

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.]