

701—6.3(17A) Examination of records. Situations may occur that give rise to the need for state officials, other officers, agents or employees of the state, or other persons based on a court subpoena to review tax returns or information belonging to the department in order to fulfill duties and responsibilities or to assist in an investigation. However, there are guidelines that govern such reviews, which are as follows:

6.3(1) Upon the express written approval of the director of revenue or administrator of the compliance division, officers or employees of the state of Iowa may examine state tax returns and information belonging to the department to the extent required as part of their official duties and responsibilities. Written approval will be granted in those situations where the officers or employees of the state of Iowa have (1) statutory authority to obtain information from the department of revenue and (2) the information obtained is used for tax administration purposes. Where information is obtained from the department of revenue on a regular basis, the director of revenue may enter into a formal agreement with the state agency or state official who is requesting the information. The agreement will cover the conditions and procedures under which specific information will be released. The following persons do not need written approval from the director of revenue or the administrator of the compliance division to examine state information and returns:

1. Assistant attorneys general assigned to the department of revenue.
2. Local officials acting as representatives of the state in connection with the collection of taxes or in connection with legal proceedings relating to the enforcement of tax laws.
3. The child support recovery unit of the department of human services and other state agencies and subdivisions of the state that are set forth in Iowa Code section 422.17 as amended by 1999 Iowa Acts, chapter 152, section 1, to secure a taxpayer's name and address per the terms of an interagency agreement. (Also see Iowa Code section 252B.9)
4. Workforce development department per the terms of an interagency agreement.
5. The legislative services agency regarding sample individual income tax information to be used for statistical purposes. (Also see Iowa Code section 422.72(1).)
6. The auditor of state, to the extent that the information is necessary to complete the annual audit of the department as required by Iowa Code section 11.2. (Also see Iowa Code section 422.72(1).)

Tax information and returns will not be released to officers and employees of the state who do not meet the requirements set forth above. (See Letter Opinions, November 25, 1981, Richards to Bair, Director of Revenue, and March 4, 1982, Richards to Johnson, Auditor, and Bair, Director of Revenue.)

The director may disclose state tax information, including return information, to tax officials of another state or the United States government for tax administration purposes provided that a reciprocal agreement exists which has laws that are as strict as the laws of Iowa protecting the confidentiality of returns and information.

6.3(2) The director of revenue must provide state tax returns and return information in response to a subpoena issued by the court based on Iowa R. Crim. P. 2.5 commanding the appearance before the attorney general or an assistant attorney general if the subpoena is accompanied by affidavits from such person and from a sworn peace officer member of the department of public safety affirming that the information is necessary for the investigation of a felony violation of Iowa Code chapter 124, "Controlled Substances," or 706B, "Money Laundering." Affidavits accompanying the subpoenas and the information provided by the director of revenue must remain a confidential record and may only be disseminated to a prosecutor, peace officer involved in the investigation, or to the taxpayer who filed the information. In addition, the court in connection with the filing of criminal charges or institution of a forfeiture action may also receive such confidential information.

A person who knowingly files a false affidavit with the director to secure information or who divulges information received under this rule in any manner prohibited by this rule commits a serious misdemeanor.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 252B.9, 421.18, 421.19, 422.20, 422.72, and 452A.63.