

871—26.17(17A,96) Decisions.

26.17(1) The presiding officer shall issue a written, signed decision as soon as practicable after the closing of the record in a contested case. Each decision shall:

a. Set forth the issues, appeal rights, a concise history of the case, findings of essential facts, the reasons for the decision and the actual disposition of the case;

b. Be based on the kind and quality of evidence upon which reasonably prudent persons customarily rely for the conduct of their serious affairs, even if none of such evidence would be admissible in a jury trial in the Iowa district court; and

c. Be sent by first-class mail or email to each of the parties in interest and their representatives.

26.17(2) In reaching a decision, the presiding officer shall apply relevant portions of the Iowa Code, decisions of the Supreme Court of Iowa, published decisions of the Iowa Court of Appeals, the Iowa Administrative Code and pertinent state and federal court decisions, statutes and regulations.

26.17(3) Copies of all presiding officer decisions shall be kept on file for public inspection at the administrative office of the department of workforce development, filed according to hearing (appeal) number and indexed by the social security number of the claimant.

26.17(4) A presiding officer's decision allowing benefits shall result in the prompt payment of all benefits due. An appeal shall not stay the payment of benefits. A presiding officer's decision reversing an allowance of benefits shall include a statement of overpayment of benefits erroneously paid.

26.17(5) A presiding officer's decision constitutes final agency action in an employer liability contested case.

a. Any party in interest may file with the presiding officer a written application for rehearing within 20 days after the issuance of the decision. A request for rehearing is deemed denied unless the presiding officer grants the rehearing request within 20 days after its filing.

b. Any party in interest may file a petition for judicial review in the Iowa district court within 30 days after the issuance of the decision or within 30 days after the denial of the request for rehearing.

26.17(6) In a claimant benefit contested case, final agency action shall be a presiding officer's decision, if no aggrieved party appealed the decision to the employment appeal board within 15 days, or the decision of the employment appeal board, if the aggrieved party appealed the decision to that tribunal.

a. Once final agency action has been established, any party who is aggrieved or adversely affected by the agency action has 30 days to file a petition for judicial review with the district court.

b. Any party in interest may file with the presiding officer a written application for rehearing within 20 days after the date that the decision becomes final as a result of the failure to appeal the decision to the employment board. Applications for rehearing filed before this date will be forwarded to the employment appeal board as appeals to that tribunal. A request for rehearing is deemed denied unless the presiding officer grants the rehearing request within 20 days after its filing.

c. Any party in interest may file a petition for judicial review within 30 days after the denial of the request for rehearing.

[ARC 3009C, IAB 3/29/17, effective 5/3/17; ARC 6893C, IAB 2/22/23, effective 3/29/23]