

IOWA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY COUNCIL
CAMP DODGE
P.O. BOX 130
JOHNSTON, IOWA 50131-0130

<p>REQUEST FOR WAIVER IN THE MATTER OF:</p> <p>BLAKE JONES,</p> <p>Petitioner.</p>	<p>ORDER RE: WAIVER REQUEST</p>
---	--

The Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Council (“Council”) received a waiver request pursuant to 501 Iowa Administrative Code 16.5 from Petitioner. The Petitioner requested waiver of 501 Iowa Administrative Code rule 4.2(1), which states in part:

The following are minimum experience and training requirements that an instructor (general) must meet in order to become certified:

a. A minimum of three years’ certified experience (peace officer, jailer or public safety telecommunicator) with a majority portion of this experience in the subject area to be instructed...

The Petitioner was pro se. The Council has authority under 501 Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 16 to initiate waiver proceedings upon application. The matter was heard on February 5, 2026. Notice that the matter was set for consideration was provided to Petitioner.

FACTS

Petitioner was certified as a law enforcement officer on August 18, 2023 and a reserve peace officer on March 31, 2022. He would like to serve as a precision driving instructor, but does not yet have three years of certified experience as a law enforcement officer. Petitioner’s certification was suspended by the terms of a disciplinary order from January 13 to October 14, 2024, so he has about 8 ½ months of certified experience as of the date of this Order.

Petitioner is a member of a 16-person law enforcement agency with 2 current precision driving instructors. He indicated the agency is anticipating a “permanent absence” from one of those instructors in the coming year. Petitioner has ten years of experience as a driving instructor in the military and was awarded the Driver and Mechanic Badge. He argues holding ILEA instructor status will ensure he “remain[s] properly trained and prepared to meet professional expectations.”

The Petitioner seeks a waiver of 501 Iowa Administrative Code rule 4.2(1)(a) so he may serve as a precision driving instructor.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Pursuant to 501 Iowa Administrative Code 16.3, the Council must find by clear and convincing evidence:

1. The application of the rule would impose an undue hardship on the person for whom the waiver is requested;
2. The waiver from the requirements of the rule in the specific case would not prejudice the substantial legal rights of any person;
3. The provisions of the rule subject to the petition for a waiver are not specifically mandated by statute or another provision of law; and
4. Substantially equal protection of public health, safety, and welfare will be afforded by a means other than that prescribed in the particular rule for which the waiver is requested.

The Council must also determine the length of the waiver unless a specified time period is unrealistic. 501 Iowa Admin. Code 16.9(6).

APPLICATION OF LAW

The Council has considered all relevant information and applied all applicable law. The Council finds that the Petitioner met not his burden as outlined above.

First, Petitioner has not identified any specialized training and experience specific to law enforcement vehicles and his department currently has two other officers certified as precision driving instructors who can ensure he remains properly trained and prepared to meet his professional expectations with respect to precision driving. The Council finds application of the rule given these specific circumstances does not constitute an undue hardship.

Second, the Council finds that under these circumstances granting a waiver would prejudice the substantial legal rights of other similarly situated officers.

Third, the instructor experience requirement is not mandated by statute or another non-waivable provision of law.

Finally, Petitioner the Council finds the public health, safety, and welfare will not be adequately protected by a means other than that prescribed by the instructor experience rule, especially given the Petitioner's recent disciplinary order.

ORDER

THEREFORE, the Petitioner's request for waiver of 501 Iowa Administrative Code 4.2(1)(a) is denied.

Dated this 5th day of February 2026.



Ricardo Martinez II, Chair

Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Council

Copy to:
Blake Jones

Appeal Rights

Please see Iowa Admin. Code 501-16.15 and Iowa Code section 17A.19 for your appeal rights.
Any appeal must be filed within 30 days from the date of the Order.