

RCW 48.05A.040 Documents, materials, or other ORSA-related information considered confidential and privileged—Exceptions—Permitted uses.

(1) Documents, materials, or other information, including the ORSA summary report, in the possession or control of the commissioner that are obtained by, created by, or disclosed to the commissioner or any other person under this chapter, is recognized by this state as being proprietary and to contain trade secrets. All such documents, materials, or other information is confidential by law and privileged, is not subject to chapter 42.56 RCW, is not subject to subpoena, and is not subject to discovery or admissible in evidence in any private civil action. However, the commissioner is authorized to use the documents, materials, or other information in the furtherance of any regulatory or legal action brought as a part of the commissioner's official duties. The commissioner may not otherwise make the documents, materials, or other information public without the prior written consent of the insurer.

(2) Neither the commissioner nor any person who received documents, materials, or other ORSA-related information, through examination or otherwise, while acting under the authority of the commissioner or with whom such documents, materials, or other information are [is] shared pursuant to this chapter, is permitted or required to testify in any private civil action concerning any confidential documents, materials, or information subject to subsection (1) of this section.

(3) In order to assist in the performance of the commissioner's regulatory duties, the commissioner:

(a) May share documents, materials, or other ORSA-related information, including the confidential and privileged documents, materials, or information subject to subsection (1) of this section, including proprietary and trade secret documents and materials with other state, federal, and international regulatory agencies, including members of any supervisory college recognized by the national association of insurance commissioners, with the national association of insurance commissioners, and with any third-party consultants designated by the commissioner, provided that the recipient agrees in writing to maintain the confidentiality and privileged status of the ORSA-related documents, materials, or other information and has verified in writing the legal authority to maintain confidentiality;

(b) May receive documents, materials, or ORSA-related information, including otherwise confidential and privileged documents, materials, or information, including proprietary and trade secret information or documents, from regulatory officials of other foreign or domestic jurisdictions, including members of any supervisory college recognized by the national association of insurance commissioners, from the national association of insurance commissioners, and must maintain as confidential or privileged any document, material, or information received with notice or the understanding that it is confidential or privileged under the laws of the jurisdiction that is the source of the document, material, or information;

(c) Shall enter into written agreements with the national association of insurance commissioners or a third-party consultant governing sharing and use of information provided pursuant to this chapter, consistent with this subsection that shall:

(i) Specify procedures and protocols regarding the confidentiality and security of information shared with the national

association of insurance commissioners or third-party consultant pursuant to this chapter, including procedures and protocols for sharing by the national association of insurance commissioners with other state regulators from states in which the insurance group has domiciled insurers. The agreement must provide that the recipient agrees in writing to maintain the confidentiality and privileged status of the ORSA-related documents, materials, or other information and has verified in writing the legal authority to maintain confidentiality;

(ii) Specify that ownership of information shared with the national association of insurance commissioners or third-party consultants pursuant to this chapter remains with the commissioner and the national association of insurance commissioners' or a third-party consultant's use of the information is subject to the direction of the commissioner;

(iii) Prohibit the national association of insurance commissioners or third-party consultant from storing the information shared pursuant to this chapter in a permanent database after the underlying analysis is completed;

(iv) Require prompt notice to be given to an insurer whose confidential information in the possession of the national association of insurance commissioners or a third-party consultant pursuant to this chapter is subject to a request or subpoena to the national association of insurance commissioners or a third-party consultant for disclosure or production;

(v) Require the national association of insurance commissioners or a third-party consultant to consent to intervention by an insurer in any judicial or administrative action in which the national association of insurance commissioners or a third-party consultant may be required to disclose confidential information about the insurer shared with the national association of insurance commissioners or a third-party consultant pursuant to this chapter; and

(vi) In the case of an agreement involving a third-party consultant, provide the insurer's written consent.

(4) The sharing of information by the commissioner pursuant to this chapter does not constitute a delegation of regulatory authority or rule making, and the commissioner is solely responsible for the administration, execution, and enforcement of the provisions of this chapter.

(5) A waiver of any applicable privilege or claim of confidentiality in the documents, materials, or information does not occur as a result of disclosure to the commissioner under this section or as a result of sharing as authorized in this chapter.

(6) Documents, materials, or other information in the possession or control of the national association of insurance commissioners or a third-party consultant pursuant to this chapter are [is] confidential by law and privileged, are [is] not subject to chapter 42.56 RCW, are [is] not subject to subpoena, and are [is] not subject to discovery or admissible in evidence in any private civil action. [2015 c 17 s 8.]