

**WAC 388-14A-6105 What is the difference between an initial order and a final order in a hearing involving the division of child support?**

(1) In an administrative hearing involving the DSHS division of child support (DCS), the administrative law judge (ALJ) enters either an initial order, which is subject to review, or a final order, which is not subject to review.

(2) The terms "**initial order**," "**final order**" and "**review**" are defined in WAC 388-02-0010, and those definitions are repeated here for ease of reference:

(a) "**Initial order**" is a hearing decision made by an ALJ that may be reviewed by a review judge pursuant to WAC 388-02-0215(4). An initial order is sometimes called an "**initial decision**."

(b) "**Final order**" means an order that is the final DSHS decision.

(c) "**Review**" means the act of reviewing initial orders and making the final agency decision as provided by RCW 34.05.464.

(3) WAC 388-14A-6110 and 388-14A-6115 describe how to determine what kind of order is entered. Whether the ALJ enters an initial order or a final order does not depend on the date the hearing is held or the date the order is entered.

(4) WAC 388-14A-6120 describes what you can do if you disagree with an initial order or final order.

(5) WAC 388-14A-6125 describes when DCS may take enforcement action on an initial order or final order.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 34.05.220(1), 74.08.090, 74.20A.056, 74.20A.310, 26.26.315, 26.26.320, 26.26.330, 26.26.335, 74.20A.055, 2002 c 302, and 2002 c 199. WSR 03-17-013, § 388-14A-6105, filed 8/12/03, effective 9/12/03.]