

**WAC 468-600-600 Public records and public disclosure.** (1) Upon written request and within the time required under chapter 42.56 RCW, the department shall review such requests, process and provide those records that are not otherwise exempt from disclosure. The department may charge fees as allowed by state law.

(2) On the department's receipt of a request pursuant to chapter 42.56 RCW, for the disclosure of records or information that have been submitted to the department by a proposer under the program authorized by chapter 47.29 RCW, the department will notify the proposer of the request and provide the proposer a reasonable opportunity to demonstrate that all or part of the requested records or information are exempt from disclosure under applicable law recognizing the confidentiality of public records and information. In determining whether the information or records are exempt from disclosure, the department will consider the evidence and objections to disclosure presented by the proposer, but as custodian of the records or information, the department must make the initial determination of the records that may be withheld from disclosure.

(3) An affected proposer who seeks to demonstrate that public records pertaining to it are exempt from disclosure must respond to the department with its evidence and objections within four working days of the department's issuance of notice of the request to the proposer. After considering the proposer's evidence and objections, the department will inform the proposer of its disclosure decision, giving the proposer no fewer than three working days in which to institute appropriate proceedings in its own behalf to protect the proposer's interests in preventing the disclosure or maintaining the confidentiality of the records or information. The proposer shall be exclusively responsible for all costs, expenses and attorney fees incurred in taking any action to prevent the disclosure of information or records under this section. The department shall not make a disclosure of records or information while an action by the proposer to enjoin disclosure thereof is pending.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 47.29.030. WSR 07-04-095, § 468-600-600, filed 2/6/07, effective 3/9/07.]