

193—13.12(17A,22) Availability of records.

13.12(1) General. Agency records are open for public inspection and copying unless otherwise provided by rule or law.

13.12(2) Confidential records. The following records may be withheld from public inspection. Records are listed by category, according to the legal basis for withholding them from public inspection.

a. Personal related information in confidential personnel records of board staff and board members. (Iowa Code section 22.7(11))

b. All information in complaint and investigation files maintained by the board for purposes of licensee discipline is confidential in accordance with Iowa Code section 272C.6(4), except that the information may be released to the licensee once a licensee disciplinary proceeding has been initiated by the filing of formal charges and a notice of hearing or those files the board can provide to the licensee before charges are filed pursuant to rules adopted under Iowa Code section 546.10(9). Unlicensed complaint files are open to the public.

c. The record of a disciplinary hearing which is closed to the public pursuant to Iowa Code section 272C.6(1) is confidential under Iowa Code section 21.5(4). However, in the event a record is transmitted to the district court pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.19(6) for purposes of judicial review, the record shall not be considered confidential unless the district court so orders. Unlicensed hearing files are open to the public.

d. Information relating to the examination results other than final score, except for information about the results of an examination which is given to the person who took the examination. (Iowa Code sections 542.17, 542B.32, 543B.52, 544A.27, and 544B.8)

e. Information relating to the contents of an examination for licensure. (Iowa Code sections 542.17, 542B.32, 543B.52, 544A.27, and 544B.8)

f. Minutes and tapes of closed meetings of the board. (Iowa Code section 21.5(4))

g. Information or records received from a restricted source and any other information or records made confidential by law, such as academic transcripts or substance abuse treatment information.

h. References for examination or licensure applicants. (Iowa Code section 22.7(18))

i. Records which constitute attorney work products or attorney-client communications or which are otherwise privileged pursuant to Iowa Code section 22.7, 272C.6(4), 622.10 or 622.11, state and federal rules of evidence or procedure, the Code of Professional Responsibility, and case law.

j. Identifying details in final orders, decisions and opinions to the extent required to prevent a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy or trade secrets under Iowa Code section 17A.3(1)“d.”

k. Those portions of agency staff manuals, instructions or other statements issued which set forth the criteria or guidelines to be used by agency staff in auditing, making inspections, or in selecting or handling cases, such as operational tactics or allowable tolerances or criteria for the defense, prosecution or settlement of cases, when disclosure of these statements would:

(1) Enable law violators to avoid detection;

(2) Facilitate disregard of requirements imposed by law; or

(3) Give a clearly improper advantage to persons who are in an adverse position to the board. (Iowa Code sections 17A.2 and 17A.3)

l. Email addresses of licensees when solicited for the purpose of mass communication. An email address may be open to the public when given as part of a specific, individual email correspondence.

13.12(3) Authority to release confidential records. The agency may have discretion to disclose some confidential records which are exempt from disclosure under Iowa Code section 22.7 or other law. Any person may request permission to inspect records withheld from inspection under a statute which authorizes limited or discretionary disclosure as provided in rule 193—13.4(17A,22). If the agency initially determines that it will release such records, the agency may where appropriate notify interested parties and withhold the records from inspection as provided in subrule 13.4(3).

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