

CHAPTER 11
PROCEDURE FOR CONTESTED CASES INVOLVING PERMITS
TO CARRY WEAPONS AND ACQUIRE FIREARMS

481—11.1(17A,724) Definitions.

“*Agency*” means the commissioner of public safety or the sheriff of the county in which the aggrieved party resides.

“*Applicant*” means a person who has applied for a permit to carry weapons or acquire firearms.

“*Contested case*” means a proceeding defined by Iowa Code section 17A.2(5).

“*Division*” means the division of administrative hearings of the Iowa department of inspections and appeals.

“*Party*” means each person or agency named or admitted as a party.

“*Permittee*” means a person who has received a permit to carry weapons or acquire firearms.

[ARC 9299B, IAB 12/29/10, effective 1/1/11; ARC 9400B, IAB 3/9/11, effective 4/13/11]

481—11.2(724) Appeals. An applicant or permittee may appeal a decision by an agency to deny an application for a permit to carry weapons or acquire firearms or to suspend or revoke a permit to carry weapons or acquire firearms.

11.2(1) *Written appeal.* The appeal shall be in writing or filed electronically pursuant to 481—Chapter 16 and should state the reasons for rebutting the denial, suspension, or revocation.

11.2(2) *Filing of appeal.* Within 30 days of the applicant’s or permittee’s receipt of the agency’s decision, the applicant or permittee shall file the appeal, a copy of the agency’s written decision, and a fee of \$10 with the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals, Division of Administrative Hearings, 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319, or electronically pursuant to 481—Chapter 16.

11.2(3) *Service on the agency.* The applicant or permittee shall serve a copy of the appeal on the agency at the time the appeal is filed with the division.

11.2(4) *Denial of appeal.* The division may deny any appeal that does not meet each of the requirements in subrules 11.2(1) to 11.2(3).

[ARC 9299B, IAB 12/29/10, effective 1/1/11; ARC 9400B, IAB 3/9/11, effective 4/13/11; ARC 6861C, IAB 2/8/23, effective 3/15/23]

481—11.3(17A,724) Notice of hearing. The division shall prepare and serve the notice of hearing.

11.3(1) In addition to the information set forth in Iowa Code section 17A.12(2), the notice of hearing shall contain the following information:

- a. Identification of the parties;
- b. Reference to the procedural rules governing the contested case proceeding;
- c. Identification of the administrative law judge, including the judge’s contact information;
- d. Requirements for the filing and service of a witness list and a copy of any exhibit(s) the party intends to introduce into evidence during the contested case proceeding;
- e. Notification that failure to appear and participate in the contested case proceeding may result in the entry of a default judgment;
- f. Notification that the applicant or permittee shall be required to pay the agency’s reasonable attorney fees and court costs if the agency’s decision is affirmed in the contested case proceeding or in subsequent judicial review of the proceeding, or if the applicant or permittee withdraws or dismisses the contested case proceeding or subsequent judicial review action; and
- g. Notification that the agency shall be required to pay the applicant’s or permittee’s reasonable attorney fees and court costs if it is determined in the contested case proceeding or in subsequent judicial review of the proceeding that the applicant or permittee is eligible to be issued or to possess the permit that was denied, suspended, or revoked.

11.3(2) Service of the notice of hearing shall be accomplished by first-class mail.

[ARC 9299B, IAB 12/29/10, effective 1/1/11; ARC 9400B, IAB 3/9/11, effective 4/13/11; ARC 3217C, IAB 7/19/17, effective 8/23/17; ARC 6861C, IAB 2/8/23, effective 3/15/23]

481—11.4(17A,724) Agency record.

11.4(1) Upon receipt of a copy of the notice of hearing, the agency shall file with the division:

- a. A copy of all documents used by the agency in reaching the decision; and
- b. A form identifying the name, address, and telephone number of the agency's contact person or attorney representative.

11.4(2) The agency shall provide to the applicant or permittee a copy of all documents used by the agency in reaching the decision.

[ARC 9299B, IAB 12/29/10, effective 1/1/11; ARC 9400B, IAB 3/9/11, effective 4/13/11]

481—11.5(17A) Contested case hearing. The hearing shall be conducted pursuant to the standards established in Iowa Code chapter 17A for contested case hearings. The hearing shall be held by telephone conference call, unless a party to the proceeding requests an in-person hearing from the administrative law judge no later than five days before the hearing. All in-person hearings shall be held at the division's headquarters in Des Moines, Iowa. If the administrative law judge grants an in-person hearing, the administrative law judge may allow one party to appear by telephone.

[ARC 9299B, IAB 12/29/10, effective 1/1/11; ARC 9400B, IAB 3/9/11, effective 4/13/11]

481—11.6(17A,724) Service and filing of documents. Service and filing of documents shall be in accordance with rule 481—10.12(17A).

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 724.21A.

[ARC 9299B, IAB 12/29/10, effective 1/1/11; ARC 9400B, IAB 3/9/11, effective 4/13/11; ARC 1993C, IAB 5/27/15, effective 7/1/15; ARC 6861C, IAB 2/8/23, effective 3/15/23]

481—11.7(17A) Witness lists and exhibits. If a party fails to serve on all parties and file with the division a witness list or any exhibit as set forth in the notice of hearing, the party may be precluded from calling the witness at hearing or introducing the exhibit(s) into the record at hearing.

[ARC 9299B, IAB 12/29/10, effective 1/1/11; ARC 9400B, IAB 3/9/11, effective 4/13/11; ARC 1993C, IAB 5/27/15, effective 7/1/15; ARC 6861C, IAB 2/8/23, effective 3/15/23]

481—11.8(17A) Evidence. Evidence shall be governed by rule 481—10.21(17A).

[ARC 9299B, IAB 12/29/10, effective 1/1/11; ARC 9400B, IAB 3/9/11, effective 4/13/11; ARC 6861C, IAB 2/8/23, effective 3/15/23]

481—11.9(17A) Withdrawals and dismissals. A request for withdrawal or dismissal of the appeal may be made with the division prior to the hearing. Either request must be in writing or secured on the record.

11.9(1) Withdrawals. An applicant or permittee who requested a contested case proceeding may request a withdrawal of the appeal. Upon receipt of a request for withdrawal of the appeal, the administrative law judge shall issue an order dismissing the appeal and addressing the award of attorney fees pursuant to rule 481—11.11(10A).

11.9(2) Dismissals. An agency may request a dismissal of the appeal by agreeing to grant the entire relief sought by the applicant or permittee. The administrative law judge shall review a request for dismissal to determine whether it grants all relief requested in the appeal. If the request grants all relief requested in the appeal, the administrative law judge shall issue an order dismissing the appeal, ordering the agency to grant the relief requested, determining that no attorney fees are to be awarded, and closing the case.

[ARC 9299B, IAB 12/29/10, effective 1/1/11; ARC 9400B, IAB 3/9/11, effective 4/13/11; ARC 3217C, IAB 7/19/17, effective 8/23/17]

481—11.10(17A) Default. If a party fails to appear after proper service of notice, the administrative law judge may enter a default order against the party or may proceed with the hearing and make a decision in the absence of the party. The default order or decision made in the absence of the party shall address the award of attorney fees pursuant to rule 481—11.11(10A).

[ARC 9299B, IAB 12/29/10, effective 1/1/11; ARC 9400B, IAB 3/9/11, effective 4/13/11; ARC 3217C, IAB 7/19/17, effective 8/23/17]

481—11.11(10A,724) Attorney fees, court costs, and contested case costs.

11.11(1) Attorney fees. In a decision rescinding or sustaining the agency's denial, suspension, or revocation of the permit or otherwise granting a request to withdraw or dismiss the appeal, the administrative law judge shall determine whether a party is entitled to an award of attorney fees

consistent with paragraph 11.11(1)“a” or “b.” If a party is entitled to an award, the decision shall inform the parties of the applicable procedure provided in paragraph 11.11(1)“c” for determining the amount of such an award unless the administrative law judge determines the amount of an award in the decision as provided for in paragraph 11.11(1)“f.”

a. If the administrative law judge rescinds the agency’s denial, suspension, or revocation of the permit and determines the applicant or permittee is eligible to be issued or to possess the permit, the applicant or permittee shall be awarded any reasonable attorney fees. A dismissal of the appeal at the request of the agency under subrule 11.9(2) is not a determination that the applicant or permittee is eligible to be issued or to possess the permit and does not entitle the applicant or permittee to an award of attorney fees. An applicant or permittee who is not represented by an attorney in the contested case proceeding is not entitled to an award of attorney fees.

b. If the administrative law judge affirms the agency’s denial, suspension, or revocation of the permit or grants the applicant’s or permittee’s request to withdraw or dismiss the appeal, the agency shall be awarded any reasonable attorney fees. Such an award to the agency shall be made to the political subdivision of the state representing the sheriff or to the state department representing the commissioner as applicable. An agency is not entitled to an award of attorney fees if the agency requests dismissal of the appeal under subrule 11.9(2) or if the agency is not represented by an attorney in the contested case proceeding.

c. Within 14 days of the date of a decision in which the administrative law judge determines that a party is entitled to an award of attorney fees, the party shall file a request for attorney fees and documentation supporting the request or a joint statement with the other party agreeing to the amount of reasonable attorney fees. Within 7 days of the filing of a request for attorney fees, the other party may file a resistance, including any relevant evidence, or a statement agreeing to the requested attorney fees. Upon request of either party or on the administrative law judge’s own motion, a hearing may be scheduled on the issue of the attorney fee award.

d. If the party fails to file a request for attorney fees or a joint statement within 14 days, the administrative law judge shall issue an order determining that no attorney fees are awarded in the case. If the parties agree to the amount of reasonable attorney fees to be awarded, the administrative law judge shall issue an order awarding attorney fees consistent with the agreement. In all other cases, the administrative law judge shall issue a written order determining the reasonable attorney fees in the case.

e. The administrative law judge’s decision is not final for purposes of rehearing under rule 481—11.14(17A) or judicial review under Iowa Code chapter 17A until the administrative law judge has issued a written decision determining the amount of any attorney fees to be awarded under this subrule or determining that no attorney fees are to be awarded.

f. If an application for rehearing under rule 481—11.14(17A) is denied, no additional attorney fees shall be awarded to either party. If an application for rehearing is granted, all the provisions of this subrule apply to the rehearing proceedings unless the only relief sought on rehearing relates to the attorney fee award. If the only relief sought relates to the attorney fee award, the order granting the application for rehearing shall provide that a party opposing the requested relief may file a resistance, including any relevant evidence, within 7 days of the date of the order and shall schedule a hearing or provide that a hearing may be scheduled upon the request of either party. In such a case, the administrative law judge shall issue a single final decision regarding the attorney fee award.

g. Any attorney fees awarded under this subrule shall be paid to the awarded party within 30 days of the issuance of an order determining the amount of attorney fees awarded unless an interested party seeks rehearing under rule 481—11.14(17A) or judicial review under Iowa Code chapter 17A or the parties agree to an alternative payment schedule. If a party seeks rehearing under rule 481—11.14(17A), the attorney fees shall be paid within 30 days of the denial of the application for rehearing or of any final decision awarding attorney fees after the grant of an application for rehearing. If a party seeks judicial review under Iowa Code chapter 17A, the attorney fee award shall be stayed pending resolution of the judicial review action. A party awarded attorney fees is responsible for taking any necessary action to enforce the award if payment is not made.

11.11(2) Court costs and attorney fees on judicial review. Any request for the award of court costs or for attorney fees incurred after the entry of an order determining reasonable attorney fees may only be made to the court in a judicial review action under Iowa Code chapter 17A, unless a party requests rehearing under rule 481—11.14(17A), in which case reasonable attorney fees may be awarded by the administrative law judge related to the request for rehearing consistent with paragraph 11.11(1) “f.”

11.11(3) Contested case costs. Costs of the division in conducting a contested case proceeding arising out of a decision of the commissioner of public safety shall be charged to the department of public safety pursuant to Iowa Code section 10A.801(9).

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 10A.801 and 724.21A.

[ARC 9299B, IAB 12/29/10, effective 1/1/11; ARC 9400B, IAB 3/9/11, effective 4/13/11; ARC 3217C, IAB 7/19/17, effective 8/23/17; ARC 6861C, IAB 2/8/23, effective 3/15/23]

481—11.12(724) Probable cause. Probable cause to deny an initial or renewal application for a permit to carry weapons or acquire firearms or to suspend or revoke a permit to carry weapons or acquire firearms means a reasonable ground exists for supposing that the basis for the denial, suspension or revocation is well-founded.

[ARC 9299B, IAB 12/29/10, effective 1/1/11; ARC 9400B, IAB 3/9/11, effective 4/13/11]

481—11.13(724) Clear and convincing evidence. Clear and convincing evidence means there is no serious or substantial doubt about the correctness of the conclusion drawn from the evidence.

[ARC 9299B, IAB 12/29/10, effective 1/1/11; ARC 9400B, IAB 3/9/11, effective 4/13/11]

481—11.14(17A) Rehearing. A request for rehearing may be filed in accordance with Iowa Code section 17A.16(2).

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 724.21A and 17A.16.

[ARC 1993C, IAB 5/27/15, effective 7/1/15; ARC 3217C, IAB 7/19/17, effective 8/23/17; ARC 6861C, IAB 2/8/23, effective 3/15/23]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 724.21A.

[Filed Emergency ARC 9299B, IAB 12/29/10, effective 1/1/11]

[Filed ARC 9400B (Notice ARC 9298B, IAB 12/29/10), IAB 3/9/11, effective 4/13/11]

[Filed ARC 1993C (Notice ARC 1934C, IAB 4/1/15), IAB 5/27/15, effective 7/1/15]

[Filed ARC 3217C (Notice ARC 3073C, IAB 5/24/17), IAB 7/19/17, effective 8/23/17]

[Filed ARC 6861C (Notice ARC 6745C, IAB 12/14/22), IAB 2/8/23, effective 3/15/23]