

## **Motor Vehicle Division Informational Memo # 21-01**

### ***Autism and Hard of Hearing Indicator Administrative Rule Updates***

**DATE:** January 4, 2021

**FROM:** Sara Siedsma, Compliance Officer, MVD

**TO:** All Driver and Identification Services staff, Iowa County Treasurers and County Treasurer's staff  
the issue driver's licenses and non-operator's identification cards

#### **SUBJECT**

This informational memo explains an update to administrative rule chapters 761—605, License Issuance and 761—630, Non-Operator's Identification.

#### **SUMMARY**

The updates to these rule chapters align with changes made to Iowa Code sections 321.189 and 321.190 during the 2020 legislative session. The legislation allows a person to add an indicator to the person's driver's license or nonoperator's identification card indicating the person's autism status. The legislation also directed all administrative rules to be updated to reflect the term "hard of hearing" rather than the term "hearing impaired." The autism indicator is a new indicator that can be added to the person's driver's license or nonoperator's identification card at the person's request. The hard of hearing indicator is not new but was renamed to reflect current terminology.

**The administrative rule amendments are effective January 6, 2021.**

#### **LINK TO ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/aco/arc/5302C.pdf>

#### **CURRENT**

Prior to the legislative change, we did not offer the ability for a customer to add an indicator to their driver's license or nonoperator's identification card indicating their autism status, and the previous indicator for a hard of hearing customer appeared on the credential as "hearing impaired."

You may wish to review the previous informational memos (IM 20-19 and IM 20-21) we issued when the 2020 legislation became effective for more information about the background of the legislation.

For internal DOT employees, you may find IM 20-19 and IM 20-21 in the W drive at the address below:

*W:\MotorVehicle\Policy & Communications\Memorandums\Memos\Policy Memos*

For County Treasurers and staff, you may find IM 20-19 and IM 20-21 at the link to the county treasurer's manual below:

<https://iowadot.gov/mvd/ctmanual/memos/IM-20-19.pdf>

<https://iowadot.gov/mvd/ctmanual/memos/IM-20-21.pdf>

**NEW**

As of January 6, 2021, the rules will align with Iowa Code sections 321.189 and 321.190 and our current processes for allowing a customer add an autism or hard of hearing indicator to their driver's license or nonoperator's identification card.

**BUSINESS IMPACT**

This directive does not impact the way that DIS operates as we have already updated our processes and programming to implement both of these indicators, rather this directive is just informing you that the administrative rules have now been updated.