

701—7.9 (17A) Identifying details.

7.9(1) Any person may file a motion to delete identifying details concerning the person from any document relating to any proceeding as defined in rule 701—7.2(421,17A) prior to disclosure to members of the public. Such a motion must be filed with the clerk of the hearings section if the motion is filed prior to the commencement of a contested case, which is before the notice for hearing is issued. If the motion is filed during a contested case proceeding pending before an administrative law judge and before the administrative law judge has entered a proposed decision on the case or has entered a closing order, the motion must be filed with and ruled upon by the administrative law judge. Otherwise, the motion must be filed with the clerk of the hearings section and ruled upon by the director. The motion shall be filed simultaneously with the presentation of the privacy or trade secret information under circumstances whereby the information may be disclosed to the public and before the issuance of any opinion, order or decision.

7.9(2) If the motion concerns information which is not a part of a contested case, the motion shall be in the form of a request to delete identifying details; if part of a contested case, the motion shall be in the form of a motion to delete identifying details. All motions to delete identifying details shall conform to subrule 7.17(5).

a. The motion shall contain the following:

(1) The name of the person requesting deletion and the docket number of the proceeding, if applicable;

(2) The legal basis for the motion for deletion, which is either that release of the material would be a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy or the material is a trade secret. A corporation may not claim an unwarranted invasion of privacy;

(3) A precise description of the document, report, or other material in the possession of the department from which the deletion is sought and a precise description of the information to be deleted. If deletion is sought from more than one document, each document and the materials sought to be deleted from it shall be listed in separate paragraphs. Also contained in each separate paragraph shall be a statement of the legal basis for the deletion requested in that paragraph, which is that release of the material sought to be deleted is a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy or the material is a trade secret and the material serves no public purpose.

b. An affidavit in support of deletion must accompany each motion. The affidavit must be sworn to by a person familiar with the facts asserted within it and shall contain a clear and concise explanation of the facts justifying deletion, not merely the legal basis for deletion or conclusionary allegations.

c. All affidavits shall contain a general and truthful statement that the information sought to be deleted is not available to the public from any source or combination of sources, direct or indirect, and a general statement that the release would serve no public purpose.

d. The burden of showing that deletion is justified shall be on the movant. The burden is not carried by mere conclusionary statements or allegations, for example, that the release of the material would be a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy or that the material is a trade secret.

e. That the matter sought to be deleted is part of the pleadings, motions, evidence, and the record in a contested case proceeding otherwise open for public inspection and that the matter would otherwise constitute confidential tax information shall not be grounds for deletion (1992 Op. IA Att’y Gen. 1).

f. The ruling on the motion shall be strictly limited to the facts and legal bases presented by the movant, and the ruling shall not be based upon any facts or legal bases not presented by the movant.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 17A.