

193—7.25 (17A,272C) Hearings. The presiding officer shall be in control of the proceedings and shall have the authority to administer oaths and to admit or exclude testimony or other evidence and shall rule on all motions and objections. The board may request that an administrative law judge assist the board by performing any of these functions. Parties have the right to participate or to be represented in all hearings. Any party may be represented by an attorney at the party's expense.

7.25(1) Examination of witnesses. All witnesses shall be sworn or affirmed by the presiding officer or the court reporter, and shall be subject to cross-examination. Board members and the administrative law judge have the right to examine witnesses at any stage of a witness's testimony. The presiding officer may limit questioning in a manner consistent with law.

7.25(2) Public hearing. The hearing shall be open to the public unless a licensee or licensee's attorney requests in writing that a licensee disciplinary hearing be closed to the public. At the request of a party or on the presiding officer's own motion, the presiding officer may issue a protective order to protect all or a part of a record or information which is privileged or confidential by law.

7.25(3) Record of proceedings. Oral proceedings shall be recorded either by mechanical or electronic means or by certified shorthand reporters. Oral proceedings or any part thereof shall be transcribed at the request of any party with the expense of the transcription charged to the requesting party. The recording or stenographic notes of oral proceedings or the transcription shall be filed with and maintained by the board for at least five years from the date of decision.

7.25(4) Order of proceedings. Before testimony is presented, the record shall show the identities of any board members present, the identity of the administrative law judge, the identities of the primary parties and their representatives, and the fact that all testimony is being recorded. In contested cases initiated by the board, such as licensee discipline, hearings shall generally be conducted in the following order, subject to modification at the discretion of the board:

a. The presiding officer or designated person may read a summary of the charges and answers thereto and other responsive pleadings filed by the respondent prior to the hearing.

b. The assistant attorney general representing the state interest before the board shall make a brief opening statement which may include a summary of charges and the names of any witnesses and documents to support such charges.

c. Each respondent shall be offered the opportunity to make an opening statement, including the names of any witnesses the respondent(s) desires to call in defense. A respondent may elect to make the opening statement just prior to the presentation of evidence by the respondent(s).

d. The presentation of evidence on behalf of the state.

e. The presentation of evidence on behalf of the respondent(s).

f. Rebuttal evidence on behalf of the state, if any.

g. Rebuttal evidence on behalf of the respondent(s), if any.

h. Closing arguments first on behalf of the state, then on behalf of the respondent(s), and then on behalf of the state, if any.

The order of proceedings shall be tailored to the nature of the contested case. In license reinstatement hearings, for example, the respondent will generally present evidence first because the respondent is obligated to present evidence in support of the respondent's application for reinstatement pursuant to rule 193—7.38(17A,272C). In license denial hearings, the state will generally first establish the basis for the board's denial of licensure, but thereafter the applicant has the burden of establishing the conditions for licensure pursuant to rule 193—7.39(546,272C).

7.25(5) Decorum. The presiding officer shall maintain the decorum of the hearing and may refuse to admit or may expel anyone whose conduct is disorderly.

7.25(6) Immunity. The presiding officer shall have authority to grant immunity from disciplinary action to a witness, as provided by Iowa Code section 272C.6(3), but only upon the unanimous vote of all members of the board hearing the case. The official record of the hearing shall include the reasons for granting the immunity.

7.25(7) *Sequestering witnesses.* The presiding officer, on the officer's own motion or upon the request of a party, may sequester witnesses.

7.25(8) *Witness representation.* Witnesses are entitled to be represented by an attorney at their own expense. In a closed hearing, the attorney may be present only when the client testifies. The attorney may assert legal privileges personal to the client, but may not make other objections. The attorney may only ask questions of the client to prevent a misstatement from entering the record.

7.25(9) *Depositions.* Depositions may be used at hearing to the extent permitted by Iowa Rule of Civil Procedure 1.704.

7.25(10) *Witness fees.* The parties in a contested case shall be responsible for any witness fees and expenses incurred by witnesses appearing at the contested case hearing, unless otherwise specified or allocated in an order. The costs for lay witnesses shall be determined in accordance with Iowa Code section 622.69. The costs for expert witnesses shall be determined in accordance with Iowa Code section 622.72. Witnesses are entitled to reimbursement for mileage and may be entitled to reimbursement for meals and lodging, as incurred.

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