

721—21.354 (53) Review process. A reviewer shall remove the contents from only one return carrier envelope at a time.

21.354(1) *Return carrier envelopes preserved.* The return carrier envelopes shall be stored in a manner that will facilitate their retrieval, if necessary. They shall be stored for 22 months for federal elections and 6 months for local elections.

21.354(2) *Examination of affidavit envelope.* The reviewer shall make sure that:

- a. The affidavit envelope is sealed, apparently with the ballot inside.
- b. The affidavit envelope has not been opened and resealed.
- c. The affidavit includes all of the following:
 - (1) A signature.
 - (2) For primary elections only, political party affiliation.

21.354(3) *No defects or deficiencies.* If the reviewer finds no defects or deficiencies that would cause the absentee and special voters precinct board to reject the ballot, the reviewer shall put the affidavit envelope into a group of envelopes to be retained in the secure storage area with others that require no further attention until they are delivered to the absentee and special voters precinct board.

21.354(4) *Defective and deficient affidavits.* The commissioner shall contact the voter if the reviewer finds any of the following flaws in the affidavit or affidavit envelope:

a. The commissioner shall contact the voter immediately if the affidavit envelope is defective. An affidavit envelope is defective if:

- (1) The absentee ballot is not enclosed in the affidavit envelope.
- (2) The affidavit envelope is not sealed.
- (3) The affidavit envelope has been opened and resealed.
- (4) The voter submits a change of address in a new precinct after returning a voted absentee ballot.

b. The commissioner shall contact the voter within 24 hours if the affidavit is deficient. A deficient affidavit lacks:

- (1) The signature of the voter.
- (2) For primary elections only, political party affiliation.

c. If an affidavit envelope has flaws that are included in both paragraphs “a” and “b,” the commissioner shall follow the process in paragraph “a.”

21.354(5) *Defective and deficient affidavits stored separately.* The commissioner shall store the defective and deficient affidavit envelopes separately from other returned absentee ballot affidavit envelopes.

a. Deficient affidavit envelopes requiring voter correction must be available for retrieval when the voter comes to make corrections.

b. Defective affidavit envelopes must be attached to the original application, replacement application and replacement ballot for review by the absentee and special voters precinct board.