

497—1.3(23) Processing of advisory opinion requests.

1.3(1) Requests for board advisory opinions may be mailed to the Iowa Public Information Board, Wallace State Office Building, 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. Requests may also be submitted by fax to (515)725-1789 or by email to ipib@iowa.gov.

1.3(2) After receiving an opinion request, the board's executive director shall cause to be prepared a draft opinion for board review. If the same or similar issue has been addressed in an opinion of a court, or in an attorney general's opinion, or in another prior advisory opinion, the executive director may respond to the requester by sending a copy of the prior opinion. Upon an affirmative vote of at least five members, the executive director shall issue a board advisory opinion on behalf of the board. Advice contained in a board opinion rendered to a government official or a lawful custodian of a public record, if followed, constitutes a defense for the government official or lawful custodian before the board to a subsequent complaint that is based on the same facts and circumstances. Board staff may also provide written advice on routine matters. However, such advice is not an advisory opinion of the board.

1.3(3) A person who receives a board advisory opinion may, within 30 days after the issuance of the opinion, request modification or reconsideration of the opinion. A request for modification or reconsideration shall be deemed denied unless the board acts upon the request within 60 days of receipt of the request. The board may take up modification or reconsideration of an advisory opinion on its own motion within 30 days after the issuance of an opinion. The board aspires to issue an opinion within 30 days after a formal request is made.

1.3(4) Board advisory opinions are open records and shall be made available at the board office and via the board's website at ipib.iowa.gov.

1.3(5) Nothing in this rule precludes a person who has received a board opinion or advice from petitioning for a declaratory order pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.9. The board may refuse to issue a declaratory order to a person who has previously received a board opinion on the same question, unless the requester demonstrates a significant change in circumstances from those in the board opinion.

1.3(6) On an annual basis, the board shall review the advisory opinions issued for that year and determine which opinions should be adopted into rule pursuant to the procedures in Iowa Code chapter 17A.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 23.6.

[**ARC 0741C**, IAB 5/15/13, effective 7/1/13; **ARC 1091C**, IAB 10/16/13, effective 11/20/13; **ARC 2088C**, IAB 8/5/15, effective 9/9/15; **ARC 5569C**, IAB 4/21/21, effective 5/26/21]