

441—7.1(17A) Definitions.

“Administrative hearing” means a type of hearing that an appellant may elect in which the presiding officer reviews the written record only and makes a decision based on the facts available within the appeal file. An administrative hearing does not require an in-person or teleconference hearing. The final determination to establish whether an administrative hearing may be held will be made by the appeals section or the presiding officer.

“Administrative law judge” means an employee of the department of inspections and appeals who conducts appeal hearings.

“Agency” means the Iowa department of human services, including any of its local, institutional, or central administrative offices.

“Aggrieved person” means a person against whom the department has taken an adverse action. This includes a person who meets any of the conditions in rule 441—7.2(17A).

“Appeal” denotes a review and hearing request made by a person who is affected by a decision made by the agency or its designee. An appeal shall be considered a contested case within the meaning of Iowa Code chapter 17A.

“Appeals advisory committee” means a committee consisting of central office staff who represent the department in the screening of proposed decisions for the director.

“Appeals section” means the unit within the department of human services that receives appeal requests, certifies requests for hearing, and issues final appeal decisions.

“Appellant” denotes the person who claims or asserts a right or demand or the party who takes an appeal from a hearing to an Iowa district court.

“Attribution appeal” means an appeal to determine if additional resources can be allocated for the community spouse when the other spouse has entered a medical institution or is applying for home-and community-based waiver services. The result of the attribution appeal may affect Medicaid eligibility. An appellant may elect to have an attribution appeal held by administrative hearing.

“Authorized representative” means a person or organization designated by an appellant to act on the appellant’s behalf or who has legal authority to act on behalf of the appellant, such as a guardian or power of attorney.

“Bidder” means an individual or entity that submits a proposal in response to a competitive procurement issued by the department of human services.

“Contested case” means a proceeding defined by Iowa Code section 17A.2(5) and includes any matter defined as a “no factual dispute” contested case under Iowa Code section 17A.10A.

“Department” means the Iowa department of human services.

“Department of inspections and appeals” means the state agency that contracts with the department to conduct appeal hearings.

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

“Due process” denotes the right of a person affected by an agency decision to receive a notice of decision or notice of action and an opportunity to be heard at an appeal hearing and to present an effective defense.

“Electronic account” means a web-based account established by the department for an applicant or member for communication between the department and the applicant or member.

“Electronic case record” means an electronic file that includes all information collected and generated by the department regarding each individual’s Medicaid or healthy and well kids in Iowa eligibility and enrollment, including all documentation required for eligibility and any information collected or generated as part of a fair hearing process conducted by the department or through the exchange appeals process.

“Ex parte communication” means written, oral, or other forms of communication between a party to the appeal and the presiding officer while an appeal is pending when all parties were not given the opportunity to participate.

“Exchange” means an American health benefit exchange established pursuant to Section 1311 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111-148). This entity makes qualified health plans available to qualified individuals and qualified employers.

“First-level review” means a review process that must be exhausted through a managed care organization before an appeal hearing is granted. Once the first-level review process is complete, a notice of decision will be issued by the managed care organization and will identify further appeal rights, if applicable.

“FMAP-related” describes coverage groups whose eligibility criteria are derived in relation to the family medical assistance program, directed toward children and their parents or caretakers.

“Food assistance administrative disqualification hearing” means a type of hearing used to determine if an individual fraudulently received benefits for which the individual was not eligible. A presiding officer shall determine if the individual will be banned from participating in the food assistance program for a period of time.

“Group hearings” denotes an opportunity for two or more persons to present their case jointly when all have the same complaint against agency policy.

“Informal conference” means a type of meeting between the appellant and the appellant’s representative, unless precluded by federal law or state statute, and a representative of the department. The purpose of the informal conference is to provide information as to the reasons for the intended adverse action, to answer questions, to explain the basis for the adverse action, to provide an opportunity for the appellant to explain the appellant’s action or position, and to provide an opportunity for the appellant to examine the contents of the case record, including any electronic case record, plus all documents and records to be used by the department at the hearing in accordance with 441—Chapter 9.

“In person or face-to-face hearing” means an appeal hearing conducted by an administrative law judge who is physically present in the same location as the appellant.

“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.

“Local office” means the county, institution or district office of the department of human services.

“Managed care organization” or *“MCO”* means an entity that (1) is under contract with the department to provide services to Medicaid recipients and (2) meets the definition of “health maintenance organization” in Iowa Code section 514B.1.

“Party” means a party as defined in Iowa Code subsection 17A.2(8).

“Prehearing conference” means a type of meeting between the appellant and the appellant’s representative, unless precluded by federal law or state statute, a representative of the department and a presiding officer. The purpose of the prehearing conference is to discuss the appealed issue, to inquire as to the potential for voluntary settlement, to establish the hearing date, to establish the location of the hearing including whether the hearing will be by telephone or in person, and to discuss procedural matters relevant to the case.

“Presiding officer” means an administrative law judge employed by the department of inspections and appeals. The presiding officer may also be the department’s director or the director’s designee. The presiding officer has the authority to conduct appeal hearings and render proposed and final decisions.

“Presumption” denotes an inference as to the existence of a fact not known or drawn from facts that are known.

“PROMISE JOBS discrimination complaint” means any written complaint filed in accordance with the provisions of rule 441—7.8(17A) by a PROMISE JOBS participant or the participant’s representative which alleges that an adverse action was taken against the participant on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, physical or mental disability, or political belief.

“PROMISE JOBS displacement grievance” means any written complaint filed with a PROMISE JOBS contractee by regular employees or their representatives that alleges that the work assignment of an individual under the PROMISE JOBS program violates any of the prohibitions against displacement of regular workers described in rule 441—93.17(239B).

“Proposed decision” means the presiding officer’s recommended findings of fact, conclusions of law, and decision and order in contested cases where the department did not preside.

“Reconsideration” means a review process that must be exhausted before an appeal hearing is granted. Such review processes include, but are not limited to, a reconsideration request through:

1. The Iowa Medicaid enterprise (IME),
2. A division or bureau within the department,
3. The mental health and disability services commission,
4. A licensed health care professional as specified in 441—paragraph 9.9(1)“i,” or
5. Any division or bureau within the department, from a bidder in a competitive procurement bid process.

Once the reconsideration process is complete, a notice of decision or notice of action will be issued with appeal rights.

“Sent” means deposited in the mail with first-class postage or posted to an individual’s electronic account.

“SSI-related” describes medical assistance coverage groups whose eligibility criteria, except for income and resource limits, are derived from the supplemental security income (SSI) program for people who are aged, blind, or disabled.

“Teleconference hearing” means an appeal hearing conducted by an administrative law judge over the telephone.

“Timely notice period” is the time from the date a notice is sent to the effective date of action. That period of time shall be at least ten calendar days, except in the case of probable fraud of a beneficiary. When probable fraud exists, “timely notice period” shall be at least five calendar days from the date a notice is sent.

“Vendor” means a provider of health care under the medical assistance program or a provider of services under a service program.

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