

**701—10.7(421) Waiver of penalty—definitions.** A penalty, if assessed, shall be waived by the department upon a showing of the circumstances stated below.

**10.7(1)** For purposes of these rules, the following definitions apply:

*“Act of God”* means an unusual and extraordinary manifestation of nature which could not reasonably be anticipated or foreseen and cannot be prevented by human care, skill, or foresight. There is a rebuttable presumption that an “act of God” that precedes the due date of the return or form by 30 days is not an act of God for purposes of an exception to penalty.

*“Immediate family”* includes the spouse, children, or parents of the taxpayer. There is a rebuttable presumption that relatives of the taxpayer beyond the relation of spouse, children, or parents of the taxpayer are not within the taxpayer’s immediate family for purposes of the waiver exceptions.

*“Sanctioned self-audit program”* means an audit performed by the taxpayer with forms provided by the department as a result of contact by the department to the taxpayer prior to voluntary filing or payment of the tax. Filing voluntarily without contact by the department does not constitute a sanctioned self-audit.

*“Serious, long-term illness or hospitalization”* means an illness or hospitalization, documented by written evidence, which precedes the due date of the return or form by no later than 30 days and continues through the due date of the return or form and interferes with the timely filing of the return or form. There is a rebuttable presumption that an illness or hospitalization that precedes the due date of the return or form by more than 30 days is not an illness or hospitalization for purposes of an exception to penalty. The taxpayer will be provided an automatic extension of 30 days from the date the return or form is originally due or the termination of the serious, long-term illness or hospitalization whichever is later without incurring penalty. The taxpayer has the burden of proof on whether or not a serious, long-term illness or hospitalization has occurred.

*“Substantial authority”* means the weight of authorities for the tax treatment of an item is substantial in relation to the weight of authorities supporting contrary positions.

In determining whether there is substantial authority, only the following will be considered authority: applicable provisions of Iowa statutes; the Internal Revenue Code; Iowa administrative rules construing those statutes; court cases; administrative rulings; legal periodicals; department newsletters and tax return and deposit form instruction booklets; tax treaties and regulations; and legislative intent as reflected in committee reports.

Conclusions reached in treaties, legal opinions rendered by other tax professionals, descriptions of statutes prepared by legislative staff, legal counsel memoranda, and proposed rules and regulations are not authority.

There is substantial authority for the tax treatment of an item if there is substantial authority at the time the return containing the item is due to be filed or there was substantial authority on the last day of the taxable year to which the return relates.

The taxpayer must notify the department at the time the return, deposit form, or payment is originally due of the substantial authority the taxpayer is relying upon for not filing the return or deposit form or paying the tax due.

**10.7(2)** Reserved.