

**WAC 246-341-0302 Agency licensure and certification—Exemptions and alternative means or methods.** The department may grant an exemption or approve alternative means or methods of compliance from any part of this chapter so long as it does not violate an existing state or federal statute or regulation, or tribal law.

(1) An agency can request an exemption or alternative means or methods of compliance by submitting a written request to the department that includes:

(a) The specific section or sections of rules for which the exemption or alternative means or methods of compliance is requested;

(b) An explanation of the circumstances involved;

(c) A proposed alternative that would ensure the safety, health, and treatment of clients meeting the intent of the rule; and

(d) Any supporting research or other documentation, as applicable.

(2) The department shall approve or deny an exemption or alternative means or methods request in writing and the agency shall keep a copy of the decision for as long as the approval for exemption or alternative means or methods is in place.

(3) Appeal rights under WAC 246-341-0370 do not apply to exemption or alternative means or methods request decisions.

(4) The department may consider granting exemptions to a section or sections of this chapter during a governor declared state of emergency to ensure continued access to behavioral health treatment.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 71.24.037, 71.05.560, 71.34.380, 18.205.160, 71.24.037 and chapters 71.05, 71.24, and 71.34 RCW. WSR 21-12-042, § 246-341-0302, filed 5/25/21, effective 7/1/21.]