

650—51.19 (17A) Settlements.

51.19(1) A contested case may be resolved by informal settlement. Settlement negotiations may be initiated at any stage of a contested case by the executive director, prosecuting attorney, the respondent, the board or its designee. Neither the board nor the respondent is required to participate in the informal settlement process. The executive director and chairperson of the board, or the chairperson's designee(s), shall have authority to negotiate on behalf of the board.

51.19(2) The full board shall not be involved in negotiation until a written proposed settlement is submitted to the full board for approval, unless both parties waive this prohibition.

51.19(3) Consent to negotiation by the respondent during informal settlement negotiation constitutes a waiver of notice and opportunity to be heard pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.17. Thereafter, the prosecuting attorney is authorized to discuss informal settlement with the board chairperson or designee(s).

51.19(4) Negotiations for a proposed settlement shall be completed at least ten days prior to the hearing date set by the order for hearing. However, after consultation with the board chairperson or designee, the executive director shall have the power to grant additional time for continued negotiations in instances where additional time will likely lead to a satisfactory settlement prior to the hearing date.

51.19(5) No proposed settlement shall be presented to the board for approval until it is in final, written form signed by the respondent.

51.19(6) All proposed settlements are subject to approval of a majority of the full board. If the board fails to approve a proposed settlement, it shall be of no force or effect to either party. The proposed settlement shall be binding if approved by the board and signed by both the chairperson or the chairperson's designee and the respondent.

51.19(7) A board member who participates in the negotiation of a proposed settlement is not disqualified from participating in the adjudication of the contested case.

51.19(8) Consent to settlement negotiations by the respondent constitutes a waiver of any objection to the participation in the adjudication of the contested case of any board member who participated in the review of a settlement agreement which was not approved by the board.

51.19(9) A provision for payment of a quarterly fee as stated in 650—Chapter 15 or such other fees as specified by the board may be included in the settlement agreement.