

721—21.355 (53) Notice to voter. When the commissioner finds a deficiency in an absentee ballot affidavit or finds a defective affidavit envelope, the commissioner shall notify the voter in writing and, if possible, by telephone and by E-mail. The commissioner shall keep a separate checklist for each voter showing the reasons for which the voter was contacted and the methods used to contact the voter.

21.355(1) Notice to voter—deficient ballot affidavit. Within 24 hours after receipt of an absentee ballot with a deficient affidavit, the commissioner shall send a notice to the voter at the address where the voter is registered to vote, as well as to the address where the ballot was sent, if it is a different address. The notice shall include:

a. Reason for deficiency (lack of signature or, for primary elections only, political party affiliation).

b. The voter's options for correcting the affidavit as follows:

- (1) Completing the affidavit at the commissioner's office by 5 p.m. the day before the election;
- (2) Treating the affidavit as defective and completing the process of applying for a replacement ballot pursuant to Iowa Code section 53.18; or
- (3) Casting a provisional ballot at the polls on election day.

c. Address of commissioner's office, business hours and contact information.

21.355(2) Notice to voter—defective ballot affidavit. Immediately after determining that an absentee ballot affidavit envelope is defective, the commissioner shall send a notice to the voter at the address where the voter is registered to vote, as well as to the address where the ballot was sent, if it is a different address. The notice shall include the following information:

a. Reason for defect.

b. The voter's options for correcting the defect as follows:

- (1) Applying for a replacement ballot; or
- (2) Casting a provisional ballot at the polls on election day.

c. Process for applying for a replacement ballot.

d. Address of commissioner's office, business hours and contact information.

21.355(3) Telephone contact. If the voter has provided a telephone number, either on the absentee ballot application or on the voter's registration record, the commissioner shall also attempt to contact the voter by telephone. The commissioner shall keep a written record of the telephone conversation. The written record shall include the following information:

a. Name of the person making the call.

b. Date and time of the call.

c. If a person answered the telephone, the name of that person.

21.355(4) E-mail contact. If the voter has provided an E-mail address, either on the absentee ballot application or on the voter's registration record, the commissioner shall also attempt to contact the voter by E-mail. The E-mail message shall be the same message that was mailed to the voter. A copy of the E-mail message shall be attached to the checklist.

Rules 721—21.351(53) through 721—21.355(53) are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 53.18 and 53.25 as amended by 2009 Iowa Acts, House File 475.