

**441—7.3(17A) Presiding officer.** Appeal hearings shall be conducted by a presiding officer appointed by the department of inspections and appeals pursuant to Iowa Code section 10A.801. The presiding officer shall not be connected in any way with the previous actions or decisions on which the appeal is made. Nor shall the presiding officer be subject to the authority, direction, or discretion of any person who has prosecuted or advocated in connection with that case, the specific controversy underlying that case, or any pending factually related contested case or controversy involving the same parties.