

701—7.17(17A) Prehearing conference.

7.17(1) Following the commencement of the contested case and upon the motion of the presiding officer, or upon the written request of a party, the presiding officer shall direct the parties to appear at a specified time and place before the presiding officer for a prehearing conference to consider:

- a.* The possibility or desirability of waiving any provisions of the Act relating to contested cases by written stipulation representing an informed mutual consent;
- b.* The necessity or desirability of setting a new date for hearing;
- c.* The simplification of issues;
- d.* The necessity or desirability of amending the pleadings, subject to the applicable statute of limitations and the applicable statutory appeal period;
- e.* The possibility of agreeing to the admission of facts, documents or records not controverted, to avoid unnecessary introduction of proof;
- f.* The procedure at the hearing;
- g.* Limiting the number of witnesses;
- h.* The names and identification of witnesses and the facts each party will attempt to prove at the hearing;
- i.* Conduct or schedule of discovery; and
- j.* Such other matters as may aid, expedite or simplify the disposition of the proceeding.

7.17(2) Any action taken at the prehearing conference shall be recorded in an order unless the parties enter into a written stipulation as to such matters or agree to a statement thereof made on the record by the presiding officer.

7.17(3) When an order is issued at the termination of the prehearing conference, a reasonable time shall be allowed for the parties to present objections on the grounds that the order does not fully or correctly embody the agreements made at such conference. Thereafter, the terms of the order or modification thereof shall determine the subsequent course of the proceedings relative to matters the order includes unless modified to prevent manifest injustice.

7.17(4) If either party to the contested case fails to appear at the prehearing conference without requesting a continuance and without submitting evidence or arguments that the party wishes to be considered in lieu of appearance, the opposing party may move for dismissal. The motion shall be made in accordance with subrule 7.18(5).

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 17A.12.

[ARC 8944C, IAB 2/19/25, effective 3/26/25]