

CHAPTER 10
DISCIPLINE

[Prior to 2/8/89, see Veterinary Medicine, Board of[842] Ch 6]

811—10.1(17A,169,272C) Board authority. The board may discipline any credential holder for any grounds stated in Iowa Code chapters 169 and 272C or rules promulgated thereunder.

811—10.2(17A,169,272C) Complaints and investigations. Complaints are allegations of wrongful acts or omissions relating to the ethical or professional conduct of a credential holder.

10.2(1) In accordance with Iowa Code section 272C.3(1)“c,” the board shall investigate or review, upon written complaint or upon its own motion pursuant to other information received by the board, alleged acts or omissions which the board reasonably believes constitute cause for credential holder discipline.

10.2(2) The executive secretary or authorized designee shall investigate complaints in order to determine the probability that a violation of law or rule has occurred.

811—10.3(17A,169,272C) Investigatory subpoena powers. The board shall have the authority to issue an investigatory subpoena in accordance with the provisions of Iowa Code section 17A.13.

10.3(1) A subpoena which requires production of real evidence that is necessary to an investigation may be issued upon the authority of the executive secretary or a designee.

10.3(2) Any person who is aggrieved or adversely affected by compliance with the subpoena and who desires to challenge the subpoena must, within 14 days after the service of the subpoena or before the time specified for compliance if such time is less than 14 days, file with the board a motion to quash or modify the subpoena. The motion shall describe the legal reasons why the subpoena should be quashed or modified and may be accompanied by legal briefs or factual affidavits.

10.3(3) In the event obedience to a subpoena is refused, the requesting party may petition the district court for enforcement.

811—10.4(17A,169,272C) Board action. The board shall review investigative conclusions and take one of the following actions:

1. Close the investigative case without action.
2. Request further inquiry.
3. Appoint a peer review committee to assist with the investigation.
4. Determine the existence of sufficient probable cause and order a disciplinary hearing to be held in compliance with Iowa Code section 272C.6.

811—10.5(17A,169,272C) Peer review committee. The board may establish a peer review committee to assist with the investigative process when deemed necessary.

10.5(1) The committee shall determine if the conduct of the credential holder conforms to minimum standards of acceptable and prevailing practice of veterinary medicine or other applicable standards and submit a report of its findings to the board.

10.5(2) The board shall review the committee’s findings and proceed with action available under rule 811—10.4(17A,169,272C).

10.5(3) The peer review committee shall observe the confidentiality requirements imposed by Iowa Code section 272C.6.

811—10.6(17A,169,272C) Grounds for discipline and principles of veterinary medical ethics. The board has established grounds for discipline and principles of ethics for veterinary medicine. Without regard as to whether the board has determined that an injury has occurred, the board may impose any of the disciplinary sanctions set forth in rule 811—10.7(17A,169,272C), including civil penalties in an amount not to exceed \$10,000, when the board determines that the credential holder is guilty of any of the following acts or offenses:

- 10.6(1)** *Grounds applicable to all credential holders.*

a. Fraud in procuring a credential, which includes but is not limited to an intentional perversion of the truth in making application for a credential to practice any of the professions or activities regulated by the board in this state, and includes false representations of a material fact, whether by word or by conduct, by false or misleading allegations, or by concealment of that which should have been disclosed when making application for a credential in this state, or attempting to file or filing with the board or the Iowa department of agriculture and land stewardship any false or forged diploma, certificate, affidavit, identification, or qualification in making an application for a credential in this state.

b. Credential holder professional incompetency. Professional incompetency of a credential holder may be established by:

(1) A substantial lack of knowledge or ability to discharge professional obligations within the scope of the credential holder's practice.

(2) A substantial deviation by the credential holder from the standards of learning or skill ordinarily possessed and applied by other credential holders acting in the same or similar circumstances.

(3) A willful or repeated departure from or the failure to conform to the minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing practice of credential holders.

(4) Knowingly making misleading, deceptive, untrue or fraudulent representations in the practice of the profession or engaging in unethical conduct or practice harmful or detrimental to the public.

1. Knowingly making misleading, deceptive, untrue or fraudulent representations in the practice of the profession includes, but is not limited to, an intentional perversion of the truth, either orally or in writing, and includes any representation contrary to legal or equitable duty, trust or confidence and is deemed by the board to be contrary to good conscience, prejudicial to the public welfare or may operate to the injury of another.

2. Practice harmful or detrimental to the public includes, but is not limited to, the failure of a credential holder to possess and exercise that degree of skill, learning and care expected of a reasonable, prudent credential holder acting in the same or similar circumstances, including for a veterinarian a violation of the standards of practice as set out in 811—Chapter 12, or when a credential holder is unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety on a client's animals as a result of a mental or physical impairment or chemical abuse.

(5) Habitual intoxication or addiction to the use of drugs, which includes, but is not limited to, the inability of a credential holder to practice with reasonable skill and safety by reason of the excessive use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics, chemicals or other types of material on a continuing basis, or the excessive use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics, chemicals or other types of material which may impair a credential holder's ability to practice with reasonable skill and safety. The board may require a credential holder's completion of a treatment program as a condition of probation or suspension, and shall consider the credential holder's willingness to complete a treatment program when determining the appropriate degree of disciplinary sanction.

(6) Conviction of a felony which is either of the following:

1. One that is related to the credential holder's profession or occupation; or

2. One that would affect the credential holder's ability to practice within the profession.

Conviction of a felony related to the profession or occupation of the credential holder or the conviction of any felony that would affect the credential holder's ability to practice within the profession includes, but is not limited to, the conviction of a public offense in the practice of the credential holder's profession which is defined or classified as a felony under state or federal law, or violation of a statute or law designated as a felony in this state, another state, or the United States, which statute or law relates to the credential holder's profession or conviction of a felonious act, which is so contrary to honesty, justice or good morals, and so reprehensible as to violate the public confidence and trust imposed upon a credential holder in this state. A copy of the record of conviction or plea of guilty shall be conclusive evidence.

(7) Fraud in representations as to skill or ability, which includes but is not limited to a credential holder's having made misleading, deceptive or untrue representations as to the credential holder's competency to perform professional services for which the credential holder is not qualified to perform by training or experience.

(8) Use of untruthful or improbable statements in advertisements, which includes but is not limited to an action by a credential holder in making information or intention known to the public which is false, deceptive, misleading or promoted through fraud or misrepresentation and includes statements which may consist of, but not be limited to:

1. Inflated or unjustified expectations of favorable results;
2. Self-laudatory claims that imply that the credential holder engaged in a field or specialty of practice for which the credential holder is not qualified. A veterinarian is not qualified to claim or imply specialization unless the veterinarian is a member in good standing of the respective specialty board or college recognized by the AVMA;
3. Representations that are likely to cause the average person to misunderstand; or
4. Extravagant claims or claims of extraordinary skills not recognized by the credential holder's profession.

(9) Willful or repeated violations of the provisions of Iowa Code chapters 169 and 272C and rules promulgated thereunder by the board.

(10) Violating a statute or law of this state, another state, or the United States, without regard to its designation as either felony or misdemeanor, which statute or law relates to the practice of veterinary medicine.

(11) Failure to report a license, certificate, permit, or other credential revocation, suspension or other disciplinary action taken by a licensing or regulating authority of another state, territory or country within 30 days of the final action by such licensing or regulating authority. A stay by an appellate court shall not negate this requirement; however, if such disciplinary action is overturned or reversed by a court of last resort, such report shall be expunged from the records of the board.

(12) Failure of a credential holder or an applicant for a credential in this state to report, within 30 days, any of the following:

1. Any settlement agreement or voluntary agreement to restrict the practice of veterinary medicine or other applicable activities entered into in another state, district, territory or country; or
2. Any adverse judgment in a malpractice action to which the credential holder is a party; or
3. Any settlement of a claim against the credential holder alleging malpractice.

(13) Knowingly aiding, assisting, procuring, or advising a person to unlawfully practice veterinary medicine.

(14) Inability to perform duties for which a credential is required with reasonable skill and safety by reason of a mental or physical impairment.

(15) Violating a lawful order of the board previously entered by the board in a disciplinary hearing.

(16) Being adjudged mentally incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction. Such adjudication shall automatically suspend a credential for the duration of the credential unless the board orders otherwise.

(17) Knowingly submitting a false report of continuing education or failure to submit the triennial report of continuing education.

(18) Failure to comply with a subpoena issued by the board.

(19) Willful or gross negligence.

(20) Obtaining any fee by fraud or misrepresentation.

(21) Violating any of the grounds for the revocation or suspension of a credential as listed in Iowa Code section 169.13 or these rules.

(22) Having the person's certificate, license, permit, or other credential revoked or suspended, or having any other disciplinary action taken by a licensing or regulating authority of another state, territory, country, or the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), or having the veterinarian's USDA accreditation revoked, suspended or other disciplinary action taken against the accreditation. A certified copy of the record or order of suspension, revocation, or disciplinary action is conclusive evidence of the credential holder's having committed one of the following actions:

1. Permitting or directing any auxiliary personnel or any other person who does not hold the proper credentials to perform veterinary duties involving diagnosis, prescription or surgery, except as allowed pursuant to rule 811—8.5(169);

2. Permitting or directing any auxiliary personnel or any other person to perform any act which would be a legal or ethical violation if committed by a veterinarian;
 3. Failing to comply with a lawful child support order as provided in 811—Chapter 13; or
 4. Failing to pay any hearing fees and costs within the time specified in the board's decision;
- c. The board shall not suspend or revoke a license issued by the board to a person who is in default or is delinquent on repayment or a service obligation under federal or state postsecondary educational loans or public or private services-conditional postsecondary tuition assistance solely on the basis of such default or delinquency.

10.6(2) *Grounds applicable to licensed veterinarians only.* In addition to the grounds set out in subrule 10.6(1), without regard as to whether the board has determined that injury has occurred, a licensed veterinarian is subject to disciplinary action for the violation of any of the following:

a. Engaging in unethical conduct which includes, but is not limited to, a violation of the standards of practice as set out in 811—Chapter 12, and which may include acts or offenses in violation of Iowa's principles of veterinary medical ethics, as adopted in subrule 10.6(3).

b. Engaging in practice harmful or detrimental to the public which includes, but is not limited to, either of the following:

(1) The use of a rubber stamp to affix a signature to a prescription. A licensee who is unable, due to a physical disability, to make a written signature or mark may substitute in lieu of a signature a rubber stamp which is adopted by the disabled person for all purposes requiring a signature and which is affixed by the disabled person or affixed by another person upon the request of the disabled person and in the licensee's presence.

(2) The practice of maintaining any presigned prescription which is intended to be completed and issued at a later time.

c. Willfully or repeatedly departing from, or failing to conform to, the minimal standard of acceptable and prevailing practice of veterinary medicine which includes, but is not limited to, a violation of the standards of practice as set out in 811—Chapter 12; or committing an act contrary to honesty, justice or good morals, whether the act is committed in the course of practice or otherwise, and whether the act is committed within or without this state, where such act substantially relates to the practice of veterinary medicine. It is not necessary for grounds to exist under this paragraph that actual injury to a patient be established.

d. Indiscriminately or promiscuously prescribing, administering or dispensing any drug; or prescribing, administering or dispensing any drug for other than a lawful purpose.

e. Negligently failing to exercise due care in the delegation of veterinary services to or in supervision of employees or other individuals, whether or not injury results.

10.6(3) *Principles of veterinary medical ethics.* Veterinarians are members of a scholarly profession who have earned academic degrees from comprehensive universities or similar educational institutions. Licensed veterinarians practice veterinary medicine in a variety of situations and circumstances. Exemplary professional conduct upholds the dignity of the veterinary profession. All Iowa-licensed veterinarians are expected to adhere to these principles of veterinary medical ethics adopted by the board.

a. *General ethics principles.*

(1) A veterinarian shall be influenced only by the welfare of the patient, the needs of the client, the safety of the public, and the need to uphold the public trust vested in the veterinary profession and shall avoid conflicts of interest or the appearance thereof.

(2) A veterinarian shall provide competent veterinary medical clinical care under the terms of a veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR), with compassion and respect for animal welfare and human health.

(3) A veterinarian shall uphold the standards of professionalism, be honest in all professional interactions, and report veterinarians who are deficient in character or competence to the appropriate entities.

(4) A veterinarian shall not willfully violate the provisions of Iowa Code chapters 169 and 272C and rules promulgated thereunder by the board, or other law of this state, another state, or the United States, which relates to the practice of veterinary medicine.

(5) A veterinarian shall respect the rights of clients, colleagues, and other health professionals and shall safeguard medical information within the confines of the law.

(6) A veterinarian shall continue to study, apply, and advance scientific knowledge; maintain a commitment to veterinary medical education; make relevant information available to clients, colleagues, and the public; and obtain consultation or referral when indicated.

(7) A veterinarian shall, in the provision of appropriate patient care, be free to choose whom to serve, with whom to associate, and the environment in which to provide veterinary medical care.

(8) A veterinarian shall not advertise a specialty or claim to be a specialist when not a diplomate of a veterinary specialty organization recognized by the AVMA.

b. Veterinarian-client-patient relationship ethics. A veterinarian shall not engage in the practice of veterinary medicine without a valid VCPR as defined in these rules.

c. Veterinarian-client communication; documentation of informed consent.

(1) A veterinarian shall explain to clients how any diagnostic tests offered would help diagnose a patient's medical condition.

(2) A veterinarian is responsible for professional communication directly with the client regarding diagnosis, options for treatment(s), expected cost of treatment(s), expected outcome of treatment(s), and the potential risks associated with each treatment regimen, as well as the client's ability to decline treatment(s). Client consent for the treatment(s) shall be documented in the patient's medical records. A veterinary assistant may communicate the information listed in this subparagraph to the client under the direct supervision of an Iowa-licensed veterinarian.

(3) If a veterinarian does not have the expertise or the necessary equipment and facilities to adequately diagnose or treat a patient, the veterinarian shall offer a referral to another veterinarian or referral center where the diagnosis or treatment can be performed.

d. Veterinary medical records.

(1) Complete, accurate and legible medical records that are considered to meet the prevailing standard of the practice of veterinary medicine are required by the board. Medical records are vitally important in any board review of a complaint against a licensee.

(2) Any controlled substances administered to a patient must be written into the patient's medical record, which shall include the drug name, the date the drug was administered, the amount of drug administered, the frequency of drug administration, and the prescribing (and administering, if different) veterinarian's name, as required by rules 811—12.2(169) to 811—12.4(169). This requirement is in addition to regulations and requirements promulgated by the Iowa board of pharmacy, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, and any other applicable governmental agency. Violating or failing to comply with a state or federal law or regulation relating to the storing, labeling, prescribing, or dispensing of controlled substances shall be deemed unethical.

(3) Humane euthanasia of animals is an ethical veterinary procedure. A veterinarian can refuse to perform euthanasia.

e. Client and patient privacy rights.

(1) A veterinarian shall protect and respect the privacy rights of clients, colleagues, and other health professionals. A veterinarian shall not reveal confidential medical records or other medical information unless authorized to do so by law.

(2) It is unethical to place photographs or information regarding a patient, a client, or a client's premises on social media or other public platforms without the consent of the owner, unless the patient, client, or client's premises cannot be identified by its marking and unless all personally identifying information has been removed from the photograph. Use of photographs and information for didactic purposes is permitted with client consent or after removal of any information that would identify the client or patient.

f. Professional behavior.

(1) A veterinarian shall be honest in all professional interactions while respecting the rights of clients, colleagues, and other health professionals. A veterinarian must be honest and fair in relations with others, and a veterinarian shall not engage in fraud, misrepresentation, or deceit, including by material omission, in accordance with Iowa Code section 169.13(1)“a.”

(2) A veterinarian must not defame or injure the professional standing or reputation of another veterinarian in a false or misleading manner. Any complaints about behavior of a veterinarian that may violate the principles of veterinary medical ethics should be addressed through the board in an appropriate and timely manner.

(3) It is unethical to knowingly aid anyone who is engaged in the unlicensed practice of veterinary medicine in accordance with Iowa Code section 169.13(1)“e.”

(4) A veterinarian who is impaired due to substance abuse or mental health or physical conditions as set forth in Iowa Code section 169.13(1)“h” must not act in the capacity of a veterinarian and shall quickly seek medical treatment from qualified organizations or individuals.

10.6(4) Recommended practices for veterinarians.

a. A veterinarian is encouraged to participate in activities contributing to the improvement of the community and the betterment of public health. The responsibilities of the veterinary profession extend beyond individual patients and clients to society in general.

b. A veterinarian is encouraged to participate in the political process to seek changes to laws and regulations that are contrary to the best interests of the patient, the client and public health.

c. A veterinarian is encouraged to make the veterinarian’s knowledge available to the community and to provide the veterinarian’s services for activities that protect public health.

d. A veterinarian is encouraged to view, evaluate, and treat all individual persons in any professional activity or circumstance in which the veterinarian may be involved solely as individuals on the basis of the person’s personal abilities, qualifications and character.

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811—10.7(17A,169,272C) Sanctions. The board has authority to impose the following disciplinary sanctions:

1. Revoke a credential.
2. Suspend a credential until further order of the board or for a specified period.
3. Prohibit permanently, until further order of the board or for a specified period, the engaging in specified procedures, methods or acts.
4. Impose a period of probation.
5. Require additional education or training.
6. Require a reexamination.
7. Order a physical or mental examination.
8. Impose civil penalties not to exceed \$10,000.
9. Issue a citation and warning.
10. Impose such other sanctions allowed by law as may be appropriate.

811—10.8(17A,169,272C) Panel of specialists. The board may appoint a panel of veterinarians who are specialists to ascertain the facts of a case pursuant to Iowa Code section 272C.6(2). The board chairperson or designee shall appoint the presiding officer.

10.8(1) The executive secretary shall set the date, time, and location of the hearing and make proper notification to all parties.

10.8(2) The panel of specialists shall:

a. Enter into the record the names of the presiding officer, members of the panel, the parties and their representatives.

b. Enter into the record the notice and evidence of service, order for hearing, statement of charges, answer, if available, and any other pleadings, motions or orders.

c. Receive opening statements from the parties.

- d. Receive evidence, in accordance with Iowa Code section 17A.14, on behalf of the state of Iowa and on behalf of the credential holder.
- e. Question the witnesses.
- f. Receive closing statements from the parties.
- g. Determine the findings of fact by a majority vote and make a written report of its findings to the board within a reasonable period.

811—10.9(17A,169,272C) Informal settlement. Pursuant to the provisions of Iowa Code sections 17A.12 and 272C.3, the board may consider resolution of disciplinary matters through informal settlement prior to commencement of contested case proceedings. The secretary or designee may negotiate with the credential holder regarding a proposed disposition of the controversy. Upon consent of both parties, the board will review the proposal for action.

811—10.10(17A,169,272C) Voluntary surrender. A voluntary surrender of credentials may be submitted to the board as resolution of a contested case or in lieu of continued compliance with a disciplinary decision of the board.

811—10.11(17A,169,272C) Application for reinstatement. A person whose credential has been suspended, revoked, or voluntarily surrendered may apply to the board for reinstatement in accordance with the terms and conditions of the order.

10.11(1) If the credential was voluntarily surrendered, or if the order for suspension or revocation did not establish terms and conditions for reinstatement, an initial application may not be made until one year has elapsed from the date of the order.

10.11(2) The application shall allege facts and circumstances which will enable the board to determine that the basis for the sanction or voluntary surrender no longer exists, and that it is in the public interest to reinstate the credential. The burden of proof to establish these facts shall rest with the petitioner.

10.11(3) The hearing in an application for reinstatement is a contested case within the meaning of Iowa Code section 17A.12.

10.11(4) The order to grant or deny reinstatement shall incorporate findings of fact and conclusions of law. If reinstatement is granted, terms and conditions for reinstating the credential may be imposed.

811—10.12 Reserved.

811—10.13(17A,169,272C) Contested case proceedings. The following rules apply to board activities which are initiated upon determination of probable cause and result in the issuance of a notice of hearing.

811—10.14(17A) Definitions. Except where otherwise specifically defined by law:

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

“*Issuance*” means the date of mailing of a decision or order or date of delivery if service is by other means, unless another date is specified in the order.

“*Party*” means each person or agency named or admitted as a party or properly seeking and entitled as of right to be admitted as a party.

“*Presiding officer*” means the chairperson of the board or designee.

“*Proposed decision*” means the presiding officer’s recommended findings of fact, conclusions of law, decision, and order in a contested case in which the board did not preside.

811—10.15(17A) Time requirements.

10.15(1) Time shall be computed as provided in Iowa Code subsection 4.1(34).

10.15(2) For good cause, the presiding officer may extend or shorten the time to take any action, except as precluded by statute. Except for good cause stated in the record, before extending or shortening the time to take any action, the presiding officer shall afford all parties an opportunity to be heard or to file written arguments.

811—10.16(17A) Notice of hearing. The board shall issue an order, notice of hearing, and statement of charges following its determination of probable cause pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.12(2). Delivery of the notice of hearing constitutes the commencement of the contested case proceeding.

10.16(1) The date, time, and location of the hearing shall be set by the board. The credential holder shall be notified at least 30 days prior to the scheduled hearing.

10.16(2) Notification shall be in writing delivered either by personal service as in civil actions or by certified mail with return receipt requested. When the credential holder cannot be located:

a. An affidavit shall be prepared outlining the measures taken to attempt service, and shall become a part of the record when a notice cannot be delivered by personal service or certified mail, return receipt requested.

b. Notice of hearing shall be published once each week for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation, published or circulated in the county of last-known residence of the credential holder. The newspaper will be selected by the secretary or designee. The first notice of hearing shall be published at least 30 days prior to the scheduled hearing.

811—10.17(17A) Presiding officer. Disciplinary hearings shall be conducted by the board pursuant to Iowa Code section 272C.6. The chairperson of the board shall designate the presiding officer in accordance with the provisions of Iowa Code section 17A.11.

10.17(1) For nondisciplinary proceedings, any party who wishes to request that the presiding officer assigned to render a proposed decision be an administrative law judge employed by the department of inspections and appeals must file a written request within 20 days after service of a notice of hearing.

10.17(2) The executive secretary may deny the request upon a finding that one or more of the following apply:

a. Neither the agency nor any officer of the agency under whose authority the contested case is to take place is a named party to the proceeding or a real party in interest to that proceeding.

b. There is a compelling need to expedite issuance of a final decision in order to protect the public health, safety, or welfare.

c. The case involves significant policy issues of first impression that are inextricably intertwined with the factual issues presented.

d. The demeanor of the witness is likely to be dispositive in resolving the disputed factual issues.

e. Funds are unavailable to pay the costs of an administrative law judge and an interagency appeal.

f. The request was not timely filed.

g. The request is not consistent with a specified statute.

h. The request would not conform to the disciplinary hearing provision of Iowa Code section 272C.6.

10.17(3) The agency (or its designee) shall issue a written ruling specifying the grounds for its decision within 20 days after a request for an administrative law judge is filed.

10.17(4) All rulings by an administrative law judge are subject to appeal to the agency. A party must seek any available intra-agency appeal in order to exhaust adequate administrative remedies.

10.17(5) Unless otherwise provided by law, the board, when reviewing a proposed decision upon intra-agency appeal, shall have the powers of and shall comply with the provisions of this chapter which apply to presiding officers.

811—10.18(17A) Waiver of procedures. Unless otherwise precluded by law, the parties in a contested case proceeding may waive any provision of this chapter. However, the agency in its discretion may refuse to give effect to such a waiver when it deems the waiver to be inconsistent with the public interest.

811—10.19(17A) Telephone proceedings. The presiding officer may resolve preliminary procedural motions by telephone conference in which all parties have an opportunity to participate. Other telephone proceedings may be held with the consent of all parties. The presiding officer will determine the location of the parties and witnesses for telephone hearings. The convenience of the witnesses or parties, as well as the nature of the case, will be considered when location is chosen.

811—10.20(17A) Disqualification.

10.20(1) A presiding officer or other person shall withdraw from participation in the making of any proposed or final decision in a contested case if that person:

- a. Has a personal bias or prejudice concerning a party or a representative of a party;
- b. Has personally investigated, prosecuted or advocated in connection with that case, the specific controversy underlying that case, another pending factually related contested case, or a pending factually related controversy that may culminate in a contested case involving the same parties;
- c. Is subject to the authority, direction or discretion of any person who has personally investigated, prosecuted or advocated in connection with that contested case, the specific controversy underlying that contested case, or a pending factually related contested case or controversy involving the same parties;
- d. Has acted as counsel to any person who is a private party to that proceeding within the past two years;
- e. Has a personal financial interest in the outcome of the case or any other significant personal interest that could be substantially affected by the outcome of the case;
- f. Has a spouse or relative within the third degree of relationship that: (1) is a party to the case, or an officer, secretary or trustee of a party; (2) is a lawyer in the case; (3) is known to have an interest that could be substantially affected by the outcome of the case; or (4) is likely to be a material witness in the case; or
- g. Has any other legally sufficient cause to withdraw from participation in the decision making in that case.

10.20(2) 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 person’s investigative work product in the course of determining whether there is probable cause 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 presiding officer in that case shall be disclosed if required by Iowa Code section 17A.17(3) and subrules 10.20(3) and 10.32(9).

10.20(3) In a situation where a presiding officer or other person knows of information which might reasonably be deemed to be a basis for disqualification and decides voluntary withdrawal is unnecessary, that person shall submit the relevant information for the record by affidavit and shall provide for the record a statement of the reasons for the determination that withdrawal is unnecessary.

10.20(4) If a party asserts disqualification on any appropriate ground, including those listed in subrule 10.20(1), the party shall file a motion supported by an affidavit pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.17(7). The motion must be filed as soon as practicable after the reason alleged in the motion becomes known to the party. If, during the course of the hearing, a party first becomes aware of evidence of bias or other grounds for disqualification, the party may move for disqualification but must establish the grounds by the introduction of evidence into the record.

If the presiding officer determines that disqualification is appropriate, the presiding officer or other person shall withdraw. If the presiding officer determines that withdrawal is not required, the presiding officer shall enter an order to that effect. A party asserting disqualification may seek an interlocutory appeal under rule 811—10.34(17A).

811—10.21(17A) Consolidation—severance.

10.21(1) *Consolidation.* The presiding officer may consolidate any or all matters at issue in two or more contested case proceedings where: (a) the matters at issue involve common parties or common questions of fact or law; (b) consolidation would expedite and simplify consideration of the issues involved; and (c) consolidation would not adversely affect the rights of any of the parties to those proceedings.

10.21(2) *Severance.* The presiding officer may, for good cause shown, order any contested case proceedings or portions thereof severed.

811—10.22(17A) Pleadings.

10.22(1) Pleadings may be required by rule, by notice of hearing, or by order of the presiding officer.

10.22(2) Petition.

a. Any petition required in a contested case proceeding shall be filed within 20 days of delivery or the notice of hearing or subsequent order of the presiding officer, unless otherwise ordered.

b. A petition shall state in separately numbered paragraphs the following:

- (1) The persons or entities on whose behalf the petition is filed;
- (2) The particular provision of statutes and rules involved;
- (3) The relief demanded and the facts and laws relied upon for such relief; and
- (4) The name, address and telephone number of the petitioner and the petitioner's attorney.

10.22(3) Answer. An answer may be filed within 20 days of service of the petition. A party may move to dismiss or apply for a more definite and detailed statement when appropriate.

An answer shall show on whose behalf it is filed and specifically admit, deny, or otherwise answer all material allegations of the pleading to which it responds. It shall state any facts deemed to show an affirmative defense and contain as many additional defenses as the pleader may claim.

An answer shall state the name, address and telephone number of the person filing the answer, the person or entity on whose behalf it is filed, and the attorney representing that person.

Any allegation in the petition not denied in the answer is considered admitted. The presiding officer may refuse to consider any defense not raised in the answer which could have been raised on the basis of facts known when the answer was filed if any party would be prejudiced.

811—10.23(17A) Service and filing of pleadings and other papers.

10.23(1) *When service required.* Except where otherwise provided by law, every pleading, motion, document, or other paper filed in a contested case proceeding and every paper relating to discovery in such a proceeding shall be served upon each of the parties of record to the proceeding, including the person designated as advocate or prosecutor for the state or the agency. Except for the original notice of hearing and an application for rehearing as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.16(2), the party filing a document is responsible for service on all parties.

10.23(2) *Service—how made.* Service upon a party represented by an attorney shall be made upon the attorney unless otherwise ordered. Service is made by delivery or by mailing a copy to the person's last-known address. Service by mail is complete upon mailing, except where otherwise specifically provided by statute, rule, or order.

10.23(3) *Filing—when required.* After the notice of hearing, all pleadings, motions, documents or other papers in a contested case proceeding shall be filed with the board.

10.23(4) *Filing—when made.* Except where otherwise provided by law, a document is deemed filed at the time it is delivered to the board office, delivered to an established courier service for immediate delivery to that office, or mailed by first-class mail or state interoffice mail to that office, so long as there is proof of mailing.

10.23(5) *Proof of mailing.* Proof of mailing includes either: a legible United States Postal Service postmark on the envelope, a certificate of service, a notarized affidavit, or a certification in substantially the following form:

I certify under penalty of perjury and pursuant to the laws of Iowa that, on (date of mailing), I mailed copies of (describe document) addressed to the (agency office and address) and to the names and addresses of the parties listed below by depositing the same in the United States mail or state interoffice mail.

(Date)

(Signature)

811—10.24(17A) Discovery.

10.24(1) Discovery procedures applicable in civil actions are applicable in contested cases. Unless lengthened or shortened by these rules or by order of the presiding officer, time periods for compliance with discovery shall be as provided in the Iowa Rules of Civil Procedure.

10.24(2) Any motion relating to discovery shall allege that the moving party has previously made a good-faith attempt to resolve the discovery issues involved with the opposing party. Motions in regard to discovery shall be ruled upon by the presiding officer. Opposing parties shall be afforded the opportunity to respond within ten days of the filing of the motion unless the time is shortened as provided in subrule 10.24(1). The presiding officer may rule on the basis of the written motion and any response, or may order argument on the motion.

10.24(3) Evidence obtained in discovery may be used in the contested case proceeding if that evidence would otherwise be admissible in that proceeding.

811—10.25(17A) Subpoenas.

10.25(1) Issuance.

a. An agency subpoena shall be issued to a party on request. Such a request must be in writing. In the absence of good cause for permitting later action, a request for a subpoena must be received at least three days before the scheduled hearing. The request shall include the name, address, and telephone number of the requesting party.

b. Except to the extent otherwise provided by law, parties are responsible for service of their own subpoenas and payment of witness fees and mileage expenses.

10.25(2) Motion to quash or modify. The presiding officer may quash or modify a subpoena for any lawful reason upon motion in accordance with the Iowa Rules of Civil Procedure. A motion to quash or modify a subpoena shall be set for argument promptly.

811—10.26(17A) Motions.

10.26(1) No technical form for motions is required. However, prehearing motions must be in writing, state the grounds for relief, and state the relief sought.

10.26(2) Any party may file a written response to a motion within ten days after the motion is served, unless the time period is extended or shortened by rules of the agency or the presiding officer. The presiding officer may consider a failure to respond within the required time period in ruling on a motion.

10.26(3) The presiding officer may schedule oral argument on any motion.

10.26(4) Motions pertaining to the hearing must be filed and served at least ten days prior to the date of hearing unless there is good cause for permitting later action or the time for such action is lengthened or shortened by rule of the agency or an order of the presiding officer.

811—10.27(17A) Prehearing conference.

10.27(1) Any party may request a prehearing conference. A written request for prehearing conference or an order for prehearing conference on the presiding officer's own motion shall be filed not less than seven days prior to the hearing date. A prehearing conference shall be scheduled not less than three business days prior to the hearing date.

Written notice of the prehearing conference shall be given by the board office to all parties. For good cause the presiding officer may permit variances from this rule.

10.27(2) Each party shall bring to the prehearing conference:

a. A final list of witnesses the party anticipates will testify at hearing. Witnesses not listed may be excluded from testifying unless there was good cause for the failure to include their names; and

b. A final list of exhibits which the party anticipates will be introduced at hearing. Exhibits other than rebuttal exhibits that are not listed may be excluded from admission into evidence unless there was good cause for the failure to include them.

c. Witness or exhibit lists may be amended subsequent to the prehearing conference within the time limits established by the presiding officer at the prehearing conference. Any such amendments must be served on all parties.

10.27(3) In addition to the requirements of subrule 10.27(2), the parties at a prehearing conference may:

a. Enter into stipulations of law or fact;

b. Enter into stipulations on the admissibility of exhibits;

- c.* Identify matters which the parties intend to request be officially noticed;
- d.* Enter into stipulations for waiver of any provision of law; and
- e.* Consider any additional matters which will expedite the hearing.

10.27(4) Prehearing conferences shall be conducted by telephone unless otherwise ordered. Parties shall exchange and receive witness and exhibit lists in advance of a telephone prehearing conference.

811—10.28(17A) Continuances. The executive secretary shall have the authority to grant a continuance after consultation, if needed, with the chairperson of the board.

A request for continuance of a contested case matter must be submitted in writing to the board not later than seven days prior to the scheduled date of the hearing. Exceptions shall be granted at the discretion of the executive secretary only in situations involving extenuating, extraordinary, or emergency circumstances.

811—10.29(17A) Hearing procedures.

10.29(1) The presiding officer presides at the hearing, and may rule on motions, require briefs, issue a decision, and issue such orders and rulings as will ensure the orderly conduct of the proceedings.

10.29(2) All objections shall be timely made and stated on the record.

10.29(3) Parties have the right to participate or be represented in all hearings or prehearing conferences related to their case. Any party may be represented by an attorney or another person authorized by law.

10.29(4) Subject to terms and conditions prescribed by the presiding officer, parties have the right to introduce evidence on issues of material fact, cross-examine witnesses present at the hearing as necessary for a full and true disclosure of the facts, present evidence in rebuttal, and submit briefs and engage in oral argument.

10.29(5) The presiding officer shall maintain the decorum of the hearing and may refuse to admit or may expel anyone whose conduct is disorderly.

10.29(6) Witnesses may be sequestered during the hearing.

10.29(7) The presiding officer shall conduct the hearing in the following manner:

- a.* The presiding officer shall give an opening statement briefly describing the nature of the proceedings;
- b.* The parties shall be given an opportunity to present opening statements;
- c.* Parties shall present their cases in the sequence determined by the presiding officer;
- d.* Each witness shall be sworn or affirmed by the presiding officer or the court reporter, and be subject to examination and cross-examination. The presiding officer may limit questioning in a manner consistent with law;
- e.* When all parties and witnesses have been heard, parties may be given the opportunity to present final arguments.

811—10.30(17A) Evidence.

10.30(1) The presiding officer shall rule on admissibility of evidence and may, where appropriate, take official notice of facts in accordance with all applicable requirements of law.

10.30(2) Stipulation of facts is encouraged. The presiding officer may make a decision based on stipulated facts.

10.30(3) Evidence in the proceeding shall be confined to those issues to which the parties received notice prior to the hearing, unless the parties waive their right to such notice or the presiding officer determines that good cause justifies expansion of the issues. If the presiding officer decides to admit evidence on issues outside the scope of the notice over the objection of a party who did not have actual notice of those issues, that party, upon timely request, shall receive a continuance sufficient to amend pleadings and to prepare on the additional issue.

10.30(4) The party seeking admission of an exhibit must provide opposing parties with an opportunity to examine the exhibit prior to the ruling on its admissibility. Copies of documents should normally be provided to opposing parties.

10.30(5) Any party may object to specific evidence or may request limits on scope of any examination or cross-examination. Such an objection shall be accompanied by a brief statement of the grounds upon which it is based. The objection, the ruling on the objection, and the reasons for the ruling shall be noted in the record. The presiding officer may rule on the objection at the time it is made or may reserve a ruling until the written decision.

10.30(6) Whenever evidence is ruled inadmissible, the party offering that evidence may submit an offer of proof on the record. The party making the offer of proof for excluded oral testimony shall briefly summarize the testimony or, with permission of the presiding officer, present the testimony. If the excluded evidence consists of a document or exhibit, it shall be marked as part of an order of proof and inserted in the record.

811—10.31(17A) Default.

10.31(1) If a party fails to appear or participate in a contested case proceeding after proper service of notice, the presiding officer may, if no adjournment is granted, enter a default decision or proceed with the hearing and render a decision in the absence of the party.

10.31(2) Where appropriate and not contrary to law, any party may move for default against a party who has requested the contested case proceeding and has failed to file a required pleading or has failed to appear after proper service.

10.31(3) Default decisions or decisions rendered on the merits after a party has failed to appear or participate in a contested case proceeding become final agency action unless, within 15 days after the date of notification or mailing of the decision, a motion to vacate is filed and served on all parties or an appeal of a decision on the merits is timely initiated within the time provided by rule 811—10.36(17A). A motion to vacate must state all facts relied upon by the moving party which establish that good cause existed for that party's failure to appear or participate at the contested case proceeding. Each fact so stated must be substantiated by at least one sworn affidavit of a person with personal knowledge of each such fact attached to the motion.

10.31(4) The time for further appeal of a decision for which a timely motion to vacate has been filed is stayed pending a decision on the motion to vacate.

10.31(5) Properly substantiated and timely filed motions to vacate shall be granted only for good cause shown. The burden of proof as to good cause is on the moving party. Adverse parties shall have ten days to respond to a motion to vacate. Adverse parties shall be allowed to conduct discovery as to the issue of good cause and to present evidence on the issue prior to a decision on the motion, if a request to do so is included in that party's response.

10.31(6) "Good cause" for purposes of this rule shall have the same meaning as "good cause" for setting aside a default judgment under Iowa Rule of Civil Procedure 236.

10.31(7) A decision denying a motion to vacate is subject to further appeal within the time limit allowed for further appeal of a decision on the merits in the contested case proceeding. A decision granting a motion to vacate is subject to interlocutory appeal by the adverse party pursuant to rule 811—10.34(17A).

811—10.32(17A) Ex parte communication.

10.32(1) Prohibited communications. Unless required for the disposition of ex parte matters specifically authorized by statute, following issuance of the notice of hearing, there shall be no communication, directly or indirectly, between the presiding officer and any party or representative of any party or any other person with a direct or indirect interest in such case in connection with any issue of fact or law in the case, except upon notice and opportunity for all parties to participate. This does not prohibit persons jointly assigned such tasks from communicating with each other. Nothing in this provision is intended to preclude the presiding officer 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 as defined in subrule 10.20(2), prosecuting, or advocating in, 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.

10.32(2) Prohibitions on ex parte communications commence with the issuance of the notice of hearing in a contested case and continue for as long as the case is pending.

10.32(3) Written, oral or other forms of communication are “ex parte” if made without notice and opportunity for all parties to participate.

10.32(4) To avoid prohibited ex parte communications notice must be given in a manner reasonably calculated to give all parties a fair opportunity to participate. Notice of written communications shall be provided in compliance with rule 811—10.23(17A) and may be supplemented by telephone, facsimile, email or other means of notification. Where permitted, oral communications may be initiated through telephone conference call, which includes all parties or their representatives.

10.32(5) Persons who jointly act as presiding officer in a pending contested case may communicate with each other without notice or opportunity for parties to participate.

10.32(6) The executive secretary or other persons may be present in deliberations or otherwise advise the presiding officer without notice or opportunity for parties to participate as long as they are not disqualified from participating in the making of a proposed or final decision under subrule 10.20(1) or other law and they comply with subrule 10.32(1).

10.32(7) Communications with the presiding officer involving scheduling or uncontested procedural matters do not require notice or opportunity for parties to participate. A party should notify other parties prior to initiating such contact with the presiding officer when feasible, and shall notify other parties when seeking to continue hearings or other deadlines pursuant to rule 811—10.29(17A).

10.32(8) Disclosure of prohibited communications. A presiding officer who received a prohibited ex parte communication during the pendency of a contested case must initially determine if the effect of the communication is so prejudicial that the presiding officer should be disqualified. If the presiding officer determines that disqualification is warranted, a copy of any prohibited written communication, all written responses to the communication, a written summary stating the substance of any prohibited oral or other communication not available in written form for disclosure, all responses made, and the identity of each person from whom the presiding officer received a prohibited ex parte communication shall be submitted for inclusion in the record under seal by protective order. If the presiding officer determines that disqualification is not warranted, such documents shall be submitted for inclusion in the record and served on all parties. Any party desiring to rebut the prohibited communication must be allowed the opportunity to do so upon written request filed within ten days after notice of the communication.

10.32(9) Promptly after being assigned to serve as presiding officer on a hearing panel, as a member of a full board hearing, on an intra-agency appeal, or other basis, a presiding officer shall disclose to all parties material factual information received through ex parte communication prior to such assignment, unless the factual information has already been or shortly will be disclosed pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.13(2) or through discovery. Factual information contained in an investigative report or similar document need not be separately disclosed by the presiding officer as long as such documents have been or will shortly be provided to the parties.

10.32(10) The presiding officer may render a proposed or final decision imposing appropriate sanctions for violations of this rule including default, a decision against the offending party, censure, or suspension or revocation of the privilege to practice before the agency. Violation of ex parte communication prohibitions by agency personnel shall be reported to the board’s executive secretary for possible sanctions including: censure, suspension, dismissal, or other disciplinary action.

811—10.33(17A) Recording costs. Upon request, the board shall provide a copy of the whole or any portion of the record at cost. The cost of preparing a copy of the record or of transcribing the hearing record shall be paid by the requesting party.

Parties who request that a hearing be recorded by certified shorthand reporters rather than by electronic means shall bear the cost of such recording, unless otherwise provided by law.

811—10.34(17A) Final decision. When the board presides over reception of the evidence at the hearing, its decision is a final decision.

10.34(1) When a panel of specialists presides over the reception of evidence at the hearing, the findings of fact shall be considered by the board at the earliest feasible time. The decision of the board is a final decision.

10.34(2) A final decision in a contested case proceeding shall be in writing and include findings of fact and conclusions of law, separately stated.

a. Findings of fact shall be accompanied by a concise and explicit statement of underlying facts supporting the findings.

b. The decision shall include an explanation of why the relevant evidence in the record supports each material finding of fact.

c. Conclusions of law shall be supported by cited authority or by a reasoned opinion.

10.34(3) The decision or order shall be promptly delivered to the parties in the manner provided by Iowa Code section 17A.12.

10.34(4) The final decision is a public record pursuant to Iowa Code section 272C.6(4).

811—10.35(17A) Appeals.

10.35(1) *Appeal by party.* Any adversely affected party may appeal a final decision of the board to the district court within 30 days after issuance, in accordance with Iowa Code section 17A.19.

10.35(2) *Review.* The board may initiate review of the decision or order on its own motion at any time within 30 days following the issuance of such a decision.

10.35(3) *Notice of appeal.* An appeal of a decision or order is initiated by filing a timely notice of appeal with the board. The notice of appeal must be signed by the appealing party or a representative of that party and contain a certificate of service. The notice shall specify:

a. The parties initiating the appeal;

b. The proposed decision or order appealed from;

c. The specific findings or conclusions to which exception is taken and any other exceptions to the decision or order;

d. The relief sought;

e. The grounds for relief.

10.35(4) *Requests to present additional evidence.* A party may request the taking of additional evidence only by establishing that the evidence is material, that good cause existed for the failure to present the evidence at the hearing, and that the party has not waived the right to present the evidence. A written request to present additional evidence must be filed with the notice of appeal or, by a nonappealing party, within 15 days of service of the notice of appeal. The board may remand a case to the presiding officer for further hearing or may itself preside at the taking of additional evidence.

10.35(5) *Scheduling.* The board of veterinary medicine shall issue a schedule for consideration of the appeal.

10.35(6) *Briefs and arguments.* Unless otherwise ordered, within 20 days of the notice of appeal or order for review, each appealing party may file exceptions and briefs. Within 20 days thereafter, any party may file a responsive brief. Briefs shall cite any applicable legal authority and specify relevant portions of the record in that proceeding. Written requests to present an oral argument shall be filed with the briefs.

The board may resolve the appeal on the briefs or provide an opportunity for oral argument. The board may shorten or extend the briefing period as appropriate.

811—10.36(17A) Applications for rehearing.

10.36(1) *By whom filed.* Any party to a contested case proceeding may file an application for rehearing from a final order.

10.36(2) *Content of application.* The application for rehearing shall state on whose behalf it is filed, the specific grounds for rehearing, and the relief sought. In addition, the application shall state whether the applicant desires reconsideration of all or part of the agency decision on the existing record and

whether, on the basis of the grounds enumerated in subrule 10.36(4), the applicant requests an opportunity to submit additional evidence.

10.36(3) *Time of filing.* The application shall be filed with the board office within 20 days after issuance of the final decision.

10.36(4) *Notice to other parties.* A copy of the application shall be timely mailed by the applicant to all parties of record not joining therein. If the application does not contain a certificate of service, the board shall serve copies on all parties.

10.36(5) *Disposition.* Any application for a rehearing shall be deemed denied unless the agency grants the application within 20 days after its filing.

811—10.37(17A) No factual dispute contested cases. If the parties agree that no dispute of material fact exists as to a matter that would be a contested case if such a dispute of fact existed, the parties may present all relevant admissible evidence either by stipulation or otherwise as agreed by the parties, without necessity for the production of evidence at an evidentiary hearing. If such agreement is reached, a jointly submitted schedule detailing the method and timetable for submission of the record, briefs and oral argument should be submitted to the presiding officer for approval as soon as practicable.

811—10.38(17A) Emergency adjudicative proceedings.

10.38(1) *Necessary emergency action.* To the extent necessary to prevent or avoid immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare, the board may issue a written order in compliance with Iowa Code section 17A.18 to suspend a credential in whole or in part, order the cessation of any continuing activity, order affirmative action, or take other action within the jurisdiction of the board by emergency adjudicative order. Before issuing an emergency adjudicative order, the board shall consider factors including, but not limited to, the following:

- a. Whether there has been a sufficient factual investigation to ensure that the board is proceeding on the basis of reliable information;
- b. Whether the specific circumstances which pose immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare have been identified and determined to be continuing;
- c. Whether the person required to comply with the emergency adjudicative order may continue to engage in other activities without posing immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare;
- d. Whether imposition of monitoring requirements or other interim safeguards would be sufficient to protect the public health, safety, or welfare; and
- e. Whether the specific action contemplated by the board is necessary to avoid the immediate danger.

10.38(2) *Issuance.* The written emergency adjudicative order shall be immediately delivered to persons who are required to comply with the order by utilizing one or more of the following procedures:

- a. Personal delivery;
- b. Certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last address on file with the board;
- c. Certified mail to the last address on file with the board;
- d. First-class mail to the last address on file with the board; or
- e. Fax. Fax may be used as the sole method of delivery if the person required to comply with the order has filed a written request that board orders be sent by fax and has provided a fax number for that purpose.

To the degree practicable, the board shall select the procedure for providing written notice that best ensures prompt, reliable delivery.

10.38(3) *Oral notice.* Unless the written emergency adjudicative order is provided by personal delivery on the same day that the order issues, the board shall make reasonable immediate efforts to contact by telephone the persons who are required to comply with the order.

10.38(4) *Completion of proceedings.* Issuance of a written emergency adjudicative order shall include notification of the date on which board proceedings are scheduled for completion. After issuance of an emergency adjudicative order, continuance of further board proceedings to a later date will be granted only in compelling circumstances upon application in writing.

811—10.39(272C) Disciplinary hearing—fees and costs.

10.39(1) Definitions. As used in this rule in relation to a formal disciplinary action filed by the board against a credential holder:

“*Deposition*” means the testimony of a person taken pursuant to subpoena or at the request of the state of Iowa taken in a setting other than a hearing.

“*Expenses*” means costs incurred by persons appearing pursuant to subpoena or at the request of the state of Iowa for purposes of providing testimony on the part of the state of Iowa in a hearing or other official proceeding and shall include mileage reimbursement at the rate specified in Iowa Code section 70A.9 or, if commercial air or ground transportation is used, the actual cost of transportation to and from the proceeding. Also included are actual costs incurred for meals and necessary lodging.

“*Medical examination fees*” means actual costs incurred by the board in a physical, mental, chemical abuse, or other impairment-related examination or evaluation of a credential holder when the examination or evaluation is conducted pursuant to an order of the board.

“*Record*” means the proceedings of the hearing including, but not limited to, the transcript and any documentary evidence admitted or offered at the hearing.

“*Transcript*” means a printed verbatim reproduction of everything said on the record during a hearing or other official proceeding.

“*Witness fees*” means compensation paid by the board to persons appearing pursuant to subpoena or at the request of the state of Iowa for purposes of providing testimony on the part of the state of Iowa. For the purpose of this rule, compensation shall be the same as outlined in Iowa Code section 622.69 or 622.72, as applicable.

10.39(2) Disciplinary hearing fee. The board may charge a fee not to exceed the amount authorized in Iowa Code section 272C.6 for conducting a disciplinary hearing which results in disciplinary action taken against the credential holder by the board. An order assessing a fee shall be included as part of the board’s final decision. The order shall direct the credential holder to deliver payment directly to the department of agriculture and land stewardship as provided in subrule 10.39(6).

10.39(3) Recovery of related hearing costs. The board may also recover from the credential holder the costs for transcripts, witness fees and expenses, depositions, and medical examination fees, if disciplinary action is taken. The board may assess these costs in the manner it deems most equitable in accordance with the following:

a. Transcript costs. The board may assess the transcript costs against the credential holder pursuant to Iowa Code section 272C.6(6) or against the requesting party pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.12(7).

(1) The cost of the transcript includes the transcript of the original contested case hearing before the board, as well as transcripts of any other formal proceedings before the board which occur after the notice of the contested case hearing is filed.

(2) In the event of an appeal to the full board from a proposed decision, the appealing party shall timely request and pay for the transcript necessary for use in the board appeal process.

b. Witness fees and expenses. The parties in a contested case shall be responsible for any witness fees and expenses incurred by witnesses appearing at the contested case hearing. In addition, the board may assess a credential holder the witness fees and expenses incurred by witnesses called to testify on behalf of the state of Iowa, provided that the costs are calculated as follows:

(1) The costs for lay witnesses shall be determined in accordance with Iowa Code section 622.69. For purposes of calculating the mileage expenses allowed under that section, the provisions of Iowa Code section 625.2 do not apply.

(2) The costs for expert witnesses shall be determined in accordance with Iowa Code section 622.72. For purposes of calculating the mileage expenses allowed under that section, the provisions of Iowa Code section 625.2 do not apply.

(3) The provisions of Iowa Code section 622.74 regarding advance payment of witness fees and the consequences of failure to make such payment are applicable with regard to witnesses who are subpoenaed by either party to testify at the hearing.

(4) The board may assess as costs the meal and lodging expenses necessarily incurred by witnesses testifying at the request of the state of Iowa. Meal and lodging costs shall not exceed the reimbursement employees of the state of Iowa receive for these expenses under the department of revenue guidelines currently in effect.

c. Deposition costs. Deposition costs for purposes of allocating costs against a credential holder include only those deposition costs incurred by the state of Iowa. The credential holder is directly responsible for the payment of deposition costs incurred by the credential holder.

(1) The costs for depositions include the cost of transcripts, the daily charge of the court reporter for attending and transcribing the deposition, and all mileage and travel time charges of the court reporter for traveling to and from the deposition which are charged in the ordinary course of business.

(2) If the deposition is of an expert witness, the deposition costs include a reasonable fee for an expert witness. This fee shall not exceed the expert's customary hourly or daily fee, and shall include the time reasonably and necessarily spent in connection with the deposition, including the time spent in travel to and from the deposition, but excluding time spent in preparation for the deposition.

d. Medical examination fees. All costs of physical or mental examinations ordered by the board pursuant to Iowa Code section 272C.9(1) as part of an investigation of a pending complaint or as a sanction following a contested case shall be paid directly by the credential holder.

10.39(4) Certification of reimbursable costs. Within ten days after conclusion of a contested case hearing and before issuance of any final decision assessing costs, the secretary shall certify any reimbursable costs to the board. The secretary shall calculate the specific costs, certify the costs calculated, and file the certification as part of the record in the contested case. A copy of the certification shall be served on each party of record at the time of the filing.

10.39(5) Assessment of fees and costs. A final decision of the board imposing disciplinary action against a credential holder shall include the amount of any fee assessed. If the board also assesses costs against the credential holder, the final decision shall include a statement of costs delineating each category of costs and the amount assessed. The board shall specify the time period in which the fees and costs must be paid by the credential holder.

a. A party shall file an objection to any fees or costs imposed in a final decision in order to exhaust administrative remedies. An objection shall be filed in the form of an application for rehearing pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.16(2).

b. The application shall be resolved by the board consistent with the procedures for ruling on an application for rehearing. Any dispute regarding the calculations of any fees or costs to be assessed may be resolved by the board upon receipt of the parties' written objections.

10.39(6) Payment of fees and costs. Payment for fees and costs assessed pursuant to this rule shall be made in the form of a check or money order made payable to the state of Iowa and delivered by the credential holder to the department of agriculture and land stewardship.

10.39(7) Failure to make payment. Failure of a credential holder to pay any fees and costs within the time specified in the board's decision shall constitute a violation of an order of the board and shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 17A, 169, and 272C.

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