

701—7.6(17A,22,421,422) Authorized representatives—powers of attorney and representative certifications. No individual, including an attorney, accountant, or other representative, will be recognized as representing any taxpayer in regard to any claim, appeal, or other matter before the department or in any communication with, hearing before, or conference with the department, or any member or agent thereof, unless there is first filed with the department a written authorization meeting the requirements of this rule and Iowa Code section 421.59. If a taxpayer wishes to allow the department to discuss otherwise confidential tax matters with an individual other than an authorized representative, without giving that individual authority to act on the taxpayer's behalf, the taxpayer must provide the department with written authorization to disclose such confidential tax information as provided in rule 701—5.7(17A,22,421,422).

7.6(1) Individuals authorized to represent a taxpayer; generally; transfers of decision-making authority.

a. If a taxpayer wishes to have any other individual or individuals act on the taxpayer's behalf in matters before the department, the taxpayer must file with the department an IDR power of attorney form, as described in subrule 7.6(5), authorizing that individual to do so. Even if an individual desires to represent a taxpayer only through correspondence with the department but does not intend to personally appear before the department in a hearing or conference, the taxpayer must submit an IDR power of attorney form appointing that individual to act on the taxpayer's behalf.

b. Individuals with the authority to act on behalf of a taxpayer, including pursuant to Iowa Code section 421.59(2) or chapter 633B, must file a representative certification form as described in subrule 7.6(6). Subrule 7.6(6) contains more information about individuals who may qualify as authorized representatives and the information required.

7.6(2) Powers authorized.

a. An IDR power of attorney or representative certification form, as applicable, is required by the department before an individual can perform one or more of the following acts on behalf of the taxpayer:

(1) To receive copies of any notices or documents sent by the department, its representatives, or its attorneys.

(2) To receive, but not to endorse and collect, checks made payable to the taxpayer in payment of any refund of Iowa taxes, penalties, or interest. Certain representatives with a valid representative certification form may be authorized to receive, endorse, and collect checks made payable to the taxpayer in payment of any refund of Iowa taxes, penalties, or interest.

(3) To execute waivers (including offers of waiver) of restrictions on assessment or collection of deficiencies in tax and waivers of notice of disallowance of a claim for credit or refund.

(4) To execute consents extending the statutory period for assessment or collection of taxes.

(5) To fully represent the taxpayer in any hearing, determination, final or otherwise, or appeal. Subrule 7.6(8) contains additional requirements.

(6) To enter into any settlement or compromise with the department.

(7) To execute any release from liability required by the department as a prerequisite to divulging otherwise confidential information concerning the taxpayer.

(8) To authorize a third party as authorized representative or disclosure designee for the taxpayer.

b. The taxpayer may limit the scope of the authority of an authorized representative appointed via an IDR power of attorney form by expressly stating the limitations, if any, on the IDR power of attorney form submitted to the department. The taxpayer may not expand the scope of authority of an authorized representative beyond those powers authorized in this rule.

7.6(3) Submitting a form.

a. Submit separately. An IDR power of attorney form or representative certification may not be submitted as an attachment to a tax return except as provided by these rules. A power of attorney form or representative certification form must be submitted separately to the department in accordance with the submission instructions on the form(s).

b. Original or electronic forms accepted. The department may accept either an original form, an electronically scanned and transmitted form, or a copy of a form. A copy received by facsimile transmission (fax) or email may be accepted.

c. Timely submission. The form must be submitted within six months of the date of signature, or it will be considered invalid.

d. Appointment of a representative via another form. The department designates certain returns or other departmental forms on which a taxpayer may appoint a representative.

e. Signature. The signature on the form must be a handwritten signature, a digital signature with a digital certificate, or a signature otherwise accepted by the IRS for purposes of third-party authorization.

7.6(4) Communications with represented taxpayers. Any notice or other written communication (or copy thereof) from the department provided to the representative, where required or permitted to be given to the taxpayer in any matter before the department, will be given to the taxpayer as well.

7.6(5) Powers of attorney. Individuals appointed by a taxpayer to represent the taxpayer must file an IDR power of attorney form.

a. Individuals who may execute an IDR power of attorney form. Individuals who are permitted to execute an IDR power of attorney form are as follows:

(1) Individual. In matters involving an individual taxpayer, an IDR power of attorney form must be signed by the individual or an authorized representative.

(2) Joint or combined returns. In matters involving a joint return or married taxpayers who have elected to file separately on a combined return, each taxpayer must complete and submit the taxpayer's own IDR power of attorney form, even if the taxpayers are represented by the same appointee(s). In any matter concerning a joint return or married taxpayers who have elected to file separately on a combined return, in which the two taxpayers are not to be represented by the same representative(s), the authorized representative of one spouse cannot perform any act with respect to a tax matter that the spouse represented cannot perform alone.

b. Contents of the IDR power of attorney form. An IDR power of attorney form must contain the following information to be valid:

(1) Legal name and address of the taxpayer;

(2) Identification number of the taxpayer (i.e., social security number (SSN), federal identification number (FEIN), or any federal- or Iowa-issued tax identification number);

(3) Name, mailing address, and identification number of the representative (i.e., preparer's tax identification number (PTIN), SSN, centralized authorization file (CAF) number, or any federal- or Iowa-issued tax identification number) or an indication that an issued account number (IAN) is being requested;

(4) Description of the matter(s) for which representation is authorized, which may include:

1. The type of tax(es) involved or an indication that all tax types are within the scope of authority. If the tax type field is left blank, all tax types will be included within the scope of the representative's authority;

2. The specific year(s) or period(s) involved, or an indication that the scope is unlimited (not to exceed three years into the future beyond the signature date), or an indication that all tax types are within the scope of authority;

3. Iowa tax permit number;

(5) A clear expression of the taxpayer's intention concerning any restrictions to the scope of authority granted to the recognized representative(s) as provided in subrule 7.6(2).

(6) A signature on the form, which must be a handwritten signature, a digital signature with a digital certificate, or a signature otherwise accepted by the IRS for purposes of third-party authorization.

(7) Any other information required by the department.

c. Authorization period for an IDR power of attorney form.

(1) An IDR power of attorney form may not be used to authorize representation for tax periods that end more than three years after the date on which the IDR power of attorney form is signed by the taxpayer. The authority granted may concern an unlimited number of tax periods which have ended prior to the date on which the IDR power of attorney form is received by the department; however, tax periods must be stated if the intention is to limit the periods. If the tax period section is left blank, all tax periods, including those ending up to three years in the future, are included.

(2) The authority granted by an IDR power of attorney form ceases to be effective for tax periods as defined in subparagraph 7.6(5) “c”(1) upon revocation by the taxpayer, incapacity of the taxpayer, death of the taxpayer, or withdrawal, death, or incapacity of the individual granted power of attorney authority.

d. Evaluation of documentation provided. The department will evaluate the IDR power of attorney form and any additional documentation to confirm authority. Authority to act before the department shall only cover those matters and time frames covered by the submitted documentation. The party claiming authority to act before the department on behalf of a taxpayer shall have the burden to prove, to the satisfaction of the department, the existence and extent of the claimed authority.

e. Revocation and withdrawal.

(1) Revocation by the taxpayer.

1. By written statement. By filing a statement of revocation with the department, a taxpayer may revoke authority granted by an IDR power of attorney form without authorizing a new representative. The statement of revocation must indicate that the authority of the previous representative is revoked and must be signed by the taxpayer. Also, the name and address of each representative whose authority is revoked must be listed (or a copy of the prior IDR power of attorney form must be attached). If the writing indicates that authorization should be revoked from “all” authorized representatives, this will apply to all representatives appointed via an IDR power of attorney form or an entity representative form.

2. By filing a new IDR power of attorney form. Filing a new IDR power of attorney form for a particular tax type(s) and tax period(s) automatically revokes a previously granted power of attorney authority for that tax type(s) and tax period(s). For a previously designated authorized representative to remain as the taxpayer’s authorized representative when a subsequent IDR power of attorney form is filed, the taxpayer must include the representative on the newly submitted IDR power of attorney form. This rule applies regardless of whether the power of attorney authority is authorized by an IDR power of attorney form or on a return as described in subrule 7.6(7). This subrule does not apply to entities appointed as authorized entity representatives under subrule 7.6(9).

(2) Withdrawal by the representative. By filing a statement with the department, a representative may withdraw from representation in a matter in which an IDR power of attorney form has been filed. The statement must be signed by the representative and must identify the name, identification number, and address of the taxpayer(s); the name, address and identification number of the representative withdrawing; and the matter(s) from which the representative is withdrawing. A representative may withdraw from multiple matters by including with the statement a list of all matters and taxpayers for which withdrawal is desired.

(3) Administrative revocation by the department. The department may administratively revoke a power of attorney or representative certification authority.

7.6(6) Representative certification; durable and general powers of attorney.

a. Individuals with the authority to act on behalf of a taxpayer, including pursuant to Iowa Code section 421.59(2) or chapter 633B, must file with the department a representative certification form prior to utilizing that authority with the department. Individuals authorized by an IDR power of attorney form are not required to file a representative certification form for themselves.

b. Contents of the representative certification form. The representative certification form must include the following information:

(1) Legal name and address of the taxpayer;

(2) Identification number of the taxpayer (i.e., SSN, FEIN, or any federal- or Iowa-issued tax identification number relative to matters covered by the IDR power of attorney form);

(3) Name, mailing address, and identification number (i.e., SSN, CAF number, or any federal- or Iowa-issued tax identification number) of the representative. If the identification number is left blank, a new IAN will be assigned to the representative;

(4) Proof of authority must be included with the form as follows:

1. Durable power of attorney or general power of attorney other than an IDR power of attorney form: a copy of the power of attorney document;

2. Guardian, conservator, or custodian appointed by a court: documentation as required in Iowa Code section 421.59(2)“a”;
3. Receiver appointed pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 680: a copy of the relevant court order(s);
4. Individual holding one of the following titles within a corporation, association, partnership, or other entity:
 - Officer/employee of corporation/association: affirmation of authority to act on behalf of the corporation or association on the form designated by the department;
 - Designated partner authorized to act on behalf of a partnership: affirmation of authority to act on behalf of the partnership on the form designated by the department;
 - Individual authorized to act on behalf of a limited liability company in tax matters: affirmation of authority to act on behalf of the limited liability company on the form designated by the department;
5. Licensed attorney appearing on behalf of the taxpayer or the taxpayer’s estate in a court proceeding: a copy of the filed notice of appearance in the relevant court proceeding;
6. Parent or guardian of minor taxpayer: a copy of the return signed by the parent or guardian or proof of status as parent or guardian, such as birth certificate or equivalent document, stating parent and minor taxpayer’s names, as well as the minor taxpayer’s date of birth. By submitting a copy of a return signed by the parent or guardian, the parent or guardian will only have authority in relation to that return. Without other authorization, such as a court-ordered guardianship, a parent’s right to access a minor taxpayer’s account will cease when the minor taxpayer reaches majority;
7. Governmental representative: affirmation of authority to act on behalf of the government entity on the form designated by the department;
8. Executor or personal representative: a copy of the will or court order appointing the individual;
9. Trustee: a copy of the certificate of trust, trust document, or court order appointing the representative;
10. Successor of a very small estate under Iowa Code section 633.356(2): affirmation of authority to act on behalf of the estate on the form designated by the department;

(5) A signature of the representative on the form, which must be a handwritten signature, a digital signature with a digital certificate, or a signature otherwise accepted by the IRS for purposes of third-party authorization;

(6) Any other information required by the department.

c. Evaluation of documentation provided. The department will evaluate documentation submitted in support of a representative certification to confirm authority. Authority to act before the department shall only cover those matters and time frames covered by the submitted documentation. The party claiming authority to act before the department on behalf of a taxpayer shall have the burden to prove, to the satisfaction of the department, the existence and extent of the claimed authority.

d. Revocation. A representative certification may be revoked in the following ways:

- (1) By the representative being withdrawn, following procedures in subparagraph 7.6(5)“e”(2).
- (2) By the taxpayer, following procedures in subparagraph 7.6(5)“e”(1).
- (3) By another representative. An authorized representative properly appointed by a representative certification or an IDR power of attorney form may notify the department that an authorized representative no longer has authority to act on behalf of the taxpayer by filing a statement of revocation with the department. The notification statement must indicate the taxpayer’s name, address, and identification, and that the authority of the former representative has ceased and must be signed by a current authorized representative. Also, the name and address of each representative who no longer has authority must be listed (or a copy of the prior representative certification form must be attached).

(4) Administrative revocation by the department, following procedures in paragraph 7.6(5)“e.”

7.6(7) *Returns that may be used to grant power of attorney authority.* An IDR power of attorney form is not needed for individuals who have been named as an authorized representative on a fiduciary return of income filed under Iowa Code section 422.14 or a tax return filed under Iowa Code chapter 450.

7.6(8) *Individuals authorized to represent themselves or others in a contested case proceeding.* The right to represent oneself or others in connection with any contested case proceeding before the department or administrative hearings division shall be limited to the following classes of individuals,

so long as such representation is not barred by another provision of law. Representatives must have a valid IDR power of attorney form or valid representative certification form on file with the department to represent others in a contested case proceeding. The right to represent a taxpayer before the department or the administrative hearings division does not confer the right to represent the taxpayer in a judicial proceeding.

a. Taxpayers who are natural persons representing themselves. One spouse may not represent the other in contested case proceedings, unless the spouse is acting in a capacity described in paragraphs 7.6(8) “b” to “j”;

b. Attorneys duly qualified and entitled to practice in the courts of the state of Iowa;

c. Attorneys who are entitled to practice before the highest court of record of any other state and who have complied with the requirements for admission to practice before the courts of the state of Iowa *pro hac vice*;

d. Accountants who are authorized, permitted, or licensed under Iowa Code chapter 542;

e. Duly authorized directors or officers of corporations representing the corporation of which they are respectively a director or officer. Attorneys who are acting in the capacity of a director or officer of a corporation must meet the requirements of paragraph 7.6(8) “b” or “c”;

f. Partners representing their partnership. Attorneys who are acting in the capacity of a partner must meet the requirements of paragraph 7.6(8) “b” or “c”;

g. Fiduciaries. Fiduciaries include trustees, receivers, guardians, personal representatives, administrators, and executors. For purposes of this rule, a fiduciary is considered to be the taxpayer and not a representative of the taxpayer;

h. Government officials authorized by law;

i. Enrolled agents, currently enrolled under 31 CFR §10.6 for practice before the Internal Revenue Service, representing a taxpayer in proceedings under division II of Iowa Code chapter 422; and

j. Conservators, guardians, or durable powers of attorney appointed to handle tax matters.

7.6(9) *Entities as authorized representatives.*

a. Appointment.

(1) A taxpayer may authorize an entity to act on its behalf in tax-related matters by following the procedures described in this subrule in a manner approved by the department. By appointing an authorized entity representative, the taxpayer consents to the authorized entity representative, and any individuals submitted to the department by the authorized entity representative, as described in paragraph 7.6(9) “c,” sending and receiving the taxpayer’s information to and from the department and taking any other action described in these rules. By appointing an authorized entity representative, the taxpayer understands that the authorized entity representative is solely responsible for maintaining an accurate list of individuals allowed to act on the taxpayer’s behalf. The taxpayer agrees that any improper disclosure or use of the taxpayer’s information by the entity or entity’s current or former employees, agents, or contractors shall solely be the responsibility of the entity and the entity’s employees, agents, or contractors. The department shall not be liable for any acts or omissions of the entity or the entity’s employees, agents, or contractors.

(2) The taxpayer’s consent must be in writing, in a form specified by the department, including a signature and date. The signature must be a handwritten signature, a digital signature with a digital certificate, or a signature otherwise accepted by the IRS for purposes of third-party authorization.

b. Department approval of authorized entity representatives.

(1) The department will review authorized entity representative appointments.

(2) The department has the authority to approve, deny, or remove third-party access to any entity or individual employee upon review.

c. Duties of the authorized entity representative.

(1) The authorized entity representative shall be responsible for managing access for individual employees that it authorizes to act on behalf of the taxpayer in a manner defined by the department. The authorized entity representative shall provide the department a single point of contact for matters involving the entity’s status as an approved entity representative.

(2) The authorized entity representative single point of contact must have a valid IA 2848 or representative certification form on file on behalf of the authorized entity representative.

(3) The authorized entity representative will provide information regarding each individual employee authorized to act on behalf of the taxpayer as determined by the department. This information shall be used to identify the individual employee when contacting the department. The authorized entity representative shall maintain with the department an accurate and up-to-date list of individual employees that the authorized entity representative has authorized to act on a taxpayer's behalf under this rule. The authorized entity representative shall remove any individuals from its list with the department as soon as an individual is no longer employed by the entity or is no longer authorized by the entity to act on behalf of a taxpayer. The authorized entity representative shall submit all information and changes to information to the department via GovConnectIowa.

(4) The authorized entity representative shall be responsible for the actions taken by its employees, agents, and contractors on behalf of the taxpayer.

(5) The authorized entity representative shall remain in good standing with the department.

d. Powers authorized. An authorized entity representative may be granted any or all of the powers described in subrule 7.6(2). The taxpayer may restrict the authorized entity representative as described therein and by tax type. If the tax type field is left blank, all tax types are included within the scope of the authorized entity representative's authority.

e. Contents of form. A valid IDR authorized entity representative form must contain the information specified in paragraph 7.6(5) "b."

f. Authorization period.

(1) An authorized entity representative may be used to authorize representation for an unlimited number of tax periods prior to or following the date on which the form is received by the department. If the tax period is left blank, all tax periods are included.

(2) At any time while the taxpayer has an effective authorized entity representative appointment filed with the department, the taxpayer consents to allowing the authorized entity representative and any individuals listed by the authorized entity representative, as described in paragraph 7.6(9) "c," to send and receive the taxpayer's information to and from the department and take any other action described in these rules.

(3) The authority granted by an IDR power of attorney form ceases to be effective upon revocation by the taxpayer, or withdrawal or dissolution of the authorized entity representative. It is the sole responsibility of the taxpayer to revoke an authorized entity representative.

g. Revocation and withdrawal.

(1) Revocation by the taxpayer. Such appointment may be revoked by the taxpayer at any time, via GovConnectIowa or in writing to the department. The revocation must include the name and identification number of the taxpayer, the name of the representative entity, an indication of the wish to withdraw, and the taxpayer's dated signature. If the revocation indicates that authorization should be revoked from "all" authorized representatives, this will apply to all representatives appointed via an IA 2848 or entity representative form.

(2) Withdrawal by the authorized entity representative. By filing a statement with the department, an authorized entity representative may withdraw from representation appointed under this subrule. The statement must be signed by the authorized entity representative single point of contact and must identify the name and address of the taxpayer(s) and the matter(s) from which the authorized entity representative is withdrawing. An authorized entity representative may withdraw from multiple matters by including with the statement a list of all matters and taxpayers for which withdrawal is desired. Such statement shall be signed by the authorized entity representative single point of contact.

(3) Administrative revocation by the department. The department may administratively revoke any entity representative authority.

[ARC 5532C, IAB 3/24/21, effective 4/28/21; ARC 6582C, IAB 10/5/22, effective 11/9/22; ARC 6988C, IAB 4/19/23, effective 5/24/23]