

**RCW 82.38.275 Investigatory power.** The department may initiate and conduct investigations as may be reasonably necessary to establish the existence of any alleged violations of or noncompliance with the provisions of this chapter or any rules or regulations issued hereunder.

For the purpose of any investigation or proceeding under this chapter, the director or any officer designated by him or her may administer oaths and affirmations, subpoena witnesses, compel their attendance, take evidence, and require the production of any books, papers, correspondence, memoranda, agreements, or other documents or records which the director deems relevant or material to the inquiry.

In case of contumacy by or refusal to obey a subpoena issued to, any person, any court of competent jurisdiction upon application by the director, may issue to that person an order requiring him or her to appear before the director, or the officer designated by him or her to produce testimony or other evidence touching the matter under investigation or in question. The failure to obey an order of the court may be punishable by contempt. [2013 c 23 s 333; 1979 c 40 s 20.]