

**871—26.5(17A,96) Notice of hearing.**

**26.5(1)** Notices of hearing shall be sent to all parties at their last-known address at least ten days in advance of the hearing date by first-class mail, email, or other electronic means. Notices of hearing shall contain the information required by Iowa Code section 17A.12(2) and any additional information required by statute or rule.

**26.5(2)** Unless otherwise precluded, the parties in a contested case may waive any provision of this chapter pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.10.

**26.5(3)** A hearing will be promptly scheduled and conducted by telephone unless a party requests that it be held in person. In-person hearings will be located at the Wallace State Office Building or at a site designated by UIAB. The party requesting an in-person hearing will ordinarily be required to travel the greater distance if all parties are not located near the same hearing site. A request for an in-person hearing may be denied if factors such as the distance between the parties, the number of parties or the health of any party make it impractical or impossible to conduct a fair hearing in person. An in-person hearing may be scheduled at the discretion of the presiding officer to whom the contested case is assigned or by the manager or chief administrative law judge of the appeals bureau. At the discretion of the presiding officer, witnesses or representatives may be allowed to participate via telephone in an in-person hearing.

**26.5(4)** Whenever it appears that other parties should be joined to dispose of all issues in a contested case, the presiding officer may so order and may grant such continuance to hold such additional proceedings upon notice to all parties.

**26.5(5)** Any number of appeals involving similar issues of law or fact may be consolidated for hearing so long as no substantial rights of any party would be prejudiced by so doing.

[ARC 8688C, IAB 12/25/24, effective 1/29/25]