

481—52.7 (235E) Interviews, examination of evidence, and investigation of dependent adult abuse allegations.

52.7(1) *Entering and examining evidence at a facility or program.* An inspector of the department may enter any facility or program without a warrant and may examine all records and items pertaining to residents, employees, former employees, and the alleged dependent adult abuser and any other records and items necessary to ensure the integrity of the investigation unless the record or item is protected by some other legal privilege.

52.7(2) *Interviews.*

a. An inspector of the department may contact or interview any resident, employee, former employee, or any other person who might have knowledge about the alleged dependent adult abuse.

b. An alleged dependent adult abuser may request to have an attorney present at the alleged dependent adult abuser's expense at any time during the interview, but the request may not unreasonably delay the investigation. An employee organization representative or union representative may observe an investigative interview conducted by the department of an alleged dependent adult abuser if all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The alleged dependent adult abuser is part of a bargaining unit or employee organization that is party to a collective bargaining agreement under Iowa Code chapter 20 or any other applicable state or federal law.

(2) The alleged dependent adult abuser requests the presence of a union representative or employee organization representative.

(3) The representative maintains the confidentiality of all information from the interview subject to the penalties provided in Iowa Code section 235B.12 if such confidentiality is breached.

(4) The purpose of the interview is a civil administrative dependent adult abuse investigation under applicable law.

52.7(3) *Photographs of victim, vicinity and related matters.* An inspector may take or cause to be taken photographs of the dependent adult abuse victim and the vicinity involved. The department shall obtain consent from the dependent adult abuse victim or guardian or other person with a power of attorney over the dependent adult abuse victim prior to taking photographs of the dependent adult abuse victim.

52.7(4) *Evaluating information.* An inspector shall consider the information as reported, other known or discovered information, and any information gathered as a result of the inspector's contact with collateral sources, including prior abuse allegations and disciplinary actions.