

**495—17.5(17A,22) Requests for treatment of a record as a confidential record and its withholding from examination.** The custodian may treat a record as confidential and withhold it from examination only to the extent that the custodian is authorized to refuse to disclose the record to members of the public by Iowa Code section 22.7 or 97B.17, another applicable provision of law, or in response to a court order.

**17.5(1) *Persons who may request.*** Any person who would be aggrieved or adversely affected by disclosure of all or a part of a record under the jurisdiction of the agency to members of the public and who asserts that Iowa Code section 22.7 or 97B.17, another applicable provision of law, or a court order authorizes the custodian to treat the record as a confidential record, may file a request, as provided for in this rule, for its treatment as a confidential record and to withhold it from public inspection.

**17.5(2) *Request.*** A request for the treatment of a record as a confidential record shall be in writing and shall be filed with the custodian. The request shall include an enumeration of the specific reasons justifying confidential record treatment for all or part of that record, the specific provisions of law that authorize confidential record treatment in this instance, and the name, mailing address, telephone number and, if available, the email address of the person authorized to respond to any action concerning the request. If the information is regarding an IPERS member, the member identification number or social security number of the member must be included. The person requesting treatment of a record as a confidential record may also be required to sign a certified statement or affidavit enumerating the specific reasons justifying the treatment of the record as a confidential record and to provide any proof necessary to establish relevant facts. The person filing a request shall, if possible, accompany the request with a redacted copy of the record in question for which confidential record treatment has been requested. If the original record is submitted at the same time the request is filed, the person shall indicate conspicuously on the original record which portions of it are requested to be confidential. Requests for treatment of all or portions of a record as confidential for a limited time period shall also specify the precise period of time for which confidential record treatment is requested.

**17.5(3) *Failure to request.*** Failure of a person to request confidential record treatment for a record or confidential information contained in a record shall not preclude the custodian from treating it as a confidential record or the confidential information contained in that record as permitted under Iowa Code section 22.7 or 97B.17. However, if a person who has submitted information does not request confidential record treatment under the provisions of Iowa Code sections 22.7(3) (trade secrets), 22.7(6) (advantage to competitors), and 22.7(18) (communications not required by law, rule, procedure or contract), the custodian of records containing that information may, but is not required to, proceed as if that person has no objection to its disclosure to members of the public.

**17.5(4) *Timing of decision.*** A decision by the agency with respect to the disclosure of all or part of a record under its jurisdiction to members of the public may be made when a request for its treatment as a confidential record is filed or when a request is received for access to the record by a member of the public.

**17.5(5) *Request granted or deferred.*** If a request for a confidential record or information is granted, or if action on a request is deferred, a copy of the record from which the material in question has been deleted and a copy of the decision to grant the request or to defer action on the request will be placed in the original file, and will be made available for public inspection. If a request is subsequently received for access to the original record, reasonable and timely efforts will be made to notify any person who has filed a request for its treatment as a confidential record.

**17.5(6) *Request denied and opportunity to seek injunction.*** If a request that a record be treated as a confidential record and be withheld from public inspection is denied, the custodian shall notify the requester in writing of the reasons for that determination. On application by the requester, the custodian may engage in a good-faith, reasonable delay in allowing examination of the record so that the requester may seek injunctive relief under the provisions of Iowa Code section 22.8, or other applicable provision of law. However, a record shall not be withheld from public inspection for any period of time if the custodian determines that the requester had no reasonable grounds to justify the treatment of that record as a confidential record. The custodian shall notify requester in writing of the time period allowed to seek injunctive relief or the reasons for the determination that no reasonable grounds exist to justify the treatment of that record as a confidential record. The custodian may extend the period of good-faith, reasonable delay in allowing examination of the record so that the requester may seek injunctive relief only

if no request for examination of that record has been received, or if a court directs the custodian to treat it as a confidential record, or to the extent permitted by another applicable provision of law, or with the consent of the person requesting access.