

497—7.5 (17A,22) Requests for treatment of a government record as a confidential record and its withholding from examination by the board.

7.5(1) Board to maintain confidential status of government records. If, pursuant to the board's investigation of a complaint, the record of a government body comes into the board's possession, either pursuant to the government body's voluntary response to the board's request or in response to a board subpoena, and if the government body makes a claim that all or part of the record constitutes a confidential record under Iowa Code section 22.7 or other provision of law, the board shall maintain the confidential status of the record or part of the record until the claim is adjudicated as hereafter provided. If a person provides the board with a government record without the apparent authority of the lawful custodian, the board shall confirm the authenticity of the record with the government body and shall inquire of the government body if it makes claim that all or part of the record constitutes a confidential record under Iowa Code section 22.7 or other provision of law. If the government body makes claim that all or part of the record constitutes a confidential record, the board shall maintain the confidential status of the record or part of the record until the claim is adjudicated as hereafter provided.

7.5(2) Who may file request. Any person, including a government body, who would be aggrieved or adversely affected by disclosure of all or a part of a record to members of the public may file a request, as provided in this rule, for the record's treatment as a confidential record. Failure of a person to request confidential record treatment for all or part of a record, such as information obtained in the course of a board investigation or to achieve voluntary compliance with 2012 Iowa Acts, chapter 1115, does not preclude the board from treating the record as a confidential record. The information may become an open record once the matter is resolved or dismissed.

7.5(3) Form of request. A request for the treatment of a government record as a confidential record shall be in writing and shall be filed with the board custodian of the record. The request shall include the specific grounds justifying confidential record treatment for all or part of the record; the specific provision of law that authorizes such confidential record treatment; and the name, address, and telephone number of the person authorized to respond to any board action concerning the request. A person, including a government body, filing such a request shall attach a copy of the record in question. The material to which the request applies shall be physically separated from any materials to which the request does not apply. The request shall be attached to the materials to which it applies. Each page of the material to which the request applies shall be clearly marked confidential. If the original record is being submitted to the board by the person requesting confidentiality at the same time the request is filed, the person shall indicate conspicuously on the original record that all or portions of it are a confidential record. A request for treatment of all or portions of a record as a confidential record for a limited time period shall also specify the precise period of time for which such confidential record treatment is requested.

7.5(4) Failure to request confidentiality. If a person, including a government body, who has submitted business information to the board does not request confidential record treatment for all or part of that information, the board custodian of records containing that information may assume that the person who submitted the information has no objection to its disclosure.

7.5(5) Time. A board decision with respect to the confidentiality of all or parts of a record may be made when a request for the record's treatment as a confidential record is filed or when the board receives a request for access to the record, or when a complaint alleging a violation of Iowa Code chapter 22 is resolved by the board.

7.5(6) Effect of granted request. If a request for confidential record treatment is granted, or if action on such a request is deferred, a copy of the record from which the matter in question has been deleted and a copy of the board decision will be placed in the public file in lieu of the original record.

7.5(7) Board denial of request for confidential record treatment. If the board determines that the record of a government body which is claimed to be confidential in whole or in part is not entitled to confidential treatment under Iowa Code chapter 22 or under other applicable provisions of law or applicable precedent, the board may enter its decision denying the request for confidential record treatment. If the record is the subject of a pending complaint, the board may withhold an order addressing confidentiality until the complaint is resolved. Upon resolution of the complaint, the board

may enter an order concluding the record is confidential, or directing the government body to release the record, or any part thereof which the board determines not to be entitled to confidential record treatment.

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