

641—154.54(124E) Suspension or revocation of a dispensary license.

154.54(1) The department may suspend or revoke a dispensary license upon any of the following grounds:

- a.* Submission of false, inaccurate, misleading, or fraudulent information to the department in the application or inspection processes.
- b.* Failure to submit required reports and documents.
- c.* Violation of Iowa Code chapter 124E or these rules, or violation of state or local law related to operation of the licensee.
- d.* Conduct or practices detrimental to the safety, health, or welfare of a patient, primary caregiver, or the public.
- e.* Criminal, civil, or administration action taken against a license or registration in this or another state or country related to manufacturing or dispensing medical cannabidiol.
- f.* False, misleading, or deceptive representations to the department, another state or federal agency, or a law enforcement agency.
- g.* Discontinuance of operation for more than 30 days, unless the department approves an extension of such period for good cause shown.
- h.* Failure to maintain effective controls against diversion, theft, or loss of medical cannabidiol.
- i.* Failure to correct a deficiency within the time frame required by the department.
- j.* Failure of a dispensary's business owner to have a satisfactory result in a background investigation or national criminal history background check conducted by the department of public safety and as determined by the department.

154.54(2) The department shall notify the licensee of the proposed action pursuant to Iowa Code sections 17A.12 and 17A.18. Notice of issuance of a suspension or revocation shall be served by restricted certified mail, return receipt requested, or by personal service.

154.54(3) A request for appeal concerning the suspension or revocation of a license shall be submitted by the aggrieved party in writing to the department by certified mail, return receipt requested, within 20 days of the receipt of the department's notice. The address is: Iowa Department of Public Health, Office of Medical Cannabidiol, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075. If such a request is made within the 20-day time period, the notice shall be deemed to be suspended. Prior to or at the hearing, the department may rescind the notice upon satisfaction that the reason for the suspension or revocation has been or will be removed. After the hearing or upon default of the applicant or alleged violator, the administrative law judge shall affirm, modify or set aside the suspension or revocation. If no request for appeal is received within the 20-day time period, the department's notice of suspension or revocation shall become the department's final agency action.

154.54(4) Upon receipt of an appeal that meets contested case status, the appeal shall be forwarded within five working days to the department of inspections and appeals. The information upon which the adverse action is based and any additional information which may be provided by the aggrieved party shall also be provided to the department of inspections and appeals.

154.54(5) The hearing shall be conducted according to the procedural rules of the department of inspections and appeals found in 481—Chapter 10.

154.54(6) When the administrative law judge makes a proposed decision and order, it shall be served by restricted certified mail, return receipt requested, or delivered by personal service. That proposed decision and order then becomes the department's final agency action without further proceedings ten days after it is received by the aggrieved party unless an appeal to the director is taken.

154.54(7) Any appeal to the director for review of the proposed decision and order of the administrative law judge shall be filed in writing and mailed to the director by certified mail, return receipt requested, or delivered by personal service within ten days after the receipt of the administrative law judge's proposed decision and order by the aggrieved party. A copy of the appeal shall also be mailed to the administrative law judge. Any request for an appeal shall state the reason for appeal.

154.54(8) Upon receipt of an appeal request, the administrative law judge shall prepare the record of the hearing for submission to the director. The record shall include the following:

- a.* All pleadings, motions, and rules.

- b.* All evidence received or considered and all other submissions by recording or transcript.
- c.* A statement of all matters officially noticed.
- d.* All questions and offers of proof, objections, and rulings thereon.
- e.* All proposed findings and exceptions.
- f.* The proposed decision and order of the administrative law judge.

154.54(9) The decision and order of the director becomes the department's final agency action upon receipt by the aggrieved party and shall be delivered by restricted certified mail, return receipt requested, or by personal service.

154.54(10) It is not necessary to file an application for a rehearing to exhaust administrative remedies when appealing to the director or the district court as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.19. The aggrieved party to the final agency action of the department who has exhausted all administrative remedies may petition for judicial review of that action pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 17A.

154.54(11) Any petition for judicial review of a decision and order shall be filed in the district court within 30 days after the decision and order becomes final. A copy of the notice of appeal shall be sent to the department by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by personal service. The address is: Iowa Department of Public Health, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075.

154.54(12) The party who appeals a final agency action to the district court shall pay the cost of the preparation of a transcript of the contested case hearing for the district court.

154.54(13) Emergency adjudicative proceedings.

a. Necessary emergency action. To the extent necessary to prevent or avoid immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare, and consistent with the Constitution and other provisions of law, the department may issue a written order in compliance with Iowa Code section 17A.18A to suspend a license in whole or in part, order the cessation of any continuing activity, order affirmative action, or take other action within the jurisdiction of the department by emergency adjudicative order.

b. Before issuing an emergency adjudicative order, the department shall consider factors including, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) Whether there has been a sufficient factual investigation to ensure that the department is proceeding on the basis of reliable information;
- (2) Whether the specific circumstances which pose immediate danger to the public health, safety or welfare have been identified and determined to be continuing;
- (3) Whether the licensee 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;
- (4) Whether imposition of monitoring requirements or other interim safeguards would be sufficient to protect the public health, safety or welfare; and
- (5) Whether the specific action contemplated by the department is necessary to avoid the immediate danger.

c. Issuance of order.

(1) An emergency adjudicative order shall contain findings of fact, conclusions of law, and policy reasons to justify the determination of an immediate danger in the department's decision to take immediate action. The order is a public record.

(2) The written emergency adjudicative order shall be immediately delivered to the licensee that is required to comply with the order. The order shall be delivered by one or more of the following methods:

1. Personal delivery.
2. Certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last address on file with the department.
3. Fax. Fax may be used as the sole method of delivery if the licensee required to comply with the order has filed a written request that agency orders be sent by fax and has provided a fax number for that purpose.

(3) To the degree practicable, the department shall select the procedure for providing written notice that best ensures prompt, reliable delivery.

(4) Unless the written emergency adjudicative order is provided by personal delivery on the same day that the order issues, the department shall make reasonable immediate efforts to contact by telephone the licensee that is required to comply with the order.

(5) After the issuance of an emergency adjudicative order, the department shall proceed as quickly as feasible to complete any proceedings that would be required if the matter did not involve an immediate danger.

(6) Issuance of a written emergency adjudicative order shall include notification of the date on which department proceedings are scheduled for completion. After issuance of an emergency adjudicative order, continuance of further department proceedings to a later date will be granted only in compelling circumstances upon application in writing unless the licensee that is required to comply with the order is the party requesting the continuance.

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