

**441—7.1(17A) Definitions.**

*“Adverse benefit determination”* means any adverse action taken as to any individual’s benefits pursuant to an assistance program administered by the department or on the department’s behalf, excluding determinations related to requests for exceptions to policy.

*“Appeals section”* means the director’s designee who is charged with administering the department’s appeals.

*“Appellant”* means a person, including an authorized representative acting on the person’s behalf, seeking to appeal some action pursuant to this chapter.

*“Assistance program”* means a program administered by the department or on the department’s behalf through which qualifying individuals receive benefits or services. Assistance programs include, but are not necessarily limited to, food assistance, Medicaid, the family investment program, refugee cash assistance, child care assistance, emergency assistance, the family planning program, the family self-sufficiency grant, PROMISE JOBS, state supplementary assistance, the healthy and well kids in Iowa (hawki) program, foster care, adoption, and aftercare services.

*“Authorized representative”* means a person lawfully designated by an individual to act on the individual’s behalf or who has legal authority to act on behalf of the individual.

*“Contested case”* refers to an evidentiary hearing mandated by state or federal constitutional or statutory authority whereupon a presiding officer makes a determination pertaining to the relative rights and obligations of parties to an appeal under this chapter.

*“Department”* means the Iowa department of human services.

*“DIA”* means the Iowa department of inspections and appeals and may include presiding officers where appropriate.

*“Director”* means the director of the department or the director’s designee.

*“Enrollee”* means any applicant to or recipient of benefits or services pursuant to an assistance program.

*“Good cause”* means an intervening cause, not attributable to the negligence of a party, reasonably resulting in a delay or in attendance, for purposes of subrules 7.4(3) and 7.9(2).

*“Intentional program violation”* means deliberately making a false or misleading statement; or misrepresenting, concealing, or withholding facts; or committing any act that is a violation of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, food assistance program regulations, or any state law relating to the use, presentation, transfer, acquisition, receipt, possession, or trafficking of an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card. An intentional program violation is determined through a food assistance administrative disqualification hearing. The hearing may result in a period of ineligibility for the program, a claim for overpayment of benefits, or both.

*“Managed care organization”* or *“MCO”* has the meaning assigned to it in rule 441—73.1(249A) and includes prepaid ambulatory health plans.

*“Medicaid”* means Iowa’s medical assistance program administered under Iowa Code chapter 249A.

*“Party-in-interest”* refers to the party, including enrollees, whose rights or obligations are the subject of a contested case hearing under this chapter. Parties-in-interest may or may not be the appellant.

*“Presiding officer”* means an administrative law judge charged with the administration and adjudication of the contested case hearing process for a particular appeal.

*“Self-represented”* means representing oneself without an attorney.

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