

WAC 308-101-160 Evidence. (1) All rulings upon objections to the admissibility of evidence shall be made in accordance with the provisions of these rules.

(2) Evidence including testimony and documentary evidence, is admissible if received prior to, or during, the hearing.

(3) The hearings examiner shall rule on the admissibility and weight to be accorded to all evidence submitted at the hearing. Evidence, including hearsay evidence, is admissible if in the judgment of the hearings examiner it is the kind of evidence on which reasonably prudent persons are accustomed to rely on in the conduct of their affairs. The hearings examiner may exclude evidence that is irrelevant, immaterial, or unduly repetitious. The admissibility of evidence shall be liberally construed to effect the intent and purpose of the hearings covered by these rules.

(4) **Oral testimony:** Law enforcement officers or other persons with knowledge relevant to the hearing may appear and testify without notice. Such testimony shall not preclude the admissibility of any documents submitted.

(5) The refusal of a witness to answer any question which has been ruled to be proper shall, in the discretion of the hearings examiner, be grounds for striking all testimony previously given by such witness on related matter.

(6) **Documentary evidence:** Documentary evidence may be received in the form of copies or excerpts, or by incorporation by reference. When only portions of a document are to be relied upon, the offering party shall identify the pertinent excerpts and state the purpose for which such materials will be offered. Only the excerpts, in the form of copies, shall be received in the record. However, the whole of the original documents, except any portions containing confidential material protected by law, shall be made available for examination and for use by all parties.

(7) Official notice may be taken of: (a) Any judicially cognizable facts; (b) technical or scientific facts within the agency's specialized knowledge; and (c) codes or standards that have been adopted by an agency of the United States, of this state or of another state, or by a nationally recognized organization or association. Parties shall be notified either before or during the hearing of the material so noticed and the sources thereof and they shall be afforded an opportunity to contest the facts and materials so noticed. A party proposing that official notice be taken may be required to produce a copy of the material to be noticed.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 46.01.110. WSR 18-11-098, § 308-101-160, filed 5/21/18, effective 9/4/18.]