

CHAPTER 9  
PUBLIC RECORDS AND  
FAIR INFORMATION PRACTICES

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 1/1/28

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

**371—9.1(17A,22) Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

“Agency.” In lieu of “(official or body issuing these rules)” insert “the fair board”.

**371—9.3(17A,22) Requests for access to records.**

**9.3(1)** In lieu of “(insert agency head)” insert “secretary/manager of the fair board”. In lieu of “(insert agency name and address)” insert “Secretary of Fair Board, Statehouse, Des Moines, Iowa 50319”.

**9.3(2)** Office hours. In lieu of “(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 “8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays”.

**9.3(7)** Fees.

c. Supervisory fee. In lieu of “(specify time period)” insert “one-half hour”.

**371—9.9(17A,22) Disclosures without the consent of the subject.**

**9.9(1)** Open records are routinely disclosed without the consent of the subject.

**9.9(2)** To the extent allowed by law, disclosure of confidential records may occur without the consent of the subject. Following are instances where disclosure, if lawful, will generally occur without notice to the subject:

a. For a routine use as defined in rule 9.10(17A,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 had submitted a written request to the fair board specifying the record desired and 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.

**371—9.10(17A,22) Routine use.**

**9.10(1)** Defined. “Routine use” 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. It includes disclosures required to be made by statute other than the public records law, Iowa Code chapter 22.

**9.10(2)** To the extent allowed by law, the following uses are considered routine uses of all fair board records:

a. 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.

*b.* 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.

*c.* Disclosure to the department of inspections and appeals for matters in which it is performing services or functions on behalf of the fair board.

*d.* 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.

*e.* 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.

*f.* Any disclosure specifically authorized by the statute under which the record was collected or maintained.

### **371—9.11(17A,22) Consensual disclosure of confidential records.**

**9.11(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 9.7(17A,22).

**9.11(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.

### **371—9.12(17A,22) Release to subject.**

**9.12(1)** The subject of a confidential record may file a written request to review confidential records about that person as provided in rule 9.6(17A,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.

**9.12(2)** Where a record has multiple subjects with interest in the confidentiality of the record, the fair board may take reasonable steps to protect confidential information relating to another subject.

### **371—9.13(17A,22) Availability of records.**

**9.13(1)** *General.* Fair board records are open for public inspection and copying unless otherwise provided by rule or law.

**9.13(2)** *Confidential records.* The following records may be withheld from public inspection. Records are listed by category, according to the legal basis for withholding them from public inspection.

*a.* Sealed bids received prior to the time set for public opening of bids. (Iowa Code section 72.3)

*b.* Tax records made available to the agency. (Iowa Code sections 422.20, 422.72)

*c.* Records which are exempt from disclosure under Iowa Code section 22.7.

*d.* Minutes of closed meetings of a government body. (Iowa Code section 21.5(4))

*e.* Identifying details in final orders, decisions and opinions to the extent required to prevent a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy or trade secrets under Iowa Code section 17A.3(1) "d."

*f.* Those portions of agency staff manuals, instructions or other statements issued which set forth criteria or guidelines to be used by agency staff in auditing, in making inspections, in settling commercial disputes or negotiating commercial arrangements, or in the selection or handling of cases, such as operational tactics or allowable tolerances or criteria for the defense, prosecution or settlement of cases, when disclosure of these statements would:

(1) Enable law violators to avoid detection;

(2) Facilitate disregard of requirements imposed by law; or

(3) Give a clearly improper advantage to persons who are in an adverse position to the agency. (See Iowa Code sections 17A.2, 17A.3.)

g. Records which constitute attorney work product, attorney-client communications, or which are otherwise privileged. Attorney work product is confidential under Iowa Code sections 22.7(4), 622.10 and 622.11. Iowa R.C.P. 122(c), Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(3), and case law. Attorney-client communications are confidential under Iowa Code sections 622.10 and 622.11, the rules of evidence, the Code of Professional Responsibility, and case law.

h. Any other records made confidential by law.

**9.13(3) Authority to release 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 9.4(17A,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 9.4(3).

**371—9.14(17A,22) Personally identifiable information—personnel files.** The fair board maintains files containing information about employees and applicants for positions with the agency. The files include payroll records, performance reviews and evaluations, disciplinary information, information required for tax withholding, information concerning employee benefits, affirmative action reports, and other information concerning the employer-employee relationship. Some of this information is confidential under Iowa Code section 22.7(11).

**371—9.15(17A,22) Other groups of records.** This rule describes groups of records maintained by the agency other than record systems as defined in rule 9.1(17A,22). These records are routinely available to the public. However, the agency's files of these records may contain confidential information as discussed in rule 9.13(17A,22). The records listed may contain information about individuals.

Council and commission records. Agendas, minutes, and materials presented to the fair board are available from the office of the fair board, except those records concerning closed sessions which are exempt from disclosure under Iowa Code section 21.5 or which are otherwise confidential by law. Fair board records contain information about people who participate in meetings. This information is collected pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.3. This information is not stored on an automated data processing system.

1. Administrative records. This includes documents concerning budget, property inventory, purchasing, yearly reports, office policies for employees, time sheets, printing and supply requisitions.

2. Publications. The office receives a number of books, periodicals, newsletters, government documents, etc. These materials would generally be open to the public but may be protected by copyright law. Most publications of general interest are available in the state law library.

3. Office publications. This office issues a variety of materials including premium books and newsletters, brochures and pamphlets, press releases, and statistical reports.

4. Rule-making records. Public documents generated during the promulgation of agency rules, including notices and public comments, are available for public inspection.

5. Office manuals. Information in office manuals such as the Superintendents Manual may be confidential under Iowa Code section 17A.2(7) "f" or other applicable provision of law.

6. All other records that are not exempted from disclosure by law.

**371—9.16(17A,22) Data processing systems.** None of the data processing systems used by the agency permit the comparison of personally identifiable information in one record system with personally identifiable information in another record system.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 22.11.

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