(1) *Applicability.*** This rule applies only to bargaining units which include at least one public safety employee, as defined in 621—subrule 1.6(12) or as required by 2017 Iowa Acts, House File 291, section 18, concerning certain transit employees.

**6.4(2) *Defined.*** A public safety unit is a bargaining unit in which at least 30 percent of the employees are public safety employees.

**6.4(3) *Determination of public safety unit status.*** A bargaining unit will constitute a public safety unit if at least 30 percent of the employees in the unit were public safety employees at any one time in the six months preceding the applicable date identified in subrule 6.4(7).

**6.4(4) *Identification of public safety or non-public safety unit.*** Parties engaging in negotiations for a collective bargaining agreement shall endeavor to agree upon and stipulate to the public safety or non-public safety status of the unit at issue.

**6.4(5) *Agreement and stipulation.*** If the parties are in agreement, the parties shall complete a stipulation form prescribed by the agency. The stipulation shall be signed by the authorized representatives of the parties, and the certified employee organization shall submit it to the agency by e-mail, ordinary mail, or personal delivery.

**6.4(6) *Petition, response and hearing for determination of public safety or non-public safety unit status.***

*a.* If the parties fail to reach agreement, the party asserting public safety unit status shall file a petition for determination of the unit status on or before the applicable date identified in subrule 6.4(7). The petition shall be on an agency-prescribed form and electronically filed. The petitioning party shall promptly serve the other party with a copy of the petition and file proof thereof with the agency in accordance with 621—subrules 2.15(3) and 16.10(1).

*b.* The non-petitioning party shall, within ten days following the filing of the petition with the agency, file a response asserting its basis for identifying the unit as a non-public safety unit.

*c.* Hearings on the petition shall be conducted pursuant to 621—Chapter 2. The public employer shall present its evidence first.

**6.4(7) *Deadlines.*** The stipulation shall be submitted or a petition filed on or before the dates indicated:

*a.* July 1 for contracts that expire January 1 to March 31 of the subsequent year.

*b.* October 1 for contracts that expire April 1 to June 30 of the subsequent year.

*c.* January 1 for contracts that expire July 1 to September 30 of the same year.

*d.* April 1 for contracts that expire October 1 to December 31 of the same year.

[ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]

**621—6.5(20) Voluntary settlement procedures.**

**6.5(1) *Terms made public.*** Where the parties have reached a proposed (or “tentative”) collective bargaining agreement, the public employer shall make the terms of the agreement public.

**6.5(2) *Ratification or rejection by employee organization.*** Within seven days of the date of the tentative agreement, the employee organization shall conduct a ratification election on the tentative agreement. The employee organization shall give reasonable notice of the date, time and place of the election to the public employees; however, such notice shall be at least 24 hours prior to the election. The vote shall be by secret ballot, and the majority of votes cast will determine acceptance or rejection of the tentative agreement. Only members of the employee organization shall be entitled to vote; however, the employee organization may, pursuant to its internal procedures, extend voting rights to nonmember bargaining unit employees. The employee organization shall, within 24 hours of the

conclusion of the election, serve notice on the public employer as to whether or not the proposed agreement has been ratified.

**6.5(3) *Acceptance or rejection by public employer.*** The public employer shall, within ten days of the tentative agreement, likewise meet to accept or reject the agreement, and shall within 24 hours of the acceptance or rejection serve notice on the employee organization of its acceptance or rejection of the proposed agreement; however, the public employer shall not be required to either accept or reject the tentative agreement if it has been rejected by the employee organization.

**6.5(4) *Time limits.***

*a.* The above time limits may be modified by a written mutual agreement between the public employer and the employee organization.

*b.* The above time limits shall not apply to proposed agreements between the state and any bargaining unit of state employees.

[ARC 8953B, IAB 7/28/10, effective 9/1/10; ARC 2308C, IAB 12/9/15, effective 1/13/16; ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]

**621—6.6(20) Filing of agreement.** A copy of the collective bargaining agreement entered into between a public employer and a certified employee organization and made final under Iowa Code chapter 20 shall be filed with the agency by the public employer within ten days of the date on which the agreement is entered into.

[ARC 2308C, IAB 12/9/15, effective 1/13/16; ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 20.

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CHAPTER 7  
IMPASSE PROCEDURES

**621—7.1(20) General.** Except as provided in the second paragraph of subrule 7.5(6), the rules set forth in this chapter are applicable only in the absence of an impasse agreement between the parties or the failure of either to utilize its procedures. Nothing in these rules shall be deemed to prohibit the parties, by mutual agreement, from proceeding directly to binding arbitration at any time after impasse.

**621—7.2(20) Fees of neutrals.** Transferred to 621—1.8(20,279), IAB 11/14/90, effective 12/19/90.

**621—7.3(20) Mediation.**

**7.3(1) Request for mediation.** Either party to an impasse may request the board in writing to appoint a mediator to the impasse.

An original and one copy of the request for mediation shall be filed with the board and shall, in addition to the request for mediation, contain:

*a.* The name, address, and telephone number of the requesting party, and the name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of its bargaining representative or of the chairperson of its bargaining team.

*b.* The name, address, and telephone number of the opposing party to the impasse, and the name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of its bargaining representative or of the chairperson of its bargaining team.

*c.* A description of the collective bargaining unit involved and the approximate number of employees in the unit.

*d.* A statement indicating whether the public employer of the unit involved is subject to the budget certification requirements of Iowa Code section 24.17 and, if the public employer is not subject to those requirements, a statement of the date upon which the public employer's next fiscal or budget year commences.

*e.* A statement indicating whether the bargaining unit is a public safety or non-public safety unit as specified by Iowa Code section 20.3 as amended by 2017 Iowa Acts, House File 291, section 1, and rule 621—6.4(20).

*f.* A concise and specific listing of the negotiated items upon which the parties have reached impasse.

**7.3(2) Date, signature and notice.** The request for mediation shall be dated and signed by an authorized representative of the requesting party. The requesting party shall also serve a copy of the request upon other parties to the negotiations either by personal delivery or by ordinary mail.

**7.3(3) Appointment of mediator.** Upon receipt of a request for mediation, the board may appoint an impartial and disinterested person as mediator of the dispute and notify all parties of the appointment of the mediator. The board shall determine the effective date of this appointment.

**7.3(4) Confidential nature of mediation.** Any information, either written or oral, disclosed by the parties to the mediator in the performance of mediation duties shall not be discussed by the mediator voluntarily or by compulsion unless approved by the parties involved or permitted by Iowa Code section 20.31.

The mediator shall not disclose any information with regard to any mediation conducted on behalf of any party to any cause pending in a proceeding before a court, board, investigatory body or arbitrator, except as permitted by Iowa Code section 20.31, without the written consent of the public employment relations board. Without such written consent, the mediator shall respectfully decline, by reason of this rule, to divulge any information disclosed by a party in the performance of the mediator's duties.

**7.3(5) Mediation proceedings.** The mediator may hold separate or joint meetings with the parties or their representatives, and those meetings shall not be public. Mediation meetings shall be conducted at a time and place designated by the mediator. If an impasse exists ten days after the effective date of the appointment of a mediator, the mediator shall so notify the board.

**7.3(6) Board mediator.** When the mediator is an employee of the Public Employment Relations Board, that mediator shall not participate in any contested case arising out of any transaction or occurrence relating to those mediation activities.

**7.3(7) Costs of mediation.** The mediator shall submit in writing to the board a list of fees and expenses.

[ARC 8317B, IAB 12/2/09, effective 11/1/09; ARC 8338B, IAB 12/2/09, effective 11/10/09; ARC 8953B, IAB 7/28/10, effective 9/1/10; ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]

**621—7.4(20) Fact-finding.** Rescinded IAB 7/28/10, effective 9/1/10.

**621—7.5(20) Binding arbitration.**

**7.5(1) Request for arbitration.** If the dispute remains unresolved ten days after the effective date of the appointment of the mediator, either party to the impasse may request the board to arrange for binding arbitration.

**7.5(2) Form and contents of request.** The request for arbitration shall be in writing and shall include the name, address and signature of the requesting party and the capacity in which acting.

**7.5(3) Service of request.** The requesting party shall serve a copy of the request for arbitration upon the opposing party by ordinary mail.

**7.5(4) Exchange of final offers.** Within four days of the board's receipt of the request for arbitration, each party shall serve its final offer on each of the impasse items to the other party to the impasse. Final offers shall not be amended. A party shall not submit a final offer for arbitration which has not been offered to the other party in the course of negotiations.

**7.5(5) Selection of arbitrator.** Upon the filing of a timely request for arbitration, the board shall serve a list of five arbitrators upon the parties. Within five days of service of the list, the parties shall select their arbitrator from the list in the manner specified in Iowa Code section 20.22(4) as amended by 2010 Iowa Acts, House File 2485, section 26.

**7.5(6) Date and conduct of hearings.**

*a.* Impasse items are deemed submitted to binding arbitration on the date of the commencement of the arbitration hearing, regardless of its duration. In disputes where the public employer is a community college, or where all or a portion of the public employees in the bargaining unit are teachers licensed under Iowa Code chapter 272 and the public employer is a school district or area education agency, the submission of impasse items to binding arbitration shall occur not later than May 13 of the year when the resulting collective bargaining agreement is to become effective.

*b.* Arbitration hearings shall be open to the public and shall be recorded either by mechanized means or by a certified shorthand reporter.

*c.* The arbitration hearing shall be limited to those factors listed in Iowa Code section 20.22 as amended by 2017 Iowa Acts, House File 291, sections 12 and 13, and subrules 7.5(7) and 7.5(8), and such other relevant factors as may enable the arbitrator to select the most reasonable offer, in the arbitrator's judgment, of the final offers submitted by the parties on each impasse item. Arbitrators appointed pursuant to impasse procedures agreed upon by the parties shall likewise consider these same factors.

During the hearing, the parties shall not introduce, and the arbitrator shall not accept or consider, any direct or indirect evidence regarding any subject excluded from negotiations pursuant to Iowa Code section 20.9 as amended by 2017 Iowa Acts, House File 291, section 6, except as required for purposes of the consideration of the factors specified in subrule 7.5(7) and paragraph 7.5(8) "a."

**7.5(7) Arbitration involving a bargaining unit that has at least 30 percent of members who are public safety employees.** The arbitrator shall consider and specifically address in the arbitrator's determination, in addition to any other relevant factors, the following factors:

*a.* Past collective bargaining contracts between the parties including the bargaining that led up to such contracts.

*b.* Comparison of wages, hours and conditions of employment of the involved public employees with those of other public employees doing comparable work, giving consideration to factors peculiar to the area and the classifications involved.

c. The interests and welfare of the public, the ability of the public employer to finance economic adjustments and the effect of such adjustments on the normal standard of services.

**7.5(8)** *Arbitration involving a bargaining unit that does not have at least 30 percent of members who are public safety employees.*

a. The arbitrator shall consider and specifically address in the arbitrator's determination, in addition to any other relevant factors, the following factors:

(1) Comparison of base wages, hours, and conditions of employment of the involved public employees with those of other public employees doing comparable work, giving consideration to factors peculiar to the area and the classifications involved. To the extent adequate, applicable data is available, the arbitrator shall also compare base wages, hours, and conditions of employment of the involved public employees with those of private sector employees doing comparable work, giving consideration to factors peculiar to the area and the classifications involved.

(2) The interests and welfare of the public.

(3) The financial ability of the employer to meet the cost of an offer in light of the current economic conditions of the public employer. The arbitrator shall give substantial weight to evidence that the public employer's authority to utilize funds is restricted to special purposes or circumstances by state or federal law, rules, regulations, or grant requirements.

b. The arbitrator shall not consider the following factors:

(1) Past collective bargaining agreements between the parties or bargaining that led to such agreements.

(2) The public employer's ability to fund an award through the increase or imposition of new taxes, fees, or charges or to develop other sources of revenue.

c. The arbitrator's award on the impasse item of base wages shall not exceed the lesser of the following percentages in any one-year period in the duration of the bargaining agreement:

(1) Three percent.

(2) A percentage equal to the increase in the consumer price index for all urban consumers for the Midwest region, if any, as provided by the agency.

d. Should the final offers of both parties on the impasse item of base wages exceed the lesser of the percentages specified in paragraph 7.5(8) "c," the arbitrator shall select neither of the parties' offers, but shall instead award the lesser of the amounts listed in that paragraph.

**7.5(9)** *Continued bargaining.* The parties may continue to bargain on the impasse items before the arbitrator until the arbitrator's selections are made. Should the parties reach agreement on an impasse item following its submission to arbitration, they shall immediately report their agreement to the arbitrator. The agreed upon term shall be incorporated into the parties' collective bargaining agreement, and the arbitrator shall no longer consider the final offers of the parties on that impasse item.

**7.5(10)** *Report of the arbitrator.* With respect to each impasse item, the arbitrator's award shall be restricted to the final offers on each impasse item submitted by the parties to the arbitrator, except as provided in paragraph 7.5(8) "c." Within 15 days after the arbitration hearing, the arbitrator shall issue a written award specifying and explaining the arbitrator's selections and serve each party and the board with a copy by ordinary mail or by e-mail.

**7.5(11)** *Dismissal of arbitrator.* In the event of a failure of the arbitrator to issue an award within 15 days after the arbitration hearing, the arbitrator shall notify the board and the parties of this failure. Either party may thereafter request a new arbitrator. Unless the parties agree otherwise, the procedures in this rule shall apply; provided, however, that the parties may submit new final offers. No arbitrator shall issue a partial award except by mutual consent of the parties.

**7.5(12)** *Costs of arbitration.* The arbitrator shall submit to the parties a written statement of fees and expenses with a copy sent to the board. The parties shall share the costs of arbitration equally.

[ARC 8953B, IAB 7/28/10, effective 9/1/10; ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]

## **621—7.6(20) Impasse procedures after completion deadline.**

**7.6(1)** *Objections.* Any objection by a party to mediation or the conduct of arbitration proceedings which will not be completed by the applicable deadline for completion of impasse procedures shall be

filed with the agency in accordance with rule 621—16.4(20). The objecting party shall promptly serve the other party with a copy of the objection and file proof thereof with the agency in accordance with 621—subrules 2.15(3) and 16.10(1). The objection shall be filed and served no later than 10 days after the filing with the agency of the request for mediation or arbitration to which the objection refers. For purposes of this rule, a single-party request for mediation which is filed more than 120 days prior to the applicable deadline for completion of impasse procedures or a request for arbitration which is filed prior to the filing period specified in subrule 7.5(1) shall be deemed filed on the first day of that filing period. Failure to file an objection in a timely manner may constitute waiver of such objection, in which case the applicable deadline for completion of impasse procedures shall not apply.

**7.6(2) *Response to objection.*** The nonobjecting party may, within 10 days following the filing of an objection with the board, file a response asserting that, because of deliberate delay on the part of the objecting party, or unavoidable casualty, misfortune or other events beyond the parties' control, impasse procedures should continue beyond the applicable deadline. A response may additionally or alternatively assert that the deadline relied upon by the objecting party is inapplicable for reasons set forth in the response, or may assert other reasons why impasse procedures should not be terminated. If a response is not filed within the time allowed by this subrule, the board may issue an order terminating further impasse procedures.

**7.6(3) *Procedure.*** Filing of an objection before the applicable deadline for completion of impasse procedures shall not affect the obligation of each party to continue the impasse procedures. Further, the board may postpone hearing on the objection if it determines that mediation may take place or that an arbitration award may be rendered on or before the applicable deadline. In making that determination, the board will attempt to expedite any remaining impasse proceedings, but no party shall be required to waive or shorten any mandatory statutory time periods which apply to that party.

**7.6(4) *Hearings.*** Insofar as is applicable, hearings on a party's objection shall be conducted pursuant to 621—Chapter 2. The nonobjecting party shall proceed first and shall have the burden to show that impasse procedures should not be terminated. The board shall then issue a final order that further impasse procedures should be completed or should continue for a specified period of time or should be terminated. [ARC 8953B, IAB 7/28/10, effective 9/1/10; ARC 1583C, IAB 8/20/14, effective 9/24/14]

#### **621—7.7(20) Impasse procedures for state employees.**

**7.7(1) *Procedures.*** Statutory procedures in Iowa Code sections 20.20 to 20.22, and independent impasse procedures negotiated by the parties must provide that the impasse be submitted to binding arbitration and the arbitration hearing concluded no later than February 28, and that any arbitrator's award will be issued on or before March 15. This rule does not preclude the parties from mutually agreeing to a date other than February 28, but the agreement must result in an arbitration award on or before March 15.

**7.7(2) *Independent procedures.*** Independent impasse procedures negotiated by the parties must provide that the impasse will be submitted to binding arbitration, and any hearing thereon concluded no later than February 28, and that any arbitrator's award will be issued on or before March 15.

**7.7(3) *Statutory procedures.*** In the absence of independent procedures, the procedures in Iowa Code sections 20.20 and 20.22 and rules 621—7.1(20) to 621—7.5(20) shall apply, except that a single-party request for mediation must be filed no later than December 14, a request for binding arbitration must be filed by February 1, and an arbitration hearing must be concluded no later than February 28.

**7.7(4) *New certifications.*** Statutory impasse procedures under these rules shall not be available if the employee organization has been certified later than December 1. This rule does not preclude the parties from negotiating independent impasse procedures if an employee organization is certified after December 1 and the procedures will result in an arbitration award on or before March 15.

**7.7(5) *Negotiability disputes.*** Disputes concerning the negotiability of any subject of bargaining shall be submitted to the board for determination pursuant to 621—6.3(20) no later than March 1. An arbitration award rendered prior to final determination of the negotiability dispute will be made conditional upon such determination. Notwithstanding the provisions of 621—2.19(20), no stay of

impasse procedures will be granted during the pendency of any negotiability dispute, petition for declaratory order, or prohibited practice complaint.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 20.17.

[ARC 8953B, IAB 7/28/10, effective 9/1/10]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 20.

[Filed 3/4/75]

[Filed emergency 12/30/75—published 1/26/76, effective 12/30/75]

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[Filed ARC 1583C (Notice ARC 1507C, IAB 6/25/14), IAB 8/20/14, effective 9/24/14]

[Filed Emergency ARC 2988C, IAB 3/15/17, effective 2/22/17]

[Filed Emergency ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]

<sup>1</sup> Effective date of 7.2 delayed by the Administrative Rules Review Committee 45 days after convening of the next General Assembly pursuant to §17A.8(9).



CHAPTER 8  
INTERNAL CONDUCT OF EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS

**621—8.1(20) Requirements.** Before the agency certifies an employee organization as the exclusive representative of a bargaining unit, the employee organization shall electronically file a registration report, constitution and bylaws, and an annual report. Once certified, the certified employee organization shall thereafter file an annual report as required by rule 621—8.4(20) and a registration report and constitution and bylaws whenever its constitution or bylaws are amended as required by rules 621—8.2(20) and 621—8.3(20).

[ARC 2916C, IAB 1/18/17, effective 2/22/17]

**621—8.2(20) Registration report.**

**8.2(1) Time of filing.** An employee organization shall file a complete registration report:

*a.* Before the employee organization may be certified as the exclusive representative of a bargaining unit; and

*b.* Once the employee organization is certified, whenever changes or amendments are made to its constitution or bylaws; or

*c.* When the certified employee organization files a petition to amend its certification.

**8.2(2) Form and content.** The registration report shall be on the form prescribed by the agency.

**8.2(3) Method of filing.** The registration report shall be electronically filed pursuant to 621—Chapter 16.

[ARC 2916C, IAB 1/18/17, effective 2/22/17]

**621—8.3(20) Constitution and bylaws.**

**8.3(1) Time of filing.** An employee organization shall file its constitution and bylaws:

*a.* Before the employee organization may be certified as the exclusive representative of a bargaining unit; and

*b.* Once the employee organization is certified, whenever changes or amendments are made to its constitution or bylaws; or

*c.* When the certified employee organization files a petition to amend its certification.

**8.3(2) Form and content.**

*a.* The constitution or bylaws of every employee organization shall provide that:

(1) Accurate accounts of all income and expenses shall be kept, and an annual financial report and an audit shall be prepared, such accounts shall be open for inspection by any member of the organization, and loans to officers and agents shall be made only on terms and conditions available to all members.

(2) Business or financial interests of its officers and agents, their spouses, minor children, parents or otherwise, that conflict with the fiduciary obligation of such persons to the organization shall be prohibited.

(3) Every official or employee of an employee organization who handles funds or other property of the organization, or trust in which an organization is interested, or a subsidiary organization, shall be bonded in an amount and form determined by the agency.

(4) Periodic elections by secret ballot shall be conducted subject to recognized safeguards concerning the equal rights of all members to nominate, seek office, and vote in such elections; that individual members have the right to participate in the affairs of the organization; and that there are fair and equitable procedures in disciplinary actions.

*b.* The employee organization's national or international constitution and bylaws shall be accepted in lieu of the employee organization's constitution and bylaws provided that such national or international constitution and bylaws conform to the requirements of Iowa Code section 20.25.

**8.3(3) Method of filing.** The constitution and bylaws shall be electronically filed pursuant to 621—Chapter 16.

[ARC 2916C, IAB 1/18/17, effective 2/22/17]

**621—8.4(20) Annual report.**

**8.4(1) *Time of filing.*** An employee organization shall file a complete annual report:

- a. Before the employee organization may be certified as the exclusive representative of a bargaining unit; and
- b. Once the employee organization is certified, within 90 days following the certified employee organization's fiscal year end; and
- c. When the certified employee organization files a petition to amend its certification.

**8.4(2) *Form and content.*** The annual report shall be on the form prescribed by the board and shall contain:

- a. The names, addresses, e-mail addresses, and telephone numbers of the organization, any parent organization or organizations with which it is affiliated, the principal officers and all representatives.
- b. The name, address, e-mail address, and telephone number of its local agent for service of process.
- c. A general description of the public employees the organization represents or seeks to represent.
- d. The amounts of the initiation fee and monthly dues members must pay.
- e. A pledge, in a form prescribed by the board, that the organization will comply with the laws of the state and that it will accept members without regard to age, race, sex, religion, national origin or physical disability, as provided by law.
- f. A financial report and audit.

(1) The financial report shall contain, at a minimum, the following information: the cash balance from the previous year; a listing of sources and amounts of income; an identified listing of disbursements; and a closing balance. For the first annual report filed by an employee organization, the financial report shall reflect the last completed fiscal year of the organization or, in the case of a new organization, the last completed quarter or quarters of the current fiscal year. For annual reports filed mid-fiscal year with petitions for amendment of certification, the financial report shall reflect the last completed quarter or quarters of the current fiscal year.

(2) The audit shall consist of a statement that the financial report has been reviewed and found to be true and accurate. The audit must be signed by an auditing committee or a person or persons who hold no office in the employee organization and who did not prepare the financial report.

g. The name(s) of the person(s) required to be bonded pursuant to rule 621—8.5(20), the amount of the bond, and the name of the corporate surety company that issued the bond(s).

**8.4(3) *Method of filing.*** The annual report shall be electronically filed pursuant to 621—Chapter 16. [ARC 2916C, IAB 1/18/17, effective 2/22/17; ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]

**621—8.5(20) Bond required.** Every person required by Iowa Code section 20.25(3)“c” to be bonded shall be bonded to provide protection against loss by reason of act of fraud or dishonesty on the part of such person, directly or through connivance with others.

**8.5(1) *Bond requirements.*** The bond of each such person shall be fixed at the beginning of the employee organization's fiscal year and shall be in an amount of not less than 10 percent of the funds handled by such person or that person's predecessor or predecessors, if any, during the preceding fiscal year, but in no case less than \$2,000 nor more than \$500,000. If the employee organization or the trust in which an employee organization is interested does not have a preceding fiscal year, the amount of the bond shall not be less than \$2,000. Such bonds shall have a corporate surety company as surety thereon.

**8.5(2) *Prohibitions.*** Any person who is not covered by such bonds shall not be permitted to receive, handle, disburse or otherwise exercise control of the funds or other property of an employee organization or of a trust in which an employee organization is interested. No such bond shall be placed through an agent or broker or with a surety company in which any employee organization or any officer, agent, shop steward or other representative of an employee organization has any direct or indirect interest.

[ARC 2916C, IAB 1/18/17, effective 2/22/17]



**621—8.6(20) Trusteeships.**

**8.6(1) *Application and establishment.*** Prior to establishing a trusteeship, an organization shall file an application to establish or administer a trusteeship over a subordinate employee organization certified by the agency. The organization shall attach a copy of its constitution and bylaws to its application.

*a.* The board will review the organization's constitution and bylaws and permit the establishment of a trusteeship if the trusteeship procedures are reasonable.

*b.* Trusteeships shall be established or administered by an organization over a subordinate employee organization only in accordance with the constitution or bylaws of the organization which has assumed trusteeship over the subordinate body and for the purpose of correcting corruption or financial malpractice, assuring the performance of collective bargaining agreements or other duties of a bargaining representative, restoring democratic procedures or otherwise carrying out the legitimate objectives of the employee organization.

**8.6(2) *Reports.***

*a.* Every organization which assumes trusteeship over any subordinate employee organization shall file with the agency within 30 days after the imposition of any such trusteeship, and semiannually thereafter, a report, signed by its president and treasurer or corresponding principal officers, as well as by the designated trustees of such subordinate employee organization, containing the following information:

- (1) The name and address of the subordinate employee organization;
- (2) The date of the establishment of the trusteeship;
- (3) A detailed statement of the reason for the establishment or the continuation of the trusteeship;

and

(4) The nature and extent of participation by the membership of the subordinate employee organization in the selection of delegates to represent such employee organization in regular or special conventions or other policy-determining bodies and in the election of officers of the organization which has assumed trusteeship over the employee organization.

*b.* The initial report of the establishment of the trusteeship shall include a full and complete account of the financial condition of the subordinate employee organization as of the time trusteeship was assumed over it.

**8.6(3) *Continuing duty to report.*** During the continuance of a trusteeship, the organization which has assumed trusteeship over a subordinate employee organization shall file on behalf of the subordinate employee organization all reports required by this chapter. Such reports shall be signed by the president and treasurer or corresponding principal officers of the organization which has assumed such trusteeship and the designated trustees for the subordinate employee organization.

**8.6(4) *Method of filing.*** The application and any required reports shall be electronically filed pursuant to 621—Chapter 16.

[ARC 2916C, IAB 1/18/17, effective 2/22/17]

**621—8.7(20) Failure to comply with employee organization requirements.** The agency shall not certify an employee organization or may revoke the existing certification(s) of an employee organization for failure to file a registration report, its constitution and bylaws, or an annual report or otherwise fail to comply with Iowa Code section 20.25.

**8.7(1) *Upon completion of a valid certification election.*** If an employee organization fails to file a registration report, constitution and bylaws, or annual report or otherwise comply with these rules or Iowa Code section 20.25 within 90 days following the completion of a valid certification election, the agency will not certify the employee organization and will serve notice of noncertification. The agency may grant extensions of time for good cause.

**8.7(2) *Failure to file reports once certified.*** If an employee organization fails to file a registration report, constitution and bylaws, or annual report or otherwise comply with these rules and Iowa Code section 20.25, the agency may revoke the certification of the employee organization. When the organization fails to comply following notice of its noncompliance, the agency will order the employee organization to show cause why its certification should not be revoked and set the matter for hearing.

**8.7(3) *Complaints by affected parties.*** A complaint that any employee organization has engaged in or is engaging in any practice which constitutes a violation of Iowa Code section 20.25 may be submitted in writing to the board by any affected person. Upon receipt of a complaint, the agency shall serve a copy upon the employee organization by certified mail, return receipt requested. The board shall conduct a preliminary investigation of the alleged violation. In conducting the investigation, the board may require the production of evidence, including affidavits and documents. If the investigation shows there is no reasonable cause to believe a violation has occurred, the complaint shall be dismissed and the parties notified. If the investigation shows reasonable cause to believe a violation has occurred, the board shall notify the parties. If the parties are unable to agree on an informal settlement after notification of reasonable cause, the board shall schedule the complaint for hearing.

[ARC 2916C, IAB 1/18/17, effective 2/22/17; ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 20.

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CHAPTER 9  
ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

**621—9.1(17A,20) Final decisions.**

**9.1(1)** *By board majority.* When a majority of the board presides at the reception of the evidence in a contested case, the decision of the board is a final decision of the agency.

**9.1(2)** *By presiding officer.* When a majority of the board does not preside at the reception of the evidence in a contested case, the presiding officer shall make a proposed decision that becomes the final decision of the agency without further proceedings unless:

*a.* There is an appeal to the board or a petition for its review filed within 20 days of the filing of the proposed decision, or

*b.* The board, within 20 days of the filing of the proposed decision, determines to review the decision on its own motion.

[ARC 2916C, IAB 1/18/17, effective 2/22/17]

**621—9.2(17A,20) Appeals or petitions for the board's review.**

**9.2(1)** *Notice of appeal or petition for review.* An appeal to the board or a petition for review of a proposed decision in a contested case proceeding shall be commenced by the filing of a written notice of appeal or petition for review with the agency within 20 days of the filing of the proposed decision.

**9.2(2)** *Cross-appeals or cross-petitions for review.* A cross-appeal or cross-petition for review may be taken in the same manner as an appeal or a petition for review and shall be filed within 20 days of the filing of the proposed decision or within 5 days after the initial appeal or petition for review is filed, whichever is later.

**9.2(3)** *Method of filing.* All appeals and petitions for review shall be electronically filed pursuant to 621—Chapter 16.

[ARC 8953B, IAB 7/28/10, effective 9/1/10; ARC 1583C, IAB 8/20/14, effective 9/24/14; ARC 2916C, IAB 1/18/17, effective 2/22/17]

**621—9.3(17A,20) Board's review on its own motion.** The board may determine to review the proposed decision within 20 days of the filing of the proposed decision by filing an order for review.

[ARC 2916C, IAB 1/18/17, effective 2/22/17]

**621—9.4(17A,20) Petition for amicus curiae status.** Any person, employee organization or public employer who has a significant interest in an outcome of an appeal or review pursuant to either rule 621—9.2(17A,20) or 621—9.3(17A,20) may petition the board for amicus curiae status. Where the petition is granted by the board, the amicus curiae may submit briefs and arguments and participate in the same manner as an original party to the proceeding.

[ARC 2916C, IAB 1/18/17, effective 2/22/17]

**621—9.5(17A,20) Board proceedings on appeal or review.** On appeal from or review of a proposed decision, the board has all the power that it would have in initially making the final decision except as it may limit the issues after giving notice to the parties.

**9.5(1)** *Procedure.* The parties shall be given an opportunity to file briefs and, with the consent of the board, present oral arguments to the board members who are to render the final decision. If the board consents to the presentation of oral arguments, the board shall file an order setting a time and place.

**9.5(2)** *Standard of review.* The board may reverse or modify any finding of fact if a preponderance of the evidence will support a determination to reverse or modify such a finding, or may reverse or modify any conclusion of law that the board finds to be in error.

**9.5(3)** *Final agency action.* The decision rendered by the board on appeal or review shall be a final decision of the agency.

[ARC 2916C, IAB 1/18/17, effective 2/22/17]

**621—9.6(17A,20) Rehearing.**

**9.6(1) Application.** Any party may file an application for rehearing, stating the specific grounds for rehearing and the relief sought, within 20 days after the date of the issuance of any final decision by the agency in a contested case. An application for rehearing shall be deemed to have been denied unless the board grants the application within 20 days after its filing.

**9.6(2) Method of filing.** The application shall be electronically filed pursuant to 621—Chapter 16. [ARC 2916C, IAB 1/18/17, effective 2/22/17]

**621—9.7(17A,20) Stays of agency action.**

**9.7(1) Application.** A party may file an application for a stay of agency action. The board may, in its discretion and on such terms as it deems proper, grant or deny the application.

**9.7(2) Method of filing.** The application shall be electronically filed pursuant to 621—Chapter 16. [ARC 2916C, IAB 1/18/17, effective 2/22/17]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 17A and 20.

[Filed 3/4/75]

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[Filed ARC 2916C (Notice ARC 2817C, IAB 11/23/16), IAB 1/18/17, effective 2/22/17]

CHAPTER 10  
DECLARATORY ORDERS

**621—10.1(17A,20) Who may petition.** Any person, public employer or employee organization may file a petition with the board for a declaratory order as to the applicability to specified circumstances of a statute, rule or order within the primary jurisdiction of the agency.

**621—10.2(20) Contents of petition.** A petition for a declaratory order must include:

**10.2(1)** The name, address and telephone number of the petitioner.

**10.2(2)** A clear and concise statement of the specific facts upon which the board is to base the declaratory order.

**10.2(3)** A citation to and the relevant language of the specific statute, rule or order whose applicability is questioned, and any other relevant law.

**10.2(4)** The specific questions which the petitioner wants answered, stated clearly and concisely.

**10.2(5)** The answers to the questions desired by the petitioner and a summary of the reasons urged by the petitioner in support of those answers.

**10.2(6)** The reasons for requesting the declaratory order and disclosure of the petitioner’s interest in the outcome.

**10.2(7)** A statement indicating whether the petitioner is currently a party to another proceeding involving the questions at issue and whether, to the petitioner’s knowledge, those questions have been decided by, are pending determination by, or are under investigation by any governmental entity.

**10.2(8)** The names and addresses of other persons or entities, or a description of any class of persons or entities known by petitioner to be affected by or interested in the questions presented in the petition.

**10.2(9)** A certificate of service of the petition upon any persons or entities required to be served with a copy by rule 621—10.7(17A,20). Service of the petition and proof thereof shall be in accordance with 621—subrules 2.15(3) and 16.10(1).

[ARC 1583C, IAB 8/20/14, effective 9/24/14]

**621—10.3(17A,20) Caption.** The following caption is suggested for petitions for declaratory orders:

BEFORE THE PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS BOARD	
IN THE MATTER OF:	CASE NO.
(NAME OF THE PARTY REQUESTING THE RULING), PETITIONER.	} PETITION FOR DECLARATORY ORDER

**621—10.4(17A,20) Notice of petition.** Within ten days after receipt of a petition for a declaratory order, the board shall give notice of the petition to all persons not served by the petitioner pursuant to rule 621—10.7(17A,20) to whom notice is required by any provision of law. The board may also give notice to any other persons or entities.

**621—10.5(17A,20) Intervention.**

**10.5(1)** Persons who qualify under any applicable provision of law as an intervenor and who file a petition for intervention which complies with subrule 10.5(3) within 20 days of the filing of a petition for declaratory order shall be allowed to intervene in the proceeding.

**10.5(2)** Any person who files a petition for intervention which complies with subrule 10.5(3) at any time prior to the issuance of the agency’s final order in the matter may be allowed to intervene in the proceeding at the discretion of the board.

**10.5(3)** A petition for intervention in a declaratory order proceeding must include:

a. The name, address and telephone number of the person seeking intervention.

b. A clear and concise statement of the facts supporting the intervenor’s standing and qualifications for intervention.

*c.* A citation to and the relevant language of any additional statutes, rules or orders and any other additional, relevant law not specified in the petition for declaratory order.

*d.* The answers to the questions presented in the petition for declaratory order desired by the intervenor and a summary of the reasons urged by the intervenor in support of those answers.

*e.* The reasons for requesting intervention and disclosure of the intervenor's interest in the outcome.

*f.* A statement indicating whether the intervenor is currently a party to any proceeding involving the questions at issue and whether, to the intervenor's knowledge, those questions have been decided by, are pending determination by, or are under investigation by any governmental entity.

*g.* The names and addresses of other persons or entities, or a description of any class of persons or entities known by intervenor to be affected by or interested in the questions presented.

**621—10.6(17A,20) Briefs.** The petitioner or any intervenor may file a brief in support of the position urged by that party. The board may request a brief from the petitioner, any intervenor or any other person or entity concerning the questions raised.

**621—10.7(17A,20) Service of petitions and other papers.** Every petition for declaratory order, petition for intervention, brief or other paper filed in a proceeding for a declaratory order shall be served upon each of the parties of record to the proceeding and on all other persons or entities identified in the petition for declaratory order or petition for intervention as affected by or interested in the questions presented, simultaneously with their filing with the board. The party filing a document is responsible for service on all parties and other affected or interested persons.

**621—10.8(17A,20) Action on petition.** Within the time allowed by 1998 Iowa Acts, chapter 1202, section 13(5), after receipt of a petition for a declaratory order, the board or its designee shall take action on the petition as required by that section.

**621—10.9(17A,20) Refusal to issue order.**

**10.9(1)** The board shall not issue a declaratory order where prohibited by 1998 Iowa Acts, chapter 1202, section 13(1), and may refuse to issue a declaratory order on some or all questions raised for the following reasons:

- a.* The petition does not substantially comply with rule 621—10.2(20).
- b.* The petition does not contain facts sufficient to demonstrate that the petitioner will be aggrieved or adversely affected by the board's failure to issue a declaratory order.
- c.* The board does not have jurisdiction over the questions presented in the petition.
- d.* The questions presented by the petition are also presented in a current rule-making, contested case or other agency or judicial proceeding that may definitively resolve them.
- e.* The questions presented by the petition would more properly be resolved in a different type of proceeding or by another body with jurisdiction over the matter.
- f.* The facts or questions presented in the petition are unclear, overbroad, insufficient or otherwise inappropriate as a basis upon which to issue a declaratory order.
- g.* There is no need to issue a declaratory order because the questions raised in the petition have been settled due to a change in circumstances.
- h.* The petition is not based upon facts calculated to aid in the planning of future conduct but is, instead, based solely upon prior conduct in an effort to establish the effect of that conduct or to challenge an agency decision already made.
- i.* The petition requests a declaratory order that would necessarily determine the legal rights, duties or responsibilities of persons or entities who have not joined in the petition, intervened separately or filed a similar petition and whose position on the questions presented may fairly be presumed to be adverse to that of the petitioner.
- j.* The petitioner requests the board to determine whether a statute is unconstitutional on its face.

**10.9(2)** A refusal to issue a declaratory order shall indicate the ground or grounds for the refusal and constitutes final agency action on the petition.

**10.9(3)** Refusal to issue a declaratory order pursuant to this rule does not preclude the filing of a new petition that seeks to eliminate the grounds for the prior refusal.

**621—10.10(17A,20) Copies of orders.** A copy of all orders issued in response to a petition for declaratory order or petition for intervention shall be promptly mailed to the petitioner and all intervenors.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 17A.9 and chapter 20.

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CHAPTER 11  
STATE EMPLOYEE APPEALS OF GRIEVANCE DECISIONS  
AND DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

**621—11.1(8A,20) Notice of appeal rights.** When the director of the Iowa department of administrative services (hereinafter referred to as the director) issues a response to an employee pursuant to Iowa Code section 8A.415 and the response does not grant the relief sought by the employee, the response shall include notice to the affected employee that the employee may appeal the response by filing an appeal with the public employment relations board within 30 days of the date of the director's response.  
[ARC 2916C, IAB 1/18/17, effective 2/22/17]

**621—11.2(8A,20) Filing of appeal.**

**11.2(1) Grievances.** An employee, except an employee covered by a collective bargaining agreement that provides otherwise, who has filed a grievance and is not satisfied with the director's response, may file an appeal with the agency. Such appeal must be filed within 30 calendar days following the date the director's response was issued. However, if no response was issued by the director within 30 calendar days following the filing of the third-step grievance with the director, the employee may consider the grievance denied and file an appeal with the agency or may await the director's response and, if not satisfied, file an appeal within 30 days following the date the response is issued.

**11.2(2) Disciplinary appeals.** A nonprobationary merit system employee as described in Iowa Code section 8A.412, except an employee covered by a collective bargaining agreement, who is discharged, suspended, demoted, or otherwise receives a reduction in pay, and who appeals the action to the director and is not satisfied with the director's response, may file an appeal with the agency. Such appeal must be filed within 30 calendar days following the date the director's response was issued. However, if no response was issued by the director within 30 calendar days following the filing of the third-step grievance with the director, the employee may consider the grievance denied and file an appeal with the agency or may await the director's response and, if not satisfied, file an appeal within 30 days following the date the response is issued.

**11.2(3) Method of filing.** Appeals shall be electronically filed pursuant to 621—Chapter 16.  
[ARC 2916C, IAB 1/18/17, effective 2/22/17]

**621—11.3(8A,20) Service of appeal.** The agency shall serve a copy of the appeal upon the director by ordinary mail in the manner specified in rules 621—2.15(20) and 621—16.10(20).  
[ARC 2916C, IAB 1/18/17, effective 2/22/17]

**621—11.4(8A,20) Content of appeal.**

**11.4(1)** The appeal shall contain the following:

- a. Name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the appealing employee;
- b. Name of agency/department by which the appealing employee is/was employed;
- c. A brief statement of the reasons for the appealing employee's dissatisfaction with the director's response;
- d. A statement of the requested remedy;
- e. The name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the appealing employee's representative, if any;
- f. Signature of the appealing employee or employee's representative; and
- g. In the case of a disciplinary action appeal filed pursuant to Iowa Code section 8A.415(2), a statement of whether the employee requests a hearing open to the public.

**11.4(2)** Completion of the State Employee Grievance and Disciplinary Action Appeal Form shall constitute compliance with all the requirements in subrule 11.4(1).  
[ARC 1583C, IAB 8/20/14, effective 9/24/14; ARC 2916C, IAB 1/18/17, effective 2/22/17]

**621—11.5(8A,20) Content of director's response to the appeal.**

**11.5(1)** The director shall have 15 days from the date of service of the employee's appeal in which to file a motion or answer with the agency.

**11.5(2)** The motion or answer shall contain the following:

- a.* The names of the appealing employee and the employing agency/department;
- b.* The name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the employing agency's/department's representative;
- c.* A copy of the original grievance and first-, second-, and third-step responses issued; and
- d.* Signature of the employing agency's/department's representative.

**11.5(3)** The director's motion or answer shall be electronically filed pursuant to 621—Chapter 16.  
[ARC 2916C, IAB 1/18/17, effective 2/22/17]

**621—11.6(8A,20) Right to a hearing.** An employee appealing a grievance pursuant to Iowa Code section 8A.415(1) has a right to a hearing, which is open to the public. An employee appealing disciplinary action pursuant to Iowa Code section 8A.415(2) has a right to a hearing, which is closed to the public unless the employee requests a hearing open to the public. Hearings will otherwise be conducted in accordance with 621—Chapter 2.  
[ARC 2916C, IAB 1/18/17, effective 2/22/17]

**621—11.7(8A,20) Final decisions.**

**11.7(1)** When a majority of the board presides at the reception of the evidence in a grievance or disciplinary action appeal, the decision of the board is the final decision of the agency.

**11.7(2)** When a majority of the board does not preside at the reception of the evidence in a grievance or disciplinary appeal, the presiding officer shall make a proposed decision that becomes the final decision of the agency without further proceedings unless:

- a.* There is a petition for the board's review filed within 20 days of the filing of the proposed decision, or
- b.* The board, within 20 days of the filing of the proposed decision, determines to review the decision on its own motion.

[ARC 2916C, IAB 1/18/17, effective 2/22/17]

**621—11.8(8A,20) Review by board.** Proceedings on the board's review of the proposed decision shall be in accordance with 621—Chapter 9.

[ARC 2916C, IAB 1/18/17, effective 2/22/17]

**621—11.9(8A,20) Costs of certified shorthand reporters and transcripts.**

**11.9(1) Initial payment.** The agency will arrange for a certified shorthand reporter to report the contested case hearing and request that an original transcript of the hearing be prepared by the reporter for the agency's use. The agency initially shall pay the reporter's reasonable compensation for reporting the hearing and producing the agency-requested transcript.

**11.9(2) Taxation as costs.** The cost of reporting and of the agency-requested transcript shall be taxed as costs against the nonprevailing party or parties although the presiding officer, or the board on appeal or review of a proposed decision and order, may apportion such costs in another manner if appropriate under the circumstances.

**11.9(3) Payment of taxed costs.** Following final agency action in a case, the agency will prepare and serve a bill of costs upon the party or parties against whom the costs have been taxed. Those parties shall, within 30 days of such service, remit to the agency the amount specified in the bill of costs. Sums remitted to the agency shall be considered repayment receipts as defined in Iowa Code section 8.2.

[ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]

**621—11.10(8A,20) Other rules.** Any matters not specifically addressed by the rules contained in this chapter shall be governed by the general provisions of the rules of the agency.

[ARC 2916C, IAB 1/18/17, effective 2/22/17; ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 8A and 20.

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[Filed ARC 2916C (Notice ARC 2817C, IAB 11/23/16), IAB 1/18/17, effective 2/22/17]  
[Filed Emergency ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]



CHAPTER 12  
PUBLIC RECORDS AND FAIR INFORMATION PRACTICES

The public employment relations board adopts, with the following exceptions and amendments, rules of the Governor's Task Force on Uniform Rules on Agency Procedure relating to public records and fair information practices which is printed in the first volume of the Iowa Administrative Code.

**621—12.1(20,22) Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

“Agency” in these rules means the public employment relations board.

“Routine use” in these rules means the disclosure of a record without the consent of the subject or subjects, for a purpose which is compatible with the purpose for which the record was collected or is maintained. It includes disclosures required to be made by statute other than the public records law, Iowa Code chapter 22.

**621—12.3(20,22) Requests for access to records.**

**12.3(1) Location of records.** In lieu of the words “(insert agency head)”, insert the words “Chairperson, Public Employment Relations Board, 510 East 12th Street, Suite 1B, Des Moines, Iowa 50319”. The second and third sentences of subrule 12.3(1) are not adopted.

**12.3(2) Office hours.** In lieu of the words “all customary office hours, which are (insert customary office hours and, if agency does not have customary office hours of at least thirty hours per week, insert hours specified in Iowa Code section 22.4)”, insert the words “the agency’s customary office hours, which are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays”.

**12.3(7) Fees.**

*c. Supervisory fee.* Delete the words “when the supervision time required is in excess of (specify time period)” and the words “(An agency wishing to deal with search fees authorized by law should do so here.)”

**621—12.6(20,22) Procedure by which additions, dissents or objections may be entered into certain records.** In lieu of the words “custodian or to (designate office)”, insert the words “chairperson of the agency”.

**621—12.9(20,22) Disclosures without the consent of the subject.**

**12.9(1)** Open records are routinely disclosed without the consent of the subject.

**12.9(2)** To the extent allowed by law, disclosure of confidential records may occur without the consent of the subject. The following are instances where disclosure, if lawful, will generally occur without notice to the subject:

*a.* For a routine use as defined in rule 621—12.1(20,22) or in any notice for a particular record system.

*b.* To a recipient who has provided the agency with advance written assurance that the record will be used solely as a statistical research or reporting record, provided that the record is transferred in a form that does not identify the subject.

*c.* To another government agency or to an instrumentality of any governmental jurisdiction within or under the control of the United States for a civil or criminal law enforcement activity if the activity is authorized by law, and if an authorized representative of such government agency or instrumentality has submitted a written request to the agency specifying the record desired and identifying the law enforcement activity for which the record is sought.

*d.* To an individual pursuant to a showing of compelling circumstances affecting the health or safety of any individual, if a notice of the disclosure is transmitted to the last known address of the subject.

*e.* To the legislative services agency under Iowa Code section 2A.3.

*f.* Disclosures in the course of employee disciplinary proceedings.

*g.* In response to a court order or subpoena.

**621—12.10(20,22) Routine use.** To the extent allowed by law, the following uses are considered routine uses of all agency records:

**12.10(1)** Disclosure to those officers, employees and agents of the agency who have a need for the record in the performance of their duties. The custodian of the record may, upon request of any officer or employee, or on the custodian's own initiative, determine what constitutes legitimate need to use confidential records.

**12.10(2)** Disclosure of information indicating an apparent violation of the law to appropriate law enforcement authorities for investigation and possible criminal prosecution, civil court action, or regulatory order.

**12.10(3)** Disclosure to the department of inspections and appeals for matters in which it is performing services or functions on behalf of the agency.

**12.10(4)** Transfers of information within the agency, to other state agencies, or to local units of government as appropriate to administer the program for which the information is collected.

**12.10(5)** Information released to staff of federal and state entities for audit purposes or for purposes of determining whether the agency is operating a program lawfully.

**12.10(6)** Any disclosure specifically authorized by the statute under which the record was collected or maintained.

**621—12.11(20,22) Consensual disclosure of confidential records.**

**12.11(1)** *Consent to disclosure by a subject individual.* To the extent permitted by law, the subject may consent in writing to agency disclosure of confidential records as provided in rule 621—12.7(20,22).

**12.11(2)** *Complaints to public officials.* A letter from a subject of a confidential record to a public official which seeks the official's intervention on behalf of the subject in a matter that involves the agency may to the extent permitted by law be treated as an authorization to release sufficient information about the subject to the official to resolve the matter.

**621—12.12(20,22) Release to subject.**

**12.12(1)** The subject of a confidential record may file a written request to review confidential records about that person as provided in rule 621—12.6(20,22). However, the agency need not release the following records to the subject:

*a.* The identity of a person providing information to the agency need not be disclosed directly or indirectly to the subject of the information when the information is authorized to be held confidential pursuant to Iowa Code section 22.7(18) or other provision of law.

*b.* Records need not be disclosed to the subject when they are the work product of an attorney or are otherwise privileged.

*c.* Peace officers' investigative reports may be withheld from the subject, except as required by the Iowa Code. (see Iowa Code section 22.7(5))

*d.* As otherwise authorized by law.

**12.12(2)** Where a record has multiple subjects with interest in the confidentiality of the record, the agency may take reasonable steps to protect confidential information relating to another subject.

**621—12.13(20,22) Availability of records.**

**12.13(1)** *General.* Agency records are open for public inspection and copying unless otherwise provided by rule or law.

**12.13(2)** *Confidential records.* The agency may have discretion to disclose some confidential records which are exempt from disclosure under Iowa Code section 22.7 or other law. Any person may request permission to inspect records withheld from inspection under a statute which authorizes limited or discretionary disclosure as provided in rule 621—12.4(20,22). If the agency initially determines that it will release such records, the agency may, where appropriate, notify interested parties and withhold the records from inspection as provided in subrule 12.4(3).

- 12.13(3) Chart.** <sup>1</sup> This subrule lists the agency's records in chart form and provides in:
- a. Column one, a description of the nature and content of the record or record system.
  - b. Column two, whether the record or record systems are open for public inspection, confidential, or are partly open and partly confidential.
  - c. Column three, the legal basis for asserting a record or record system is confidential in whole or in part.
  - d. Column four, whether the record or records can be accessed by a personal identifier.
  - e. Column five, a description of the nature and extent of personal information that can be found in the record or record system, if any.
  - f. Column six, the legal authority, where appropriate, relied upon by the agency for collection of personally identifiable information.
  - g. Column seven, the method of storage of the record or record system.

<sup>1</sup> See chart following rule 621—12.15(20,22).

**621—12.14(20,22) Data processing systems.** None of the data processing systems used by the agency permit the electronic or mechanical comparison of personally identifiable information in one record system with personally identifiable information in another record system.

**621—12.15(20,22) Applicability.** This chapter does not:

1. Require the agency to index or retrieve records which contain information about individuals by that person's name or other personal identifier.
2. Make available to the general public records which would otherwise not be available under the public records law, Iowa Code chapter 22.
3. Govern the maintenance or disclosure of, notification of or access to, records by the regulations of another agency.
4. Apply to grantees, including local governments or subdivisions thereof, administering state-funded programs, unless otherwise provided by law or agreement.
5. Make available records compiled by the agency in reasonable anticipation of court litigation or formal administrative proceedings. The availability of such records to the general public or to any subject individual or party to such litigation or proceedings shall be governed by applicable legal and constitutional principles, statutes, rules of discovery, evidentiary privileges, and applicable regulations of the agency.

Key: O = Open  
 C = Confidential Records (may or shall be withheld from public inspection)  
 O/C = Partly Open, Partly Confidential  
 N/A = Not Applicable  
 Y = Yes  
 N = No  
 P = Paper Medium or microfilm  
 C = Data Processing medium

Note: All numerical citations are to the Iowa Code unless otherwise shown

Nature & Description of Record	Type of Record	Confidentiality Authority	Access by Personal Identifier?	Contains Personal Info?	Personally Identifiable Collection Authority	How Stored?
<p>I. Complaint Case Files</p> <p>A complaint that any person, organization or public employer has violated the Public Employment Relations Act (Act) may be filed by any person, employee organization or public employer. These files contain information which pertains to the alleged violation of the Act, its investigation and resolution, and appeals within the agency. During the investigatory/mediation stage the file may contain mediator notes which are confidential.</p>	O/C	22.7(20), 20.1(4), 20.6(5), IAC 621—subrule 7.3(4).	Y/N Y - only if complainant or respondent is an individual.	Y - names, address and telephone number of individuals. May also include transcript testimony and exhibits containing personal information.	20.1(2), 20.6(4), 20.11, IAC 621—8.6(20).	P
<p>II. Bargaining unit, representation, decertification, unit reconsideration, amendment of unit, unit clarification, revocation of certification and amendment of certification case files.</p> <p>These documents are the record of the agency establishment of appropriate bargaining units, conduct of secret ballot elections and monitoring of the merger, affiliation and disaffiliation of certified labor organizations. These files may contain mediator notes which are confidential. Representation and decertification files contain a “show of interest” in which public employees indicate by an original signature whether they wish to be represented by or decertify a certified labor organization. “Show of interest” records are confidential.</p>	O/C	22.7(20), 20.1(4), 20.6(5), IAC 621—subrule 7.3(4). IAC 621—subrule 4.3(3).	Y/N - only if petitioner is an individual.	Y - names, address and telephone number of individuals. May also include transcript testimony and exhibits containing personal information.	20.1(1), 20.13-15, 20.6(4).	P
<p>III. Negotiability Dispute Case Files</p> <p>A petition for an expedited ruling on a negotiability dispute may be filed by a public employer or certified employee organization requesting the agency to determine whether a specific contract proposal is a mandatory, permissive, or illegal subject of bargaining under Section 9 of the Public Employment Relations Act. Such files contain documents concerning the agency’s determination of that question.</p>	O	N/A	N	Y - names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the parties’ representatives.	20.6(4)	P



<p>IV. Declaratory Order Case Files</p> <p>Any person, public employer or employee organization may petition the agency to issue a declaratory order as to the applicability of a statute, rule or order within the primary jurisdiction of the agency. Such files contain documents concerning the proceedings, including the agency's determination.</p>	O	N/A	Y/N Y - only if petitioner is an individual.	Y - names, addresses and telephone numbers of individuals.	20.6(4)	P
<p>V. Contract Negotiation Impasse Case Files</p> <p>As the first step in the performance of their duty to bargain, the public employer and the certified employee organization shall agree upon impasse procedures to assist the parties in concluding a collective bargaining agreement. These files contain the request for impasse services, relevant correspondence and mediator notes which are confidential.</p>	O/C	22.7(20). 20.1(4), 20.6(5). IAC 621—7.3(4).	N	Y - names, addresses and telephone numbers of individuals or parties' representatives.	20.1(4), 20.19, 20.20-22	P/C
<p>VI. Neutral Files</p> <p>The agency maintains biographical data on qualified mediators, fact-finders and interest arbitrators to assist in resolving contract disputes. The agency also maintains a list of qualified grievance arbitrators to issue decisions concerning grievances arising under a labor agreement and a list of teacher termination adjudicators selected pursuant to Chapter 179, <u>The Code</u>.</p>	O	N/A	Y	Y - names, addresses, telephone numbers and biographical data of neutrals.	20.1(4), 20.6(3), 20.20-22	P/C
<p>VII. Employee Organization Files</p> <p>The Public Employment Relations Act requires each certified employee organization to file certain information with the agency. These files contain an employee organization's constitution and bylaws, annual financial report and audit, and order of certification and amendments thereto, if any.</p>	O	N/A	N	Y - names, addresses and telephone numbers of relevant employee organization officers and representatives.	20.25	P
<p>VIII. State Employee Appeals of Grievance Decisions and Disciplinary Action Case Files</p> <p>Certain state employees have the statutory right to appeal to the agency from a response from the director to the Iowa Department of Personnel regarding the employee's grievance, discharge, suspension or demotion.</p>	O/C	22.7(11). 19A.15.	Y	Y - names, addresses and telephone numbers of individuals. May also include transcript testimony and exhibits containing personal information.	20.1(3) 19A.14(1)(2)	P

IX. Index and Digest of Grievance Arbitration Decisions	O	N/A	Y/N Y - only if grievant is identified in the title of the arbitration decision.	Y - names, addresses and telephone numbers of individuals. May also include transcript testimony and exhibits containing personal information.	20.1(3)	P
The agency maintains as a part of its Information Service a digest and subject matter index of decisions issued by grievance arbitrators. This information is located at the agency office, community college libraries, the Drake University and University of Iowa law libraries and the University of Iowa business school library.						
X. Wage and Benefit Contract Summaries	O	N/A	N	N	20.1(5)	P
The Public Employment Relations Act requires the agency to collect and disseminate information concerning the wages, hours and other conditions of employment of public employees. This information, which is identified by employer/certified employee organization, is part of the agency's Information Service located at the agency office, community college libraries, Drake University and University of Iowa law libraries and the University of Iowa business school library.						
XI. Agency Personnel Files	O/C	22.7(11)	Y/N Y - only for current employees.	Y - names, addresses and telephone numbers of individuals, payroll records, biographical information, medical information, performance reviews and evaluations, disciplinary information, information required for tax withholding and other information concerning the agency/employee relationship.	20.5(1), 20.5(4).	P
The agency maintains files containing information regarding employees, their families and dependents, and applicants for positions with the agency, some of which is confidential.						
XII. Litigation Files	O/C	22.7(4)	Y/N	Y - names, addresses and telephone numbers of	20.1(6), 20.11(10),	P

These files contain information regarding litigation or anticipated litigation involving the agency. In addition to briefs, correspondence, research materials, etc., these files contain materials which are confidential as attorney work product and attorney-client communications.

Y - if a party to the litigation is an individual.

individuals. May also include transcript testimony and exhibits containing personal information.

20.11(11),  
20.11(4).

XIII. Internal Agency Records	O/C	21.5	N	Y - these records may contain information regarding individuals who participate in agency meetings.	21.3	P
These records include agendas, minutes and materials presented to the agency, including documents generated during the promulgation of rules.						
XIV. Administrative Records	O	N/A	N	N	N/A	P
These records include documents concerning the budget, property inventory, purchasing, time sheets, printing and supply requisitions.						

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 22.11.

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## CHAPTER 13 MEDIATORS

**621—13.1(20) Scope and authority.** This chapter applies to all mediators listed on the agency's mediator list and to all persons applying for inclusion on the list.

[ARC 1642C, IAB 10/1/14, effective 11/5/14]

**621—13.2(20) Definitions.**

*“Ad hoc mediator”* means a person included on the list who enters into an independent contractor agreement with the agency to provide mediation to parties requesting impasse services pursuant to Iowa Code section 20.20.

*“Advocate”* means a person who represents employers, employee organizations, or individuals or entities in labor relations or employment relations matters, including but not limited to the subjects of union representation and recognition matters, negotiations, mediation, arbitration, unfair or prohibited labor practices, equal employment opportunity, and other areas generally recognized as constituting labor or employment relations. “Advocate” includes representatives of employers or employees in individual cases or controversies involving workers' compensation, occupational health or safety, minimum wage, or other labor standards matters. “Advocate” also includes persons directly or indirectly associated with an advocate in a business or professional relationship as, for example, partners or employees of a law firm.

*“FMCS”* means the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

*“Qualified-mediator list”* or *“list”* means the agency-maintained list of mediators who have met the criteria set forth in this chapter.

[ARC 1642C, IAB 10/1/14, effective 11/5/14]

**621—13.3(20) List and status of members.**

**13.3(1) *The list.*** The agency shall maintain a list of mediators who meet the criteria for listing contained in rule 621—13.4(20) and who remain in good standing.

**13.3(2) *Adherence to standards and requirements.*** Persons included on the list shall comply with the agency's administrative rules pertaining to mediation. Mediators shall conform to the ethical standards and procedures set forth in the current Code of Professional Conduct for Labor Mediators, as approved and published by the Association of Labor Relations Agencies, and chapter 11 of the Iowa Court Rules. When in conflict, the Code of Professional Conduct for Labor Mediators shall take precedence over the Iowa Court Rules.

**13.3(3) *Status of FMCS and ad hoc mediators.*** Ad hoc mediators and mediators employed by FMCS are not employees of the state of Iowa.

**13.3(4) *Rights of persons on the list.*** Placement on the list shall be at the sole discretion of the board.

**13.3(5) *Assignments.*** The agency has sole discretion to make and modify mediation assignments.

[ARC 1642C, IAB 10/1/14, effective 11/5/14]

**621—13.4(20) Mediator listing.**

**13.4(1) *Categories of mediators.*** The list shall consist of three categories of mediators:

- a. The agency's professional staff;
- b. Mediators employed by FMCS; and
- c. Ad hoc mediators.

**13.4(2) *Application procedures for ad hoc mediators.*** Persons seeking to be included on the list must complete and submit an application to the agency. Applicants shall submit at least two professional references, preferably one reference from management and one reference from labor. The board will review the application under the criteria set forth in this rule and shall make a final decision as to whether an applicant may be placed on the list. Satisfactorily meeting all criteria does not entitle an applicant to inclusion on the list. Each applicant shall be notified in writing of the board's decision.

**13.4(3) *Knowledge and abilities.*** Applicants must establish requisite knowledge and abilities as follows:

- a. Good verbal and written communication skills;
- b. The ability and willingness to travel throughout Iowa and to work prolonged and unusual hours;
- c. Knowledge of Iowa Code chapter 20, the agency's administrative rules, and principles and practices of contracts, public finance, and labor relations; and
- d. The ability and willingness to conduct a mediation in a fair and impartial manner.

**13.4(4) Experience.** Applicants must demonstrate requisite experience in labor relations or mediation in one of the following ways:

- a. At least three years of collective bargaining experience in the public or private sector;
- b. At least three years of actual mediation experience;
- c. At least five years of other relevant experience in labor-related fields including but not limited to human resource management, industrial relations, and labor unionism;
- d. A law degree or a master's or equivalent degree in industrial or labor relations or alternative dispute resolution; or
- e. Experience that is a combination of that described in paragraphs "a" through "d" of this subrule.

**13.4(5) Geographical location.** Preference will be given to applicants residing in or near areas of the state where few other listed mediators reside.

**13.4(6) Training.**

- a. Prior to inclusion on the list, an applicant must complete the following training:
  - (1) Formal training provided by the agency; and
  - (2) Mentorship in at least two disputes with an experienced, listed mediator. The board may require additional mentoring if deemed necessary.
- b. Training requirements may be waived by the board for applicants with prior public sector mediation experience.

**13.4(7) Conflict of interest.** Prior to inclusion on the list, all applicants must disclose potential conflicts of interest as described in subrule 13.6(1).

**13.4(8) Exemption.** Persons on the agency's professional staff and mediators employed by FMCS shall not be required to submit an application for listing and shall be deemed as meeting all criteria set forth in subrules 13.4(3) through 13.4(6) throughout the duration of their employment with the agency or FMCS.

**13.4(9) Grandfather clause.** Any person listed prior to November 5, 2014, shall be deemed as meeting all criteria set forth in subrules 13.4(3), 13.4(4) and 13.4(6).

[ARC 1642C, IAB 10/1/14, effective 11/5/14]

**621—13.5(20) Independent contractor agreement.** An ad hoc mediator must enter into an independent contractor agreement with the agency prior to receiving mediation assignments. The independent contractor agreement between the ad hoc mediator and the agency shall establish the hourly rate, reimbursable fees and expenses, duration, and other terms and conditions.

[ARC 1642C, IAB 10/1/14, effective 11/5/14]

**621—13.6(20) Conflict of interest.**

**13.6(1) Conflict of interest.** The board shall determine whether a person has a conflict of interest which may require denial of an application or removal from the list or from individual assignments. A conflict of interest arises where:

- a. A mediator is or has been an employee or advocate for a party to the mediation within the prior two years; or
- b. A mediator's immediate family member, or any other person with whom the mediator has close, personal ties, is an interested party in the outcome of the mediation; or
- c. Any other matter that may create an appearance of bias, lack of impartiality, or interest in the proceedings to which the mediator may be or has been assigned.

**13.6(2) Duty to disclose.** A person applying for inclusion on the list or a person included on the list has a continuing duty to disclose to the board in writing any potential or actual conflicts of interest as described in subrule 13.6(1).

**13.6(3) Disclosure.** The board may require a mediator to disclose certain matters to the parties of a mediation prior to its commencement. If either party objects to proceeding to mediation with that mediator, the board may assign a different mediator.

[ARC 1642C, IAB 10/1/14, effective 11/5/14]

**621—13.7(20) Confidentiality.**

**13.7(1) Exemption from open meetings law.** In accordance with Iowa Code section 20.17(3), communications between the parties and the mediator during the course of a mediation shall be exempt from the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 21.

**13.7(2) Mediator privilege.** In accordance with Iowa Code section 20.31(2), a mediator shall not testify in judicial, administrative, or grievance proceedings regarding any matters occurring in the course of a mediation, including any verbal or written communication or behavior, other than facts relating exclusively to the timing or scheduling of mediation. A mediator shall not produce or disclose any documents, including notes, memoranda, or other work product, relating to mediation, other than documents relating exclusively to the timing or scheduling of mediation.

**13.7(3) Exception.** Subrule 13.7(2) shall not apply in any of the following circumstances:

- a. The testimony, production, or disclosure is required by statute;
- b. The testimony, production, or disclosure provides evidence of an ongoing or future criminal activity; or
- c. The testimony, production, or disclosure provides evidence of child abuse as defined in Iowa Code section 232.68(2).

[ARC 1642C, IAB 10/1/14, effective 11/5/14]

**621—13.8(20) Complaints.** Any affected person or party shall direct a complaint against a mediator who is on the list to the board. The board will consider the complaint and other relevant information and take such action it deems appropriate.

[ARC 1642C, IAB 10/1/14, effective 11/5/14]

**621—13.9(20) Inactive status.** A member of the list who continues to meet the criteria for inclusion on the list shall inform the agency if the member is unavailable for assignment on a temporary basis because of illness, vacation, schedule, or other reasons. That member will not receive assignments during the period in which the member is unavailable.

[ARC 1642C, IAB 10/1/14, effective 11/5/14]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 20.1, 20.6 and 20.20.

[Filed ARC 1642C (Notice ARC 1570C, IAB 8/6/14), IAB 10/1/14, effective 11/5/14]





## CHAPTER 14 ARBITRATORS

**621—14.1(20) Scope.** This chapter applies to all arbitrators listed on the agency's qualified-arbitrator roster and to all applicants for listing on the roster.

[ARC 1642C, IAB 10/1/14, effective 11/5/14]

### **621—14.2(20) Definitions.**

*“Advocate”* means a person who represents employers, employee organizations, or individuals or entities in labor relations or employment relations matters, including but not limited to the subjects of union representation and recognition matters, negotiations, mediation, arbitration, unfair or prohibited labor practices, equal employment opportunity, and other areas generally recognized as constituting labor or employment relations. *“Advocate”* includes representatives of employers or employees in individual cases or controversies involving workers' compensation, occupational health or safety, minimum wage, or other labor standards matters. *“Advocate”* also includes persons directly or indirectly associated with an advocate in a business or professional relationship as, for example, partners or employees of a law firm.

*“Arbitrator”* means a person serving as a neutral decision-maker in interest arbitrations, grievance arbitrations, or teacher termination adjudications.

*“Grievance arbitration”* means the proceedings on an alleged contract violation as provided in a collective bargaining agreement entered into pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 20.

*“Grievance arbitrator”* means a person serving as a neutral decision-maker in a grievance arbitration.

*“Interest arbitration”* means the binding arbitration contemplated by Iowa Code section 20.22 or by an impasse agreement entered into pursuant to Iowa Code section 20.19.

*“Interest arbitrator”* means a person serving as a neutral decision-maker in an interest arbitration.

*“Qualified-arbitrator roster”* or *“roster”* means the agency-maintained list of arbitrators who have met the criteria set forth in this chapter.

*“Teacher termination adjudication”* means the proceedings contemplated by Iowa Code section 279.17.

*“Teacher termination adjudicator”* means a person serving as a neutral decision-maker in a teacher termination adjudication.

[ARC 1642C, IAB 10/1/14, effective 11/5/14]

### **621—14.3(20) Roster and status of members.**

**14.3(1) *The roster.*** The agency shall maintain a roster of arbitrators who meet the criteria for listing contained in rule 621—14.5(20) and who remain in good standing.

**14.3(2) *Adherence to standards and requirements.*** Persons listed on the roster shall comply with the agency's administrative rules pertaining to arbitrators. Arbitrators shall conform to the ethical standards and procedures set forth in the current Code of Professional Responsibility for Arbitrators of Labor Management Disputes, as approved and published by the National Academy of Arbitrators, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, and the American Arbitration Association.

**14.3(3) *Status of arbitrators.*** Persons who are listed on the roster are not employees of the state of Iowa. A selected arbitrator's contractual relationship is solely with the parties to the dispute.

**14.3(4) *Roster listing fee.*** An annual listing fee of \$150 for each roster member is established to maintain the roster. Roster members shall remit payment to the agency by November 1 each year. This fee shall be considered a repayment receipt as defined in Iowa Code section 8.2.

[ARC 1642C, IAB 10/1/14, effective 11/5/14]

**621—14.4(20) Fees of arbitrators.** Qualified arbitrators selected from the roster may be compensated by a sum not to exceed \$1,200 per day of service, plus their necessary expenses incurred.

[ARC 1642C, IAB 10/1/14, effective 11/5/14]

**621—14.5(20) Arbitrator roster.**

**14.5(1) *Categories of arbitrators.*** The roster shall consist of three categories of arbitrators:

- a. Interest arbitrators;
- b. Grievance arbitrators; and
- c. Teacher termination adjudicators.

Persons may be listed on the roster in each category in which they meet the criteria.

**14.5(2) *Initial application procedures.*** Persons seeking to be listed on the roster in one or more categories must complete and submit an application to the board. Applicants shall submit at least one reference from management, one reference from labor, and applicable writing samples. The board will review the application under the criteria, as set forth in subrules 14.5(3), 14.5(4), 14.5(5), and 14.5(6), and shall make a final decision concerning whether an applicant will be listed on the roster and under which category or categories the applicant qualifies. Each applicant shall be notified in writing of the board's decision.

**14.5(3) *Knowledge and abilities.*** Applicants must establish requisite knowledge and abilities as follows:

- a. For listing on the roster as an interest arbitrator:
  - (1) Good verbal and written communication skills;
  - (2) The ability and willingness to travel throughout Iowa and to work prolonged and unusual hours;
  - (3) Knowledge of Iowa Code chapter 20, the agency's rules, and principles and practices of contracts, public finance, and labor relations; and
  - (4) The ability to conduct evidentiary hearings in a fair and impartial manner, develop an accurate record, and prepare and issue clear, reasoned and timely awards. For purposes of this subparagraph, "timely" means within 15 days after the interest arbitration hearing pursuant to Iowa Code section 20.22(9) or in a time frame established by an impasse agreement entered into pursuant to Iowa Code section 20.19.
- b. For listing on the roster as a grievance arbitrator:
  - (1) Good verbal and written communication skills;
  - (2) The ability and willingness to travel throughout Iowa and to work prolonged and unusual hours;
  - (3) Knowledge of arbitral principles and practices, contracts, and labor relations; and
  - (4) The ability to conduct evidentiary hearings in a fair and impartial manner, develop an accurate record, and prepare and issue clear, reasoned and timely awards. For purposes of this subparagraph, "timely" means within the time frame established by the parties' collective bargaining agreement entered into pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 20.
- c. For listing on the roster as a teacher termination adjudicator:
  - (1) Good verbal and written communication skills;
  - (2) The ability and willingness to travel throughout Iowa and to work prolonged and unusual hours;
  - (3) Knowledge of Iowa Code section 279.17; and
  - (4) The ability to review adjudicatory records developed by another body, hear legal arguments in a fair and impartial manner, and prepare and issue clear, reasoned and timely decisions. For purposes of this subparagraph, "timely" means within 15 days after the teacher termination adjudication hearing pursuant to Iowa Code section 279.17(7).

**14.5(4) *Experience.***

a. Applicants must demonstrate requisite experience in labor relations or arbitration in the category in which the applicant seeks listing on the roster in one of the following ways:

- (1) For listing on the roster as an interest arbitrator:
  1. Issuance of at least four fact-finding or interest arbitration decisions or a combination thereof;
  2. At least three years' experience as a mediator in collective bargaining interest disputes, with training and experience in conducting hearings and issuing reasoned awards; or
  3. At least five years' experience in labor relations or labor law, with training and experience in conducting hearings and issuing reasoned awards.
- (2) For listing on the roster as a grievance arbitrator:
  1. Issuance of at least four grievance awards; or

2. At least five years' experience in labor relations or labor law, with training and experience in conducting hearings and issuing reasoned awards.

(3) For listing on the roster as a teacher termination adjudicator:

1. Issuance of at least four decisions rendered in an appellate capacity; or

2. At least five years' experience in the field of education, with training and experience in reviewing adjudicatory records and issuing reasoned decisions.

*b.* The board may give credit against the years of experience requirement to a candidate who has received a master's or equivalent degree in a related area or who has adjudicatory experience in a field or fields other than labor relations.

**14.5(5) Conflict of interest.** Prior to inclusion on the roster, all applicants must disclose potential conflicts of interest as described in subrule 14.8(1).

**14.5(6) Training.** Prior to inclusion on the roster as an interest arbitrator, applicants must complete formal training provided by the agency.

**14.5(7) Exemption.** Applicants who qualify for and complete the agency's interest arbitrator mentorship program, as outlined in rule 621—14.6(20), shall be exempt from the criteria set forth in subparagraph 14.5(4) "a"(1) and subrule 14.5(6).

**14.5(8) Duration of listing.** Listing on the roster shall be for a term of three years.

**14.5(9) Renewal application.**

*a.* The board shall notify a roster member not less than 120 days before the expiration of the member's three-year term of the procedures necessary to continue inclusion on the roster.

*b.* A roster member desiring to renew the member's listing must submit a written application to the board not less than 60 days before the expiration of the member's three-year term.

*c.* When reviewing a renewal application, the board shall consider the following criteria, plus any other relevant information, in determining whether to renew the person's listing:

(1) Demonstration of the requisite knowledge and abilities as listed in subrule 14.5(3);

(2) Acceptability, which may be based on the agency's records that show the number of times the arbitrator's name has been proposed to the parties and the number of times the arbitrator has been selected. Such cases will be reviewed for extenuating circumstances, such as the arbitrator's length of time on the roster or prior history;

(3) Timeliness of decisions;

(4) Feedback from the parties; and

(5) Attendance at agency-sponsored events, including conferences and trainings.

*d.* Within 60 days of receipt of the completed application, the board shall issue and serve in accordance with 621—subrule 2.15(2) a written decision granting or denying the renewal application.

(1) If renewal is granted, the roster member shall remit payment of the annual listing fee in accordance with subrule 14.3(4).

(2) If renewal is denied, the renewal applicant may request reconsideration of the denial within 14 days of issuance of the denial. The board shall hold a hearing conducted in accordance with 621—Chapter 2 within 60 days of the request for reconsideration and shall issue its final ruling within 30 days of the hearing. Absent a timely request for reconsideration, the board's denial of the renewal application becomes final, and the arbitrator shall be removed from the roster.

**14.5(10) Grandfather clause.** Any arbitrator listed on the roster prior to November 5, 2014, shall be deemed to meet all criteria set forth in subrules 14.5(3), 14.5(4), and 14.5(6) for up to three years following November 5, 2014. For purposes of renewal, the agency shall divide arbitrators listed on the roster on November 5, 2014, into three groups with staggered renewal dates and will notify the members of each group when their renewal applications are due.

[ARC 1642C, IAB 10/1/14, effective 11/5/14]

#### **621—14.6(20) Interest arbitrator mentorship program.**

**14.6(1) Goal.** It is a goal of the board to increase the number of Iowa residents qualified to be on the roster. Such increase should provide constituents additional options for hiring arbitrators whose reimbursable expenses, such as for mileage and accommodations, are lower and who are more familiar

with situations facing the parties. The board may suspend the interest arbitrator mentorship program at any time.

**14.6(2) *Application procedures.*** Persons seeking to participate in the program must complete and submit an application on a form prescribed by the board. The board will review the application and make a final decision whether an applicant qualifies for the program in accordance with subrule 14.6(3). Each applicant shall be notified in writing of the board's decision.

**14.6(3) *Qualifications.*** To be eligible to participate in the program, an applicant must meet the following qualifications:

- a. Be a resident of the state of Iowa at the time of application and throughout the duration of the mentorship program and maintain the residency for the first year of listing;
- b. Have at least five years of collective bargaining experience in the public or private sector as an advocate, mediator, or combination of both;
- c. Possess good verbal and written communication skills;
- d. Have the ability and willingness to travel throughout Iowa and to work prolonged and unusual hours; and
- e. Not have a conflict of interest as described in subrule 14.8(1).

**14.6(4) *The program.***

- a. The program shall consist of the following steps:
  - (1) Formal training by the agency regarding Iowa Code chapter 20, the agency's administrative rules, and how to conduct hearings and write awards;
  - (2) Shadowing an experienced arbitrator listed on the roster in at least two interest arbitrations; and
  - (3) Submission of at least two mock interest arbitration awards that comply with statutory and regulatory requirements. The board may require additional mock awards if deemed necessary.
- b. Successful completion of the program will result in the participant's inclusion on the roster as an interest arbitrator. Participants must satisfy the criteria for grievance arbitrators and teacher termination adjudicators outlined in subrules 14.5(3) and 14.5(4) prior to inclusion on the roster under those categories.

[ARC 1642C, IAB 10/1/14, effective 11/5/14]

**621—14.7(20) Biography.** Each roster member shall maintain a biography in a form prescribed by the board. The roster member is responsible for ensuring that the biography is accurate and current. The agency bears no responsibility for inaccurate, incomplete, or outdated information in biographies. The member's biography shall contain the following:

1. Name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address;
2. Current and past employment, including the member's representative client base if not readily identifiable;
3. Education history;
4. Per diem rate and other applicable charges or fees;
5. Relevant experience, including but not limited to listing on other arbitrator rosters or memberships/associations; and
6. Potential or actual conflicts of interest as described in subrule 14.8(1).

[ARC 1642C, IAB 10/1/14, effective 11/5/14]

**621—14.8(20) Conflict of interest.**

**14.8(1) *Conflict of interest.*** The board shall determine whether a person has a conflict of interest which may require denial of an initial or renewal application or removal from the roster or from individual selections. A conflict of interest arises where:

- a. An arbitrator is or has been an employee or advocate for a party to the arbitration within the prior two years;
- b. An arbitrator's immediate family member, or any other person with whom the arbitrator has close, personal ties, is an interested party in the outcome of the arbitration; or
- c. Any other matter that may create an appearance of bias, lack of impartiality, or interest in the proceedings to which the arbitrator may be or has been selected.

**14.8(2) *Duty to disclose.*** A person applying for inclusion on the roster or a person listed on the roster has a continuing duty to disclose to the board in writing any potential or actual conflicts of interest as described in subrule 14.8(1).

**14.8(3) *Disclosure.*** The board may require an arbitrator to disclose certain matters to the parties of an arbitration prior to its commencement. If either party objects to proceeding to arbitration with that arbitrator, the board may require the parties to make an alternate selection.  
[ARC 1642C, IAB 10/1/14, effective 11/5/14]

#### **621—14.9(20) Procedures for discipline and removal.**

**14.9(1) *Grounds.*** Probation, suspension, or removal from the roster may be based upon one or a combination of any of the following, including but not limited to:

- a. Failure to comply with statutory provisions, the agency's administrative rules, and agency guidelines and policies;
- b. Delinquency in submitting awards;
- c. Existence of a conflict of interest as described in subrule 14.8(1) that requires exclusion from the roster;
- d. Failure to disclose to the board or the parties any conflict of interest as described in subrule 14.8(1);
- e. Failure to demonstrate the requisite knowledge and abilities listed in subrule 14.5(3);
- f. Any other reason for which the board deems discipline or removal to be in the best interest of the agency, its constituents, or the public at large.

**14.9(2) *Automatic removal.*** Any roster member who fails to pay the annual listing fee pursuant to subrule 14.3(4) shall be removed from the roster, absent good cause shown for why removal is inappropriate. Any member who fails to submit a renewal application pursuant to paragraph 14.5(9) "b" shall be removed from the roster 30 days after the expiration of the member's term, absent good cause shown for why removal is inappropriate.

**14.9(3) *Filing of a complaint.***

a. Any affected person or party may file with the board a complaint against an arbitrator listed on the roster. The board may also file a complaint pursuant to this subrule. Such complaint shall be in writing and shall contain:

- (1) The name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the complaining party;
- (2) The dispute(s) in which the complaining party has interacted with the arbitrator;
- (3) The specific allegations on which the complaint is based;
- (4) The requested discipline;
- (5) The signature of the complaining party; and
- (6) The date on which the complaint was prepared.

b. The board shall serve on the arbitrator written notice of the complaint within 14 days of receipt of the complaint and in accordance with rule 621—2.15(20).

**14.9(4) *Preliminary investigation.*** Upon receipt of a complaint from an affected person or party, the board shall conduct a preliminary investigation into the allegations. In conducting the investigation, the board may require the production of evidence, including affidavits and documents. If the investigation reveals the complaint has no basis in fact or if the complaint is informally resolved with the approval of the board, the complaint shall be dismissed and the parties notified in accordance with rule 621—2.15(20).

**14.9(5) *Procedures.*** If the complaint is not dismissed following the preliminary investigation, the board shall schedule the complaint for hearing and notify the parties in accordance with rule 621—2.2(20). The hearing shall be held within 60 days of the completion of the preliminary investigation or the filing of a board-initiated complaint. The hearing and all subsequent proceedings and filings shall be in accordance with 621—Chapter 2.

**14.9(6) *Timely resolution of complaints.*** Complaints filed with the board shall be resolved within 180 days unless good cause is shown for an extension. The board will notify the parties prior to taking action to extend this time limitation upon its own motion.  
[ARC 1642C, IAB 10/1/14, effective 11/5/14]

**621—14.10(20) Inactive status.** A roster member who continues to meet the criteria for listing on the roster shall inform the agency if the member is unavailable for selection on a temporary basis because of illness, vacation, schedule, or other reasons. That member's name will not be included on a list of arbitrators sent to parties during the period in which the member is unavailable.  
[ARC 1642C, IAB 10/1/14, effective 11/5/14]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 20.1, 20.6, 20.22 and 279.17.

[Filed ARC 1642C (Notice ARC 1570C, IAB 8/6/14), IAB 10/1/14, effective 11/5/14]

CHAPTER 15  
Reserved





CHAPTER 16  
ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

**621—16.1(20) Effective date and scope.** This chapter governs the filing of all documents in adjudicatory proceedings before the agency that are filed on or after September 24, 2014. This chapter also governs the filing of all documents in adjudicatory proceedings converted to electronic proceedings upon the board's order. To the extent the rules in this chapter are inconsistent with any other administrative rule of the board, the rules in this chapter shall govern.

[ARC 1583C, IAB 8/20/14, effective 9/24/14]

**621—16.2(20) Definitions.**

*“Electronic filing”* means the electronic transmission of a document to the electronic document management system together with the production and transmission of a notice of electronic filing.

*“Electronic record”* means a record, file, or document created, generated, sent, communicated, received, or stored by electronic means.

*“Electronic service”* means the electronic transmission of a link where the registered users who are entitled to receive notice of the filing may view and download filed documents.

*“Nonelectronic filing”* means a process by which a paper document or other nonelectronic item is filed with the agency.

*“Notice of electronic filing”* means a document generated by the electronic document management system when a document is electronically filed.

*“PDF”* means an electronic document filed in a portable document format which is readable by the free Adobe® Acrobat® Reader.

*“Public access terminal”* means a computer located at the agency's office where the public may view, print, and electronically file documents.

*“Registered user”* means an individual who can electronically file documents and electronically view and download files through the use of a username and password.

*“Remote access”* means a registered user's ability to electronically search, view, copy, or download electronic documents in an electronic record without the need to physically visit the agency's office.

*“Signature”* means a registered user's username and password accompanied by one of the following:

1. *“Digitized signature”* means an embeddable image of a person's handwritten signature;
2. *“Electronic signature”* means an electronic symbol (“/s/” or “/registered user's name/”) executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign; or
3. *“Nonelectronic signature”* means a handwritten signature applied to an original document that is then scanned and electronically filed.

[ARC 1583C, IAB 8/20/14, effective 9/24/14]

**621—16.3(20) Registration, username, and passwords.**

**16.3(1) Registration.**

a. *Registration required.* Every individual filing documents or viewing or downloading documents filed in an adjudicatory proceeding must register as a registered user of the electronic document management system.

b. *How to register.* To register, the individual must complete the registration process located at <https://perb.iowa.gov/efiling> and obtain a username and password for the electronic document management system.

c. *Registration complete.* When the registration process is completed, the registered user will be assigned a username and password and the registered user may utilize the electronic document management system.

d. *Changing passwords.* Once registered, the user may change the user's password. If the registered user believes the security of an existing password has been compromised, the registered user must change the password immediately. The agency may require password changes periodically.

e. *Changes in registered user's contact information.* If a registered user's e-mail address, mailing address, or telephone number changes, the user must promptly make the necessary changes to the

registered user's information contained in the electronic document management system. The registered user shall promptly give notice of changes in contact information to any nonregistered party in every active proceeding in which the registered user is a party.

*f. Duties of registered user.* Each registered user shall ensure that the user's e-mail account information is current, that the account is monitored regularly, and that e-mail notices sent to the account are timely opened.

*g. Canceling registration.* Withdrawal from participation in the electronic document management system cancels the registered user's profile but does not authorize nonelectronic filing of documents and is not a withdrawal from a proceeding.

**16.3(2) Use of username and password.** A registered user is responsible for all documents filed with the user's username and password unless proven by clear and convincing evidence that the registered user did not make or authorize the filing.

**16.3(3) Username and password security.** If a username or password is lost, misappropriated, misused, or compromised, the registered user of that username/password shall notify the agency promptly.

**16.3(4) Denial of access.** The agency may refuse to allow an individual to electronically file or download information in the electronic document management system due to misuse, fraud or other good cause.

[ARC 1583C, IAB 8/20/14, effective 9/24/14]

#### **621—16.4(20) Mandatory electronic filing and exceptions.**

**16.4(1) Electronic filing mandatory.** Unless otherwise required or authorized by these rules, all documents in adjudicatory proceedings commenced on or after January 1, 2015, must be filed using the agency's electronic document management system.

##### **16.4(2) Exceptions.**

*a.* A show of interest submitted in a representative certification, combined bargaining unit determination or reconsideration/representative certification, or decertification proceeding shall not be filed electronically.

*b.* Any item that is not capable of being filed in an electronic format shall be filed in a nonelectronic format.

*c.* Upon a showing of exceptional circumstances that it is not feasible for an individual to file documents by electronic means, the board may excuse the individual from electronic filing in a particular proceeding.

*d.* A voter eligibility list submitted by an employer shall be e-mailed to the agency as provided in 621—subrule 5.2(2).

*e.* All filings in proceedings initially filed prior to January 1, 2015, unless converted to an electronic proceeding by board order, shall not be filed electronically.

**16.4(3) What constitutes filing.** The electronic transmission of a document to the electronic document management system consistent with the procedures specified in these rules, together with the production and transmission of a notice of electronic filing, constitutes filing of the document.

**16.4(4) Electronic file stamp.** Electronic documents are officially filed when affixed with an electronic file stamp. Filings so endorsed shall have the same force and effect as documents time-stamped in a nonelectronic manner.

**16.4(5) E-mail or fax.** E-mailing or faxing a document to the agency will not generate a notice of electronic filing and does not constitute electronic filing of the document unless otherwise ordered by the agency.

**16.4(6) Public access terminal.** At least one public access terminal shall be maintained at the agency's office.

[ARC 1583C, IAB 8/20/14, effective 9/24/14; ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]

**621—16.5(20) Filing of paper documents.**

**16.5(1) *Conversion of paper documents filed.*** If the board allows a party to file paper documents in accordance with paragraph 16.4(2) “c,” the agency will convert the filed documents to an electronic format viewable to registered users of the electronic document management system.

**16.5(2) *Form of paper documents.*** Each document must be printed on only one side and be delivered to the agency with no tabs, staples, or permanent clips, but may be organized with paperclips, clamps, or some other type of temporary fastener or may be delivered to the agency in an appropriate file folder.

**16.5(3) *Return of copies by mail.*** If a party wants a document filed in paper form to be returned by mail, the party must deliver to the agency a self-addressed envelope, with proper postage, large enough to accommodate the returned document.

[ARC 1583C, IAB 8/20/14, effective 9/24/14]

**621—16.6(20) Date and time of filing.**

**16.6(1) *Date of filing.*** An electronic filing may be made any day of the week, including holidays and weekends, and any time of the day the electronic document management system is available.

**16.6(2) *Time of filing.*** A document is timely filed if it is filed before midnight on the date the filing is due.

[ARC 1583C, IAB 8/20/14, effective 9/24/14]

**621—16.7(20) Signatures.**

**16.7(1) *Registered user.*** A username and password accompanied by a digitized, electronic, or nonelectronic signature serve as the registered user’s signature on all electronically filed documents.

**16.7(2) *Documents requiring oaths, affirmations or verifications.*** Any document filed requiring a signature under oath or affirmation or with verification may be signed electronically or nonelectronically but shall be filed electronically.

**16.7(3) *Format.*** Any filing requiring a signature must be signed, with either a nonelectronic signature (actual signature scanned), an electronic signature (the symbol “/s/” or “/registered user’s name/”), or a digitized signature (an inserted image of a handwritten signature). The following information about the person shall be included under the person’s signature:

- a. Name;
- b. Name of firm, certified employee organization, or governmental agency;
- c. Mailing address;
- d. Telephone number; and
- e. E-mail address.

**16.7(4) *Multiple signatures.*** By filing a document containing multiple signatures, the registered user confirms that the content of the document is acceptable to all persons signing the document and that all such persons consent to having their signatures appear on the document.

[ARC 1583C, IAB 8/20/14, effective 9/24/14]

**621—16.8(20) Format and redaction of electronic documents.** All documents must be converted to a PDF format before they are filed in the electronic document management system. Prior to filing any document, the registered user shall ensure that the document is certified as confidential or the confidential information is omitted or redacted in accordance with 621—subrule 2.13(2), and that protected information is omitted or redacted in accordance with 621—subrule 2.13(3).

[ARC 1583C, IAB 8/20/14, effective 9/24/14]

**621—16.9(20) Exhibits and other attachments.** Any attachments to a filing, such as an exhibit, shall be uploaded and electronically attached to the filing.

[ARC 1583C, IAB 8/20/14, effective 9/24/14]

**621—16.10(20) Service.**

**16.10(1) *Initial filing.*** An initial filing in a proceeding shall be served upon other parties nonelectronically in the manner specified in rule 621—2.15(20). The document being served must be

accompanied by an agency-approved information sheet regarding mandatory electronic filing. Unless exempted by subrule 16.4(2), proof of service of the initial filing shall be electronically filed.

**16.10(2) Subsequent filings.** All subsequent filings shall be electronically served via the electronic document management system, unless a party to the proceeding is exempted from electronically filing documents by subrule 16.4(2). If a party is so exempted, all documents filed by all parties to the proceeding shall be served in accordance with rule 621—2.15(20).

**16.10(3) Proof of service of nonelectronic filings.**

- a. Parties filing pursuant to paragraph 16.4(2) “b” shall file a proof of service electronically.
- b. Parties filing pursuant to the exceptional circumstances provision in paragraph 16.4(2) “c” must attach a nonelectronic proof of service to the filing.
- c. Parties to a proceeding initially filed prior to January 1, 2015, must attach a nonelectronic proof of service to their nonelectronic filings.

**16.10(4) Electronic service and distribution of electronic filings.**

a. When a document is electronically filed, it will be served through the electronic document management system to all parties to the adjudicatory proceeding who are registered users. No other service is required unless ordered by the agency.

b. Notices of electronic filing will continue to be sent to registered users appearing or intervening in a proceeding until they have filed a withdrawal of appearance.

**16.10(5) Agency-generated documents.**

a. *Electronic filing and service.* All agency-generated documents issued in adjudicatory proceedings governed by this chapter shall be electronically filed and served.

b. *Paper copies.* The agency shall not mail paper copies of any documents absent approval by the board.

[ARC 1583C, IAB 8/20/14, effective 9/24/14]

**621—16.11(20) Discovery.** Parties shall file a notice with the agency when a notice of deposition or a discovery request or response is served on another party. The notice filed with the agency shall include the date, manner of service, and the names and addresses of the persons served. Other discovery materials shall not be filed unless ordered by the presiding officer.

[ARC 1583C, IAB 8/20/14, effective 9/24/14]

**621—16.12(20) Transcripts, briefs and exhibits.**

**16.12(1) Transcripts.** If a hearing or oral argument is transcribed, the transcript shall be made available to registered users electronically after final agency action.

**16.12(2) Briefs.** Briefs and memoranda shall be electronically filed.

**16.12(3) Exhibits.** A party’s exhibits admitted into evidence at a hearing shall be electronically filed by the party not later than the date ordered by the presiding officer or board.

[ARC 1583C, IAB 8/20/14, effective 9/24/14]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 20.24 as amended by 2014 Iowa Acts, House File 2172.

[Filed ARC 1583C (Notice ARC 1507C, IAB 6/25/14), IAB 8/20/14, effective 9/24/14]

[Filed Emergency ARC 3278C, IAB 8/30/17, effective 8/10/17]