

CHAPTER 18
DECLARATORY ORDERS

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

681—18.1(17A) Petition for declaratory order. Any person may file a petition with the board of regents for a declaratory order as to the applicability to specified circumstances of a statute, rule, or order within the primary jurisdiction of the board of regents at the office of the Board of Regents, 100 Court Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. A petition is deemed filed when it is received by that office. The board of regents shall provide the petitioner with a file-stamped copy of the petition if the petitioner provides the board of regents with an extra copy for this purpose. The petition must be typewritten or legibly handwritten in ink and must substantially conform to the following form:

BOARD OF REGENTS		
Petition by (Name of Petitioner) for a Declaratory Order on (Cite provisions of law involved).		PETITION FOR DECLARATORY ORDER

The petition must provide the following information:

1. A clear and concise statement of all relevant facts on which the order is requested.
2. A citation and the relevant language of the specific statutes, rules, policies, decisions, or orders, whose applicability is questioned, and any other relevant law.
3. The questions petitioner wants answered, stated clearly and concisely.
4. The answers to the questions desired by the petitioner and a summary of the reasons urged by the petitioner in support of those answers.
5. The reasons for requesting the declaratory order and disclosure of the petitioner’s interest in the outcome.
6. 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.
7. 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 questions presented in the petition.

The petition must be dated and signed by the petitioner or the petitioner’s representative. It must also include the name, mailing address, and telephone number of the petitioner and petitioner’s representative, and a statement indicating the person to whom communications concerning the petition should be directed.

681—18.2(17A) Assignment to regent institution.

18.2(1) In matters which relate exclusively or primarily to one of the universities or schools under the governance of the board of regents, the board of regents will normally assign action on declaratory orders to the president or superintendent of the affected institution. The president or superintendent, or the president or superintendent’s designee, shall assume all powers of the board of regents to handle and rule on petitions for declaratory orders. Assignment may be made by the executive director of the board of regents and will normally occur within five days of filing of the petition.

18.2(2) Upon assignment of a petition to a president or superintendent, the term “board of regents” in this chapter shall refer to the president or superintendent. Pleadings and documents related to such petitions shall be filed with the president or superintendent, or as designated in writing to the parties, and the documents may be revised to reflect that the matter is before the affected institution.

18.2(3) A party adversely affected by an adverse declaratory order issued by a regent institution may seek review of the order under 681—subrule 11.1(4).

681—18.3(17A) Notice of petition. Within 15 days after receipt of a petition for a declaratory order, the board of regents shall give notice of the petition to all persons not served by the petitioner pursuant to

rule 681—18.7(17A) to whom notice is required by any provision of law. The board of regents may also give notice to any other persons.

681—18.4(17A) Intervention.

18.4(1) Persons who qualify under any applicable provision of law as an intervenor and who file a petition for intervention within 25 days of the filing of a petition for declaratory order shall be allowed to intervene in a proceeding for a declaratory order.

18.4(2) Any person who files a petition for intervention at any time prior to the issuance of an order may be allowed to intervene in a proceeding for a declaratory order at the discretion of the board of regents.

18.4(3) A petition for intervention shall be filed at the office of the Board of Regents, 11260 Aurora Avenue, Urbandale, Iowa 50322, or, in the case of a matter assigned to an institution, to the person and address indicated in the notice of assignment of the petition. Such a petition is deemed filed when it is received by that office. The board of regents will provide the petitioner with a file-stamped copy of the petition for intervention if the petitioner provides an extra copy for this purpose. A petition for intervention must be typewritten or legibly handwritten in ink and must substantially conform to the following form:

BOARD OF REGENTS	
Petition by (Name of Original Petitioner) for a Declaratory Order on (Cite provisions of law cited in original petition).	
	PETITION FOR INTERVENTION

The petition for intervention must provide the following information:

1. Facts supporting the intervenor's standing and qualifications for intervention.
2. The answers urged by the intervenor to the question or questions presented and a summary of the reasons urged in support of those answers.
3. Reasons for requesting intervention and disclosure of the intervenor's interest in the outcome.
4. 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.
5. The names and addresses of any additional persons, or a description of any additional class of persons, known by the intervenor to be affected by, or interested in, the questions presented.
6. Whether the intervenor consents to be bound by the determination of the matters presented in the declaratory order proceeding.

The petition must be dated and signed by the intervenor or the intervenor's representative. It must also include the name, mailing address and telephone number of the intervenor and intervenor's representative and a statement indicating the person to whom communications should be directed.

[ARC 5952C, IAB 10/6/21, effective 11/10/21]

681—18.5(17A) Briefs. The petitioner or any intervenor may file a brief in support of the position urged. The board of regents may request a brief from the petitioner, any intervenor or any other person concerning the questions raised.

681—18.6(17A) Inquiries. Inquiries concerning the status of a declaratory order proceeding may be made to the Executive Director of the Board of Regents, 11260 Aurora Avenue, Urbandale, Iowa 50322, or, in the case of a matter assigned to an institution, to the person and address indicated in the notice of assignment of the petition.

[ARC 5952C, IAB 10/6/21, effective 11/10/21]

681—18.7(17A) Service and filing of petitions and other papers.

18.7(1) *When service required.* Except where otherwise provided by law, 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 identified in the petition for declaratory order or petition for intervention as affected by or interested in the questions

presented, simultaneously with their filing. The party filing a document is responsible for service on all parties and other affected or interested persons.

18.7(2) *Filing—when required.* All petitions for declaratory orders, petitions for intervention, briefs, or other papers in a proceeding for a declaratory order shall be filed with the Board of Regents, 11260 Aurora Avenue, Urbandale, Iowa 50322, or, in the case of a matter assigned to an institution, to the person and address indicated in the notice of assignment of the petition. All petitions, briefs, or other papers that are required to be served upon a party shall be filed simultaneously with the board of regents or, in the case of a matter assigned to an institution, the president or superintendent.

18.7(3) *Method of service, time of filing, and proof of mailing.* Method of service, time of filing, and proof of mailing shall be as provided by rule 681—20.12(17A).

[ARC 5952C, IAB 10/6/21, effective 11/10/21]

681—18.8(17A) Action on petition.

18.8(1) Within the time allowed by 1998 Iowa Acts, chapter 1202, section 13(5), after receipt of a petition for a declaratory order, the executive director, the president or superintendent or designee shall take action on the petition as required by 1998 Iowa Acts, chapter 1202, section 13(5).

18.8(2) The date of issuance of an order or of a refusal to issue an order is as defined in rule 681—20.2(17A).

681—18.9(17A) Refusal to issue order.

18.9(1) The board of regents 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:

1. The petition does not substantially comply with the required form.
2. The petition does not contain facts sufficient to demonstrate that the petitioner will be aggrieved or adversely affected by the failure of the board of regents to issue an order.
3. The board of regents does not have jurisdiction over the questions presented in the petition.
4. The questions presented by the petition are also presented in a current rule making, contested case, or other board of regents or judicial proceeding that may definitively resolve them.
5. 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.
6. The facts or questions presented in the petition are unclear, overbroad, insufficient, or otherwise inappropriate as a basis upon which to issue an order.
7. There is no need to issue an order because the questions raised in the petition have been settled due to a change in circumstances.
8. 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 a decision already made.
9. The petition requests a declaratory order that would necessarily determine the legal rights, duties, or responsibilities of other persons 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 petitioner.
10. The petitioner requests the board of regents to determine whether a statute is unconstitutional on its face.
11. The petitioner requests the board of regents to issue a preliminary determination in any academic matter, such as sufficiency of academic performance or whether or how a particular grade or degree may or will be awarded to an individual.
12. The petitioner requests a determination of a matter being considered in an internal grievance, disciplinary hearing or investigatory process underway at the board of regents or a regent institution.
13. The petitioner requests a determination regarding a purchasing transaction, a grant or a contract of the board of regents or regent institution.
14. The petitioner requests a determination regarding a personnel matter, including but not limited to layoff, program reorganization and benefits matters.

15. The petitioner requests a determination regarding the provision of medical care to a patient or animal at medical or veterinary facilities operated by a regent institution.

16. The petitioner requests a determination of a matter subject to collective bargaining or a matter required to be addressed under the terms of any collective bargaining agreement.

18.9(2) A refusal to issue a declaratory order must indicate the specific grounds for the refusal and constitutes final agency action on the petition.

18.9(3) Refusal to issue a declaratory order pursuant to this provision does not preclude the filing of a new petition that seeks to eliminate the grounds for the refusal to issue an order.

681—18.10(17A) Contents of declaratory order—effective date. In addition to the order itself, a declaratory order must contain the date of its issuance, the name of petitioner and all intervenors, the specific statutes, rules, policies, decisions, or orders involved, the particular facts upon which it is based, and the reasons for its conclusion.

A declaratory order is effective on the date of issuance.

681—18.11(17A) Copies of orders. A copy of all orders issued in response to a petition for a declaratory order shall be mailed promptly to the original petitioner and all intervenors.

681—18.12(17A) Effect of a declaratory order. A declaratory order has the same status and binding effect as a final order issued in a contested case proceeding. It is binding on the board of regents, the petitioner, and any intervenors and is applicable only in circumstances where the relevant facts and the law involved are indistinguishable from those on which the order was based. As to all other persons, a declaratory order serves only as precedent and is not binding on the board of regents. The issuance of a declaratory order constitutes final agency action on the petition.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 17A as amended by 1998 Iowa Acts, chapter 1202.

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