

CHAPTER 8
OPEN MEETINGS

497—8.1(21,23) Notice.

8.1(1) *When posted.* As provided in Iowa Code section 21.4, a governmental body shall give notice of the time, date, and place of the meeting and the tentative agenda at least 24 hours prior to the commencement of the meeting unless for good cause such notice is impossible or impractical. The notice requirement also applies when there is a change to the original notice except as provided in Iowa Code section 21.4(3).

8.1(2) *Where posted.* Notice shall be posted at those locations designated in Iowa Code section 21.4. The notice shall be posted in an area that is easily accessible by the public or in an area where the notice is easily viewable by the public and shall be posted for at least 24 hours prior to the commencement of the meeting unless for good cause such notice is impossible or impractical. The posting of a notice in an area that is not normally used for the posting of notices or public announcements shall not be deemed proper notice. However, if the posting of a notice in an area normally used for posting of notices is not reasonable or practical such as the area is under construction or renovation, the notice shall be posted in an area that is otherwise easily accessible by the public or in an area where the notice is easily viewable by the public.

8.1(3) *Closed session.* When a governmental body includes a closed session item on the tentative agenda, the notice shall include a brief statement of the purpose of the closed session. It shall not be deemed sufficient notice for the governmental body to only reference the statute by number and subparagraph without more information. For example, it shall not be sufficient notice for the governmental body to list as an agenda item “closed session 21.5(1)(a).” The brief statement of purpose does not require the governmental body to provide more information than what is required under subparagraphs (a) through (l) in Iowa Code section 21.5(1). Examples of notice deemed sufficient would be “closed session 21.5(1)(c) discuss litigation with counsel” or “closed session 21.5(1)(l) discuss patient care quality or discuss marketing and pricing strategies.”

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 21.
[ARC 2091C, IAB 8/5/15, effective 9/9/15]

497—8.2(21,23) Closed session.

8.2(1) *Who may attend.* A governmental body has the discretion as to who it may invite to attend a closed session. However, if the governmental body holds a closed session under Iowa Code section 21.5(1) “c” to discuss strategy with counsel, the legal counsel for the governmental body shall be in attendance at the closed session either in person or by electronic means.

8.2(2) Reserved.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 21.5.
[ARC 2315C, IAB 12/23/15, effective 1/27/16]

497—8.3(21,22) Exempt sessions.

8.3(1) An Iowa Code section 21.9 exempt session is a meeting to discuss strategy concerning employment conditions of employees of a governmental body who are not covered by a collective bargaining agreement under Iowa Code chapter 20.

8.3(2) “Employment conditions” include wages, hours, vacations, insurance, holidays, leaves of absence, shift differentials, overtime compensation, supplemental pay, seniority, transfer procedures, job classifications, health and safety matters, evaluation procedures, procedures for staff reduction, in-service training, and grievance procedures.

8.3(3) An exempt session does not fall under the requirements of Iowa Code chapter 21; therefore, notice, a tentative agenda, minutes, and other requirements of Iowa Code chapter 21 do not apply.

8.3(4) The purpose of an exempt session is to allow a governmental body to formulate its position on the terms and conditions of employment for non-union employees in private. An exemption from the open meetings law for this purpose parallels the exemption provided by Iowa Code chapter 20 for governmental bodies negotiating with employee unions. Meetings to evaluate the professional

competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered are subject to the requirements of Iowa Code section 21.5(1)“i.”

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 21.9.

[ARC 4754C, IAB 11/6/19, effective 12/11/19]

[Filed ARC 2091C (Notice ARC 2010C, IAB 5/27/15), IAB 8/5/15, effective 9/9/15]

[Filed ARC 2315C (Notice ARC 2159C, IAB 9/30/15), IAB 12/23/15, effective 1/27/16]

[Filed ARC 4754C (Notice ARC 4655C, IAB 9/11/19), IAB 11/6/19, effective 12/11/19]