

**591—17.24(17A) Ex parte communication.**

**17.24(1)** Prohibited communications. Following issuance of the notice of hearing, there shall be no communication, directly or indirectly, between any party or representative of any party in connection with any issue of fact or law in a case and any person assigned to render a proposed or final decision or to make findings of fact or conclusions of law except upon notice and opportunity for all parties to participate. This does not prohibit persons jointly assigned such tasks from communicating with each other. Nothing in this provision is intended to preclude persons assigned to render a proposed or final decision in a contested case or to make findings of fact or conclusions of law in such a case from seeking the advice or help of persons other than those with a personal interest in, or those engaged in personally investigating, prosecuting, or advocating in, either the case under consideration or a pending factually related case involving the same parties as long as that advice or help does not violate Iowa Code section 17A.12(8).

**17.24(2)** Disclosure of prohibited communications. Any person who receives a communication prohibited by subrule 17.24(1) shall disclose that communication to all parties. A copy of any prohibited written communication or a summary of any prohibited oral communication shall be submitted for inclusion in the record.

**17.24(3)** The presiding officer or the agency may impose appropriate sanctions for violations of this rule. Possible sanctions include a decision against the offending party; censure, suspension, or revocation of the privilege to practice before the agency; and censure, suspension, dismissal, or other disciplinary action against agency personnel.