

**WAC 174-123-420 Evidence.** The introduction and consideration of evidence during the hearing is subject to the following procedures and restrictions:

(1) **Relevance:** The hearing chair shall review all questions for relevance and shall explain on the record their reasons for excluding any question based on lack of relevance.

(2) **Relevance** means that information elicited by the question makes facts in dispute more or less likely to be true.

(3) Questions or evidence about a complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant and must be excluded, unless such question or evidence:

(a) Is asked or offered to prove someone other than the respondent committed the alleged misconduct; or

(b) Concerns specific incidents of prior sexual behavior between the complainant and the respondent, which are asked or offered on the issue of consent.

(4) **Cross-examination required:** If a party or witness does not submit to cross-examination during the live hearing, the hearing panel must not rely on any statement by that party or witness in reaching a determination of responsibility.

(5) **No negative inference:** The hearing panel may not make an inference regarding responsibility solely on a witness's or party's absence from the hearing or refusal to answer questions.

(6) **Privileged evidence:** The hearing panel shall not consider legally privileged information unless the holder has effectively waived the privilege. Privileged information includes, but is not limited to, information protected by the following:

(a) Spousal/domestic partner privilege;

(b) Attorney-client and attorney work product privileges;

(c) Privileges applicable to members of the clergy and priests;

(d) Privileges applicable to medical providers, mental health therapists, and counselors;

(e) Privileges applicable to sexual assault and domestic violence advocates; and

(f) Other legal privileges identified in RCW 5.60.060.

(7) **Recording of live hearing:** The live hearing will be audio-recorded, and copies may be provided to the parties, upon written request.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.40.120(12). WSR 21-10-022, § 174-123-420, filed 4/26/21, effective 5/27/21.]