Title 7
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Chapter 7.04A RCW
UNIFORM ARBITRATION ACT

Sections

7.04A.010 Definitions. The definitions set forth in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Arbitration organization" means a neutral association, agency, board, commission, or other entity that initiates, sponsors, or administers arbitration proceedings or is involved in the appointment of arbitrators.

(2) "Arbitrator" means an individual appointed to render an award in a controversy between persons who are parties to an agreement to arbitrate.

(3) "Authenticate" means:

(a) To sign; or

(b) To execute or adopt a record by attaching to or logically associating with the record, an electronic sound, symbol, or process with the intent to sign the record.

(4) "Court" means a court of competent jurisdiction in this state.

(5) "Knowledge" means actual knowledge.

(6) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture, or government; governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality; public corporation; or any other legal or commercial entity.

(7) "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form. [2005 c 433 § 1.]

7.04A.020 Notice. Unless the parties to an agreement to arbitrate otherwise agree or except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a person gives notice to another person by taking action that is reasonably necessary to inform the other person in ordinary course, whether or not the other person acquires knowledge of the notice. A person has notice if the person has knowledge of the notice or has received notice. A person receives notice when it comes to the person's attention or the notice is delivered at the person's place of residence or place of business, or at another location held out by the person as a place of delivery of such communications. [2005 c 433 § 2.]

7.04A.030 When chapter applies. (1) Before July 1, 2006, this chapter governs agreements to arbitrate entered into:

(a) On or after January 1, 2006; and

(b) Before January 1, 2006, if all parties to the agreement to arbitrate or to arbitration proceedings agree in a record to be governed by this chapter.

(2) On or after July 1, 2006, this chapter governs agreements to arbitrate even if the arbitration agreement was entered into before January 1, 2006.

(3) This chapter does not apply to any arbitration governed by chapter 7.06 RCW.

(4) This chapter does not apply to any arbitration agreement between employers and employees or between employers and associations of employees. [2005 c 433 § 3.]

7.04A.040 Effect of agreement to arbitrate—Nonwaivable provisions. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, the parties to an agreement to arbitrate or to an arbitration proceeding may waive or vary the requirements of this chapter to the extent permitted by law.

(2) Before a controversy arises that is subject to an agreement to arbitrate, the parties to the agreement may not:

(a) Waive or vary the requirements of RCW 7.04A.050(1), 7.04A.060(1), 7.04A.080, 7.04A.170 (1) or (2), 7.04A.260, or 7.04A.280;

(b) Unreasonably restrict the right under RCW 7.04A.090 to notice of the initiation of an arbitration proceeding;

(c) Unreasonably restrict the right under RCW 7.04A.120 to disclosure of any facts by a neutral arbitrator; or

(d) Waive the right under RCW 7.04A.160 of a party to an agreement to arbitrate to be represented by a lawyer at any proceeding or hearing under this chapter.

(3) The parties to an agreement to arbitrate may not waive or vary the requirements of this section or RCW 7.04A.030 (1)(a) or (2), 7.04A.070, 7.04A.140, 7.04A.180, 7.04A.200 (3) or (4), 7.04A.220, 7.04A.230, 7.04A.240, 7.04A.250 (1) or (2), 7.04A.901, 7.04A.903, section 50, chapter 433, Laws of 2005, or section 51, chapter 433, Laws of 2005. [2005 c 433 § 4.]

7.04A.050 Application to court. (1) Except as otherwise provided in RCW 7.04A.280, an application for judicial relief under this chapter must be made by motion to the court and heard in the manner and upon the notice provided by law or rule of court for making and hearing motions.

(2) Notice of an initial motion to the court under this chapter must be served in the manner provided by law for the service of a summons in a civil action unless a civil action is already pending involving the agreement to arbitrate. [2005 c 433 § 5.]

7.04A.060 Validity of agreement to arbitrate. (1) An agreement contained in a record to submit to arbitration any existing or subsequent controversy arising between the parties to the agreement is valid, enforceable, and irrevocable except upon a ground that exists at law or in equity for the revocation of contract.

(2) The court shall decide whether an agreement to arbitrate exists or a controversy is subject to an agreement to arbitrate.

(3) An arbitrator shall decide whether a condition precedent to arbitrability has been fulfilled and whether a contract containing a valid agreement to arbitrate is enforceable.

(4) If a party to a judicial proceeding challenges the existence of, or claims that a controversy is not subject to, an agreement to arbitrate, the arbitration proceeding may continue pending final resolution of the issue by the court, unless the court otherwise orders. [2005 c 433 § 6.]

7.04A.070 Motion to compel or stay arbitration. (1) On motion of a person showing an agreement to arbitrate and alleging another person's refusal to arbitrate pursuant to the agreement, the court shall order the parties to arbitrate if the refusing party does not appear or does not oppose the motion. If the refusing party opposes the motion, the court shall proceed summarily to decide the issue. Unless the court finds that there is no enforceable agreement to arbitrate, it shall order the parties to arbitrate. If the court finds that there is no enforceable agreement, it may not order the parties to arbitrate.

(2) On motion of a person alleging that an arbitration proceeding has been initiated or threatened but that there is no agreement to arbitrate, the court shall proceed summarily to decide the issue. If the court finds that there is an enforceable agreement to arbitrate, it shall order the parties to arbitrate. If the court finds that there is no enforceable agreement, it may not order the parties to arbitrate.

(3) The court may not refuse to order arbitration because the claim subject to arbitration lacks merit or grounds for the claim have not been established.

(4) If a proceeding involving a claim referable to arbitration under an alleged agreement to arbitrate is pending in court, a motion under this section must be filed in that court. Otherwise a motion under this section may be filed in any court as required by RCW 7.04A.270.

(5) If a party files a motion with the court to order arbitration under this section, the court shall on just terms stay any judicial proceeding that involves a claim alleged to be subject to the arbitration until the court renders a final decision under this section.

(6) If the court orders arbitration, the court shall on just terms stay any judicial proceeding that involves a claim subject to the arbitration. If a claim subject to the arbitration is severable, the court may sever it and limit the stay to that claim. [2005 c 433 § 7.]

7.04A.080 Provisional remedies. (1) Before an arbitrator is appointed and is authorized and able to act, the court, upon motion of a party to an arbitration proceeding and for good cause shown, may enter an order for provisional remedies to protect the effectiveness of the arbitration proceeding to the same extent and under the same conditions as if the controversy were the subject of a civil action.

(2) After an arbitrator is appointed and is authorized and able to act, the arbitrator may issue such orders for provisional remedies, including interim awards, as the arbitrator finds necessary to protect the effectiveness of the arbitration proceeding and to promote the fair and expeditious resolution of the controversy, to the same extent and under the same conditions as if the controversy were the subject of a civil action. After an arbitrator is appointed and is authorized and able to act, a party to an arbitration proceeding may move the court for a provisional remedy only if the matter is urgent and the arbitrator is not able to act timely or if the arbitrator cannot provide an adequate remedy.

(3) A motion to a court for a provisional remedy under subsection (1) or (2) of this section does not waive any right of arbitration. [2005 c 433 § 8.]

7.04A.090 Initiation of arbitration. (1) A person initiates an arbitration proceeding by giving notice in a record to the other parties to the agreement to arbitrate in the agreed manner between the parties or, in the absence of agreement, by mail certified or registered, return receipt requested and obtained, or by service as authorized for the initiation of a civil action. The notice must describe the nature of the controversy and the remedy sought.

(2) Unless a person interposes an objection as to lack or insufficiency of notice under RCW 7.04A.150(3) not later than the commencement of the arbitration hearing, the person's appearance at the hearing waives any objection to lack of or insufficiency of notice.

(3) A claim sought to be arbitrated is subject to the same limitations of time for the commencement of actions as if the claim had been asserted in a court. [2013 c 92 § 1; 2005 c 433 § 9.]

7.04A.100 Consolidation of separate arbitration proceedings. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) of this section, upon motion of a party to an agreement to arbitrate or to an arbitration proceeding, the court may order consolidation of separate arbitration proceedings as to all or some of the claims if:

(a) There are separate agreements to arbitrate or separate arbitration proceedings between the same persons or one of them is a party to a separate agreement to arbitrate or a separate arbitration proceeding with a third person;

(b) The claims subject to the agreements to arbitrate arise in substantial part from the same transaction or series of related transactions;

(c) The existence of a common issue of law or fact creates the possibility of conflicting decisions in the separate arbitration proceedings; and

(d) Prejudice resulting from a failure to consolidate is not outweighed by the risk of undue delay or prejudice to the rights of or hardship to parties opposing consolidation.

(2) The court may order consolidation of separate arbitration proceedings as to certain claims and allow other claims to be resolved in separate arbitration proceedings.

(3) The court may not order consolidation of the claims of a party to an agreement to arbitrate that prohibits consolidation. [2005 c 433 § 10.]

7.04A.110 Appointment of arbitrator—Service as a neutral arbitrator. (1) If the parties to an agreement to arbitrate agree on a method for appointing an arbitrator, that method must be followed, unless the method fails. If the parties have not agreed on a method, the agreed method fails, or an arbitrator appointed fails or is unable to act and a successor has not been appointed, the court, on motion of a party to the arbitration proceeding, shall appoint the arbitrator. The arbitrator so appointed has all the powers of an arbitrator designated in the agreement to arbitrate or appointed under the agreed method.

(2) An arbitrator who has a known, direct, and material interest in the outcome of the arbitration proceeding or a known, existing, and substantial relationship with a party may not serve as a neutral arbitrator. [2005 c 433 § 11.]

7.04A.120 Disclosure by arbitrator. (1) Before accepting appointment, an individual who is requested to serve as an arbitrator, after making a reasonable inquiry, shall disclose to all parties to the agreement to arbitrate and arbitration proceeding and to any other arbitrators any known facts that a reasonable person would consider likely to affect the impartiality of the arbitrator in the arbitration proceeding, including:

(a) A financial or personal interest in the outcome of the arbitration proceeding; and

(b) An existing or past relationship with any of the parties to the agreement to arbitrate or the arbitration proceeding, their counsel or representatives, witnesses, or the other arbitrators.

(2) An arbitrator has a continuing obligation to disclose to all parties to the agreement to arbitrate and arbitration proceedings and to any other arbitrators any facts that the arbitrator learns after accepting appointment that a reasonable person would consider likely to affect the impartiality of the arbitrator.

(3) If an arbitrator discloses a fact required by subsection (1) or (2) of this section to be disclosed and a party timely objects to the appointment or continued service of the arbitrator based upon the disclosure, the objection may be a ground to vacate the award under RCW 7.04A.230(1)(b).

(4) If the arbitrator did not disclose a fact as required by subsection (1) or (2) of this section, upon timely objection of a party, an award may be vacated under RCW 7.04A.230(1)(b).

(5) An arbitrator appointed as a neutral who does not disclose a known, direct, and material interest in the outcome of the arbitration proceeding or a known, existing, and substantial relationship with a party is presumed to act with evident partiality under RCW 7.04A.230(1)(b).

(6) If the parties to an arbitration proceeding agree to the procedures of an arbitration organization or any other procedures for challenges to arbitrators before an award is made, substantial compliance with those procedures is a condition precedent to a motion to vacate an award on that ground under RCW 7.04A.230(1)(b). [2005 c 433 § 12.]

7.04A.130 Action by majority. If there is more than one arbitrator, the powers of the arbitrators must be exercised by a majority of them. [2005 c 433 § 13.]

7.04A.140 Immunity of arbitrator—Competency to testify—Attorneys' fees and costs. (1) An arbitrator or an arbitration organization acting in that capacity is immune from civil liability to the same extent as a judge of a court of this state acting in a judicial capacity.

(2) The immunity afforded by this section supplements any other immunity.

(3) If an arbitrator does not make a disclosure required by RCW 7.04A.120, the nondisclosure does not cause a loss of immunity under this section.

(4) In any judicial, administrative, or similar proceeding, an arbitrator or representative of an arbitration organization is not competent to testify or required to produce records as to any statement, conduct, decision, or ruling occurring during the arbitration proceeding to the same extent as a judge of a court of this state acting in a judicial capacity. This subsection does not apply:

(a) To the extent necessary to determine the claim of an arbitrator or an arbitration organization or a representative of the arbitration organization against a party to the arbitration proceeding; or

(b) If a party to the arbitration proceeding files a motion to vacate an award under RCW 7.04A.230(1) (a) or (b) and establishes prima facie that a ground for vacating the award exists.

(5) If a person commences a civil action against an arbitrator, an arbitration organization, or a representative of an arbitration organization arising from the services of the arbitrator, organization, or representative or if a person seeks to compel an arbitrator or a representative of an arbitration orga-

nization to testify in violation of subsection (4) of this section, and the court decides that the arbitrator, arbitration organization, or representative of an arbitration organization is immune from civil liability or that the arbitrator or representative of the organization is incompetent to testify, the court shall award to the arbitrator, organization, or representative reasonable attorneys' fees and other reasonable expenses of litigation. [2005 c 433 § 14.]

7.04A.150 Arbitration process. (1) The arbitrator may conduct the arbitration in such manner as the arbitrator considers appropriate so as to aid in the fair and expeditious disposition of the proceeding. The authority conferred upon the arbitrator includes the power to hold conferences with the parties to the arbitration proceeding before the hearing and to determine the admissibility, relevance, materiality, and weight of any evidence.

(2) The arbitrator may decide a request for summary disposition of a claim or particular issue by agreement of all interested parties or upon request of one party to the arbitration proceeding if that party gives notice to all other parties to the arbitration proceeding and the other parties have a reasonable opportunity to respond.

(3) The arbitrator shall set a time and place for a hearing and give notice of the hearing not less than five days before the hearing. Unless a party to the arbitration proceeding interposes an objection to lack of or insufficiency of notice not later than the commencement of the hearing, the party's appearance at the hearing waives the objection. Upon request of a party to the arbitration proceeding and for good cause shown, or upon the arbitrator's own initiative, the arbitrator may adjourn the hearing from time to time as necessary but may not postpone the hearing to a time later than that fixed by the agreement to arbitrate for making the award unless the parties to the arbitration proceeding consent to a later date. The arbitrator may hear and decide the controversy upon the evidence produced although a party who was duly notified of the arbitration proceeding did not appear. The court, on request, may direct the arbitrator to promptly conduct the hearing and render a timely decision.

(4) If an arbitrator orders a hearing under subsection (3) of this section, the parties to the arbitration proceeding are entitled to be heard, to present evidence material to the controversy, and to cross-examine witnesses appearing at the hearing.

(5) If there is more than one arbitrator, all of them shall conduct the hearing under subsection (3) of this section; however, a majority shall decide any issue and make a final award.

(6) If an arbitrator ceases, or is unable, to act during the arbitration proceeding, a replacement arbitrator must be appointed in accordance with RCW 7.04A.110 to continue the hearing and to decide the controversy. [2005 c 433 § 15.]

7.04A.160 Representation by lawyer. A party to an arbitration proceeding may be represented by a lawyer. [2005 c 433 § 16.]

7.04A.170 Witnesses—Subpoenas—Depositions—Discovery. (1) An arbitrator may issue a subpoena for the attendance of a witness and for the production of records and other evidence at any hearing and may administer oaths. A subpoena must be served in the manner for service of subpoenas in a civil action and, upon motion to the court by a party to the arbitration proceeding or the arbitrator, enforced in the manner for enforcement of subpoenas in a civil action.

(2) On request of a party to or a witness in an arbitration proceeding, an arbitrator may permit a deposition of any witness, including a witness who cannot be subpoenaed for or is unable to attend a hearing, to be taken under conditions determined by the arbitrator for use as evidence in order to make the proceeding fair, expeditious, and cost-effective.

(3) An arbitrator may permit such discovery as the arbitrator decides is appropriate in the circumstances, taking into account the needs of the parties to the arbitration proceeding and other affected persons and the desirability of making the proceeding fair, expeditious, and cost-effective.

(4) If an arbitrator permits discovery under subsection (3) of this section, the arbitrator may order a party to the arbitration proceeding to comply with the arbitrator's discovery-related orders, including the issuance of a subpoena for the attendance of a witness and for the production of records and other evidence at a discovery proceeding, and may take action against a party to the arbitration proceeding who does not comply to the extent permitted by law as if the controversy were the subject of a civil action in this state.

(5) An arbitrator may issue a protective order to prevent the disclosure of privileged information, confidential information, trade secrets, and other information protected from disclosure as if the controversy were the subject of a civil action in this state.

(6) All laws compelling a person under subpoena to testify and all fees for attending a judicial proceeding, a deposition, or a discovery proceeding as a witness apply to an arbitration proceeding as if the controversy were the subject of a civil action in this state.

(7) The court may enforce a subpoena or discovery-related order for the attendance of a witness within this state and for the production of records and other evidence issued by an arbitrator in connection with an arbitration proceeding in another state upon conditions determined by the court in order to make the arbitration proceeding fair, expeditious, and cost-effective. A subpoena or discovery-related order issued by an arbitrator must be served in the manner provided by law for service of subpoenas in a civil action in this state and, upon motion to the court by a party to the arbitration proceeding or the arbitrator, enforced in the manner provided by law for enforcement of subpoenas in a civil action in this state. [2005 c 433 § 17.]

7.04A.180 Court enforcement of preaward ruling by arbitrator. If an arbitrator makes a preaward ruling in favor of a party to the arbitration proceeding, the party may request the arbitrator to incorporate the ruling into an award under RCW 7.04A.190. The successful party may file a motion to the court for an expedited order to confirm the award under RCW 7.04A.220, in which case the court shall proceed summarily to decide the motion. The court shall issue an order to confirm the award unless the court vacates, modifies, or corrects the award of the arbitrator under RCW 7.04A.230 and 7.04A.240. [2005 c 433 § 18.]

7.04A.190 Award. (1) An arbitrator shall make a record of an award. The record must be authenticated by any arbitrator who concurs with the award. The arbitrator or the arbitration organization shall give notice of the award, including a copy of the award, to each party to the arbitration proceeding.

(2) An award must be made within the time specified by the agreement to arbitrate or, if not specified therein, within the time ordered by the court. The court may extend or the parties to the arbitration proceeding may agree in a record to extend the time. The court or the parties may do so within or after the time specified or ordered. A party waives any objection that an award was not timely made unless the party gives notice of the objection to the arbitrator before receiving notice of the award. [2005 c 433 § 19.]

7.04A.200 Change of award by arbitrator. (1) On motion to an arbitrator by a party to the arbitration proceeding, the arbitrator may modify or correct an award:

(a) Upon the grounds stated in RCW 7.04A.240(1) (a) or (c);

(b) Because the arbitrator has not made a final and definite award upon a claim submitted by the parties to the arbitration proceeding; or

(c) To clarify the award.

(2) A motion under subsection (1) of this section must be made and served on all parties within twenty days after the movant receives notice of the award.

(3) A party to the arbitration proceeding must serve any objections to the motion within ten days after receipt of the notice.

(4) If a motion to the court is pending under RCW 7.04A.220, 7.04A.230, or 7.04A.240, the court may submit the claim to the arbitrator to consider whether to modify or correct the award:

(a) Upon the grounds stated in RCW 7.04A.240(1) (a) or (c);

(b) Because the arbitrator has not made a final and definite award upon a claim submitted by the parties to the arbitration proceeding; or

(c) To clarify the award.

(5) An award modified or corrected under this section is subject to RCW 7.04A.220, 7.04A.230, and 7.04A.240. [2005 c 433 § 20.]

7.04A.210 Remedies—Fees and expenses of arbitration proceeding. (1) An arbitrator may award punitive damages or other exemplary relief if such an award is authorized under the applicable law in a civil action involving the same claim and the evidence produced at the hearing justifies the award under the legal standards otherwise applicable to the claim.

(2) An arbitrator may award attorneys' fees and other reasonable expenses of arbitration if such an award is authorized by law in a civil action involving the same claim or by the agreement of the parties to the arbitration proceeding.

(3) As to all remedies other than those authorized by subsections (1) and (2) of this section, an arbitrator may order such remedies as the arbitrator considers just and appropriate under the circumstances of the arbitration proceeding. The fact that such a remedy could not or would not be granted by the court is not a ground for refusing to confirm an award under RCW 7.04A.220 or for vacating an award under RCW 7.04A.230.

(4) An arbitrator's expenses and fees, together with other expenses, must be paid as provided in the award.

(5) If an arbitrator awards punitive damages or other exemplary relief under subsection (1) of this section, the arbitrator shall specify in the award the basis in fact justifying and the basis in law authorizing the award and state separately the amount of the punitive damages or other exemplary relief. [2005 c 433 § 21.]

7.04A.220 Confirmation of award. After a party to the arbitration proceeding receives notice of an award, the party may file a motion with the court for an order confirming the award, at which time the court shall issue such an order unless the award is modified or corrected under RCW 7.04A.200 or 7.04A.240 or is vacated under RCW 7.04A.230. [2005 c 433 § 22.]

7.04A.230 Vacating award. (1) Upon motion of a party to the arbitration proceeding, the court shall vacate an award if:

(a) The award was procured by corruption, fraud, or other undue means;

(b) There was:

(i) Evident partiality by an arbitrator appointed as a neutral;

(ii) Corruption by an arbitrator; or

(iii) Misconduct by an arbitrator prejudicing the rights of a party to the arbitration proceeding;

(c) An arbitrator refused to postpone the hearing upon showing of sufficient cause for postponement, refused to consider evidence material to the controversy, or otherwise conducted the hearing contrary to RCW 7.04A.150, so as to prejudice substantially the rights of a party to the arbitration proceeding;

(d) An arbitrator exceeded the arbitrator's powers;

(e) There was no agreement to arbitrate, unless the person participated in the arbitration proceeding without raising the objection under RCW 7.04A.150(3) not later than the commencement of the arbitration hearing; or

(f) The arbitration was conducted without proper notice of the initiation of an arbitration as required in RCW 7.04A.090 so as to prejudice substantially the rights of a party to the arbitration proceeding.

(2) A motion under this section must be filed within ninety days after the movant receives notice of the award in a record under RCW 7.04A.190 or within ninety days after the movant receives notice of an arbitrator's award in a record on a motion to modify or correct an award under RCW 7.04A.200, unless the motion is predicated upon the ground that the award was procured by corruption, fraud, or other undue means, in which case it must be filed within ninety days after such a ground is known or by the exercise of reasonable care should have been known by the movant.

(3) In vacating an award on a ground other than that set forth in subsection (1)(e) of this section, the court may order a rehearing before a new arbitrator. If the award is vacated on a ground stated in subsection (1)(c), (d), or (f) of this section, the court may order a rehearing before the arbitrator who

made the award or the arbitrator's successor. The arbitrator must render the decision in the rehearing within the same time as that provided in RCW 7.04A.190(2) for an award.

(4) If a motion to vacate an award is denied and a motion to modify or correct the award is not pending, the court shall confirm the award. [2005 c 433 § 23.]

7.04A.240 Modification or correction of award. (1) Upon motion filed within ninety days after the movant receives notice of the award in a record under RCW 7.04A.190 or within ninety days after the movant receives notice of an arbitrator's award in a record on a motion to modify or correct an award under RCW 7.04A.200, the court shall modify or correct the award if:

(a) There was an evident mathematical miscalculation or an evident mistake in the description of a person, thing, or property referred to in the award;

(b) The arbitrator has made an award on a claim not submitted to the arbitrator and the award may be corrected without affecting the merits of the decision upon the claims submitted; or

(c) The award is imperfect in a matter of form not affecting the merits of the decision on the claims submitted.

(2) If a motion filed under subsection (1) of this section is granted, the court shall modify or correct and confirm the award as modified or corrected. Otherwise, the court shall confirm the award.

(3) A motion to modify or correct an award under this section may be joined with a motion to vacate the award. [2005 c 433 § 24.]

7.04A.250 Judgment on award—Attorneys' fees and litigation expenses. (1) Upon granting an order confirming, vacating without directing a rehearing, modifying, or correcting an award, the court shall enter a judgment in conformity with the order. The judgment may be recorded, docketed, and enforced as any other judgment in a civil action.

(2) A court may allow reasonable costs of the motion and subsequent judicial proceedings.

(3) On application of a prevailing party to a contested judicial proceeding under RCW 7.04A.220, 7.04A.230, or 7.04A.240, the court may add to a judgment confirming, vacating without directing a rehearing, modifying, or correcting an award, attorneys' fees and other reasonable expenses of litigation incurred in a judicial proceeding after the award is made. [2005 c 433 § 25.]

7.04A.260 Jurisdiction. (1) A court of this state having jurisdiction over the dispute and the parties may enforce an agreement to arbitrate.

(2) An agreement to arbitrate providing for arbitration in this state confers exclusive jurisdiction on the court to enter judgment on an award under this chapter. [2005 c 433 § 26.]

7.04A.270 Venue. A motion under RCW 7.04A.050 must be filed in the court of the county in which the agreement to arbitrate specifies the arbitration hearing is to be held or, if the hearing has been held, in the court of the county in which it was held. Otherwise, the motion must be filed in any county in which an adverse party resides or has a place of business or, if no adverse party has a residence or place of business in this state, in the court of any county in this state. All subsequent motions must be filed in the court hearing the initial motion unless the court otherwise directs. [2005 c 433 § 27.]

7.04A.280 Appeals. (1) An appeal may be taken from:

(a) An order denying a motion to compel arbitration;

(b) An order granting a motion to stay arbitration;

(c) An order confirming or denying confirmation of an award;

(d) An order modifying or correcting an award;

(e) An order vacating an award without directing a rehearing; or

(f) A final judgment entered under this chapter.

(2) An appeal under this section must be taken as from an order or a judgment in a civil action. [2005 c 433 § 28.]

7.04A.290 Relationship to electronic signatures in global and national commerce act. The provisions of this chapter governing the legal effect, validity, and enforceability of electronic records or electronic signatures, and of contracts performed with the use of such records or signatures conform to the requirements of section 102 of the electronic signatures in global and national commerce act. [2005 c 433 § 32.]

7.04A.900 Effective date—2005 c 433. This act takes effect January 1, 2006. [2005 c 433 § 51.]

7.04A.901 Uniformity of application and construction—2005 c 433. In applying and construing this uniform act, consideration must be given to the need to promote uniformity of the law with respect to its subject matter among states that enact it. [2005 c 433 § 29.]

7.04A.903 Savings—2005 c 433. This act does not affect an action or proceeding commenced or right accrued before January 1, 2006. [2005 c 433 § 31.]

Chapter 7.05 RCW
INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION

Sections

7.05.010 Scope of application. (1) This chapter applies to international commercial arbitration, subject to any agreement between the United States and any other country or countries.

(2) The provisions of this chapter, except RCW 7.05.090, 7.05.100, 7.05.260, 7.05.270, 7.05.280, 7.05.460, and 7.05.470, apply only if the place of arbitration is in the territory of this state.

(3) An arbitration is international if:

(a) The parties to an arbitration agreement have, at the time of the conclusion of that agreement, their places of business in different countries;

(b) One of the following places is situated outside the country or countries in which the parties have their places of business:

(i) The place of arbitration if determined in, or pursuant to, the arbitration agreement; or

(ii) Any place where a substantial part of the obligations of the commercial relationship is to be performed or the place with which the subject matter of the dispute is most closely connected; or

(c) The parties have expressly agreed that the subject matter of the arbitration agreement relates to more than one country.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3) of this section:

(a) If a party has more than one place of business, the place of business is that which has the closest relationship to the arbitration agreement; and

(b) If a party does not have a place of business, reference is to be made to the party's habitual residence.

(5) This chapter shall not affect any other law of this state by virtue of which certain disputes may not be submitted to arbitration or may be submitted to arbitration only according to provisions other than those of this chapter. [2015 c 276 § 1.]

7.05.020 Definitions and rules of interpretation. (1) For the purpose of this chapter:

(a) "Arbitration" means any arbitration whether or not administered by a permanent arbitral institution.

(b) "Arbitral tribunal" means a sole arbitrator or a panel of arbitrators.

(c) "Commercial" means matters arising from all relationships of a commercial nature, whether contractual or not, including, but not limited to, any of the following transactions:

(i) A transaction for the supply or exchange of goods or services;

(ii) A distribution agreement;

(iii) A commercial representation or agency;

(iv) An exploitation agreement or concession;

(v) A joint venture or other related form of industrial or business cooperation;

(vi) The carriage of goods or passengers by air, sea, rail, or road;

(vii) Construction;

(viii) Insurance;

(ix) Licensing;

(x) Factoring;

(xi) Leasing;

(xii) Consulting;

(xiii) Engineering;

(xiv) Financing;

(xv) Banking;

(xvi) The transfer of data or technology;

(xvii) Intellectual or industrial property, including trademarks, patents, copyrights, and software programs; and

(xviii) Professional services.

(d) "Court" means a body or organ of the judicial system of this state.

(2) Where a provision of this chapter, except RCW 7.05.390, leaves the parties free to determine a certain issue, such freedom includes the right of the parties to authorize a third party, including an institution, to make that determination.

(3) Where a provision of this chapter refers to the fact that the parties have agreed, that they may agree, or in any other way refers to an agreement of the parties, such agreement includes any arbitration rules referred to in that agreement.

(4) Where a provision of this chapter, other than in RCW 7.05.360(1) and 7.05.430(2)(a), refers to a claim, it also applies to a counterclaim, and where it refers to a defense, it also applies to a defense to such counterclaim. [2015 c 276 § 2.]

7.05.030 International origin and general principles. (1) In the interpretation of this chapter, regard is to be had to its international origin and to the need to promote uniformity in its application and the observance of good faith.

(2) Questions concerning matters governed by this chapter which are not expressly settled in it are to be settled in conformity with the general principles on which this chapter is based. [2015 c 276 § 3.]

7.05.040 Receipt of written communications. (1) Unless otherwise agreed by the parties:

(a) Any written communication is deemed to have been received if it is delivered to the addressee personally or if it is delivered at the addressee's place of business, habitual residence, or mailing address. If none of these can be found after

making a reasonable inquiry, a written communication is deemed to have been received if it is sent to the addressee's last-known place of business, habitual residence, or mailing address by registered letter or any other means which provides a record of the attempt to deliver it; and

(b) The communication is deemed to have been received on the day it is so delivered.

(2) The provisions of this section do not apply to communications in court proceedings. [2015 c 276 § 4.]

7.05.050 Waiver of right to object. A party who knows that any provision of this chapter from which the parties may derogate or any requirement under the arbitration agreement has not been complied with and yet proceeds with the arbitration without stating the party's objection to such noncompliance without undue delay or, if a time limit is provided therefore, within such period of time, shall be deemed to have waived the party's right to object. [2015 c 276 § 5.]

7.05.060 Extent of court intervention. In matters governed by this chapter, no court shall intervene except where so provided in this chapter. [2015 c 276 § 6.]

7.05.070 Court authority for certain functions of arbitration assistance and supervision. (1) The functions referred to in RCW 7.05.120 (3) and (4), 7.05.140(3), 7.05.150, 7.05.170(3), and 7.05.450(2) shall be performed by the superior court of the county in which the agreement to arbitrate is to be performed or was made.

(2) If the arbitration agreement does not specify a county where the agreement to arbitrate is to be performed and the agreement was not made in any county in the state of Washington, the functions referred to in RCW 7.05.120 (3) and (4), 7.05.140(3), 7.05.150, 7.05.170(3), and 7.05.450(2) shall be performed in the county where any party to the court proceeding resides or has a place of business.

(3) In any case not covered by subsections (1) or (2) of this section, the functions referred to in RCW 7.05.120 (3) and (4), 7.05.140(3), 7.05.150, 7.05.170(3), and 7.05.450(2) shall be performed in any county in the state of Washington. [2015 c 276 § 7.]

7.05.080 Arbitration agreement—Definition and form. (1) For the purposes of this chapter, "arbitration agreement" is an agreement by the parties to submit to arbitration all or certain disputes which have arisen or which may arise between them in respect of a defined legal relationship, whether contractual or not. An arbitration agreement may be in the form of an arbitration clause in a contract or in the form of a separate agreement.

(2) The arbitration agreement shall be in writing.

(3) An arbitration agreement is in writing if its content is recorded in any form, whether or not the arbitration agreement or contract has been concluded orally, by conduct, or by other means.

(4) The requirement that an arbitration agreement be in writing is met by an electronic communication if the information contained therein is accessible so as to be useable for subsequent reference. For the purposes of this section, "electronic communication" means any communication that the parties make by means of data messages; and "data message" means information generated, sent, received, or stored by electronic, magnetic, optical, or similar means, including, but not limited to, electronic data interchange (EDI), electronic mail, telegram, telex, or telecopy.

(5) An arbitration agreement is in writing if it is contained in an exchange of statements of claim and defense in which the existence of an agreement is alleged by one party and not denied by the other.

(6) The reference in a contract to any document containing an arbitration clause constitutes an arbitration agreement in writing, provided that the reference is such as to make that clause part of the contract. [2015 c 276 § 8.]

7.05.090 Arbitration agreement—Substantive claim before court. (1) A court before which an action is brought in a matter which is the subject of an arbitration agreement shall, if a party so requests not later than when submitting the party's first statement on the substance of the dispute, refer the parties to arbitration unless it finds that the agreement is null and void, inoperative, or incapable of being performed.

(2) Where an action referred to in subsection (1) of this section has been brought, arbitral proceedings may nevertheless be commenced or continued, and an award made, while the issue is pending before the court. [2015 c 276 § 9.]

7.05.100 Arbitration agreement—Interim measures by court. It is not incompatible with an arbitration agreement for a party to request, before or during arbitral proceedings, from a court an interim measure of protection and for a court to grant such measure. [2015 c 276 § 10.]

7.05.110 Number of arbitrators—Immunity. (1) The parties are free to determine the number of arbitrators.

(2) Failing such determination, the number of arbitrators shall be three.

(3) An arbitrator has the immunity of a judicial officer from civil liability when acting in the capacity of arbitrator under any statute or contract. The immunity afforded by this section shall supplement, and not supplant, any otherwise applicable common law or statutory immunity. [2015 c 276 § 11.]

7.05.120 Appointment of arbitrators. (1) No person shall be precluded by reason of the person's nationality from acting as an arbitrator, unless otherwise agreed by the parties.

(2) The parties are free to agree on a procedure of appointing the arbitrator or arbitrators, subject to the provisions of subsections (4) and (5) of this section.

(3) Failing such agreement:

(a) In an arbitration with three arbitrators, each party shall appoint one arbitrator, and the two arbitrators thus appointed shall appoint the third arbitrator; if a party fails to appoint the arbitrator within thirty days of receipt of a request to do so from the other party, or if the two arbitrators fail to agree on the third arbitrator within thirty days of their appointment, the appointment shall be made, upon request of a party, by the court specified in RCW 7.05.070; and

(b) In an arbitration with a sole arbitrator, if the parties are unable to agree on the arbitrator, the arbitrator shall be appointed, upon request of a party, by the court specified in RCW 7.05.070.

(4) Where, under an appointment procedure agreed upon by the parties:

(a) A party fails to act as required under such procedure;

(b) The parties, or two arbitrators, are unable to reach an agreement expected of them under such procedure; or

(c) A third party, including an institution, fails to perform any function entrusted to it under such procedure;

Any party may request the court specified in RCW 7.05.070 to take the necessary measure, unless the agreement on the appointment procedure provides other means for securing the appointment.

(5) A decision on a matter entrusted by subsection (3) or (4) of this section to the court specified in RCW 7.05.070 shall be subject to no appeal. The court, in appointing an arbitrator, shall have due regard to any qualifications required of the arbitrator by the agreement of the parties and to such considerations as are likely to secure the appointment of an independent and impartial arbitrator and, in the case of a sole or third arbitrator, shall take into account as well the advisability of appointing an arbitrator of a nationality other than those of the parties. [2015 c 276 § 12.]

7.05.130 Disclosure requirements—Grounds for challenge. (1) When a person is approached in connection with the person's possible appointment as an arbitrator, the person shall disclose any circumstances likely to give rise to justifiable doubts as to the person's impartiality or independence. An arbitrator, from the time of the arbitrator's appointment and throughout the arbitral proceedings, shall without delay disclose any such circumstances to the parties unless they have already been informed of them by the arbitrator.

(2) An arbitrator may be challenged only if circumstances exist that give rise to justifiable doubts as to the arbitrator's impartiality or independence, or if the arbitrator does not possess qualifications agreed to by the parties. A party may challenge an arbitrator appointed by the party, or in whose appointment the party has participated, only for reasons of which the party becomes aware after the appointment has been made. [2015 c 276 § 13.]

7.05.140 Challenge procedure. (1) The parties are free to agree on a procedure for challenging an arbitrator, subject to the provisions of subsection (3) of this section.

(2) Failing such agreement, a party who intends to challenge an arbitrator shall, within fifteen days after becoming aware of the constitution of the arbitral tribunal or after becoming aware of any circumstance referred to in RCW 7.05.130(2), send a written statement of the reasons for the challenge to the arbitral tribunal. Unless the challenged arbitrator withdraws from the arbitrator's office or the other party agrees to the challenge, the arbitral tribunal shall decide on the challenge.

(3) If a challenge under any procedure agreed upon by the parties or under the procedure of subsection (2) of this section is not successful, the challenging party may request, within thirty days after having received notice of the decision rejecting the challenge, the court specified in RCW 7.05.070 to decide on the challenge, which decision shall be subject to no appeal. While such a request is pending, the arbitral tribunal, including the challenged arbitrator, may continue the arbitral proceedings and make an award. [2015 c 276 § 14.]

7.05.150 Failure or impossibility to act. (1) If an arbitrator becomes *de jure* or *de facto* unable to perform the arbitrator's functions or for other reasons fails to act without undue delay, the arbitrator's mandate terminates if the arbitrator withdraws from the arbitrator's office or if the parties agree on the termination. Otherwise, if a controversy remains concerning any of these grounds, any party may request the court specified in RCW 7.05.070 to decide on the termination of the mandate, which decision shall be subject to no appeal.

(2) If, under this section or RCW 7.05.140(2), an arbitrator withdraws from the arbitrator's office or a party agrees to the termination of the mandate of an arbitrator, this does not imply acceptance of the validity of any ground referred to in this section or RCW 7.05.130(2). [2015 c 276 § 15.]

7.05.160 Appointment of substitute arbitrator. Where the mandate of an arbitrator terminates under RCW 7.05.140 or 7.05.150 or because of the arbitrator's withdrawal from office for any other reason or because of the revocation of the arbitrator's mandate by agreement of the parties or in any other case of termination of the arbitrator's mandate, a substitute arbitrator shall be appointed according to the rules that were applicable to the appointment of the arbitrator being replaced. [2015 c 276 § 16.]

7.05.170 Competence of arbitral tribunal to rule on its own jurisdiction. (1) The arbitral tribunal may rule on its own jurisdiction, including any objections with respect to the existence or validity of the arbitration agreement. For that purpose, an arbitration clause which forms part of a contract shall be treated as an agreement independent of the other terms of the contract. A decision by the arbitral tribunal that the contract is null and void shall not entail *ipso jure* the invalidity of the arbitration clause.

(2) A plea that the arbitral tribunal does not have jurisdiction shall be raised not later than the submission of the statement of defense. A party is not precluded from raising such a plea by the fact that the party has appointed, or participated in the appointment of, an arbitrator. A plea that the arbitral tribunal is exceeding the scope of its authority shall be raised as soon as the matter alleged to be beyond the scope of its authority is raised during the arbitral proceedings. The arbitral tribunal may, in either case, admit a later plea if it considers the delay justified.

(3) The arbitral tribunal may rule on a plea referred to in subsection (2) of this section either as a preliminary question or in an award on the merits. If the arbitral tribunal rules as a preliminary question that it has jurisdiction, any party may request, within thirty days after having received notice of that ruling, the court specified in RCW 7.05.070 to decide the matter, which decision shall be subject to no appeal. While such a request is pending, the arbitral tribunal may continue the arbitral proceedings and make an award. [2015 c 276 § 17.]

7.05.180 Power of arbitral tribunal to order interim measures. (1) Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, the arbitral tribunal may, at the request of a party, grant interim measures.

(2) An interim measure is any temporary measure, whether in the form of an award or in another form, by which,

at any time prior to the issuance of the award by which the dispute is finally decided, the arbitral tribunal orders a party to:

(a) Maintain or restore the status quo pending determination of the dispute;

(b) Take action that would prevent, or refrain from taking action that is likely to cause, current or imminent harm or prejudice to the arbitral process itself;

(c) Provide a means of preserving assets out of which a subsequent award may be satisfied; or

(d) Preserve evidence that may be relevant and material to the resolution of the dispute. [2015 c 276 § 18.]

7.05.190 Conditions of granting interim measures. (1) The party requesting an interim measure under RCW 7.05.180(2) (a), (b), and (c) shall satisfy the arbitral tribunal that:

(a) Harm not adequately reparable by an award of damages is likely to result if the measure is not ordered, and such harm substantially outweighs the harm that is likely to result to the party against whom the measure is directed if the measure is granted; and

(b) There is a reasonable possibility that the requesting party will succeed on the merits of the claim. The determination on this possibility shall not affect the discretion of the arbitral tribunal in making any subsequent determination.

(2) With regard to a request for an interim measure under RCW 7.05.180(2)(d), the requirements in subsection (1)(a) and (b) of this section shall apply only to the extent the tribunal considers appropriate. [2015 c 276 § 19.]

7.05.200 Application for preliminary orders—Conditions for granting preliminary orders. (1) Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, a party may, without notice to any other party, make a request for an interim measure together with an application for a preliminary order directing a party not to frustrate the purpose of the interim measure requested.

(2) The arbitral tribunal may grant a preliminary order provided it considers that prior disclosure of the request for the interim measure to the party against whom it is directed risks frustrating the purpose of the measure.

(3) The conditions defined under RCW 7.05.190 apply to any preliminary order, provided that the harm to be assessed under RCW 7.05.190(1)(a) is the harm likely to result from the order being granted or not. [2015 c 276 § 20.]

7.05.210 Procedures for preliminary orders—Expiration of preliminary orders. (1) Immediately after the arbitral tribunal has made a determination in respect of an application for a preliminary order, the arbitral tribunal shall give notice to all parties of the request for the interim measure, the application for the preliminary order, the preliminary order, if any, and all other communications, including by indicating the content of any oral communication, between any party and the arbitral tribunal in relation thereto.

(2) At the same time, the arbitral tribunal shall give an opportunity to any party against whom a preliminary order is directed to present its case at the earliest practicable time.

(3) The arbitral tribunal shall decide promptly on any objection to the preliminary order.

(4) A preliminary order shall expire after twenty days from the date on which it was issued by the arbitral tribunal. However, the arbitral tribunal may issue an interim measure adopting or modifying the preliminary order after the party against whom the preliminary order is directed has been given notice and an opportunity to present its case.

(5) A preliminary order shall be binding on the parties but shall not be subject to enforcement by a court. Such a preliminary order does not constitute an award. [2015 c 276 § 21.]

7.05.220 Modification, suspension, termination of preliminary orders. The arbitral tribunal may modify, suspend, or terminate an interim measure or a preliminary order it has granted upon application of any party or, in exceptional circumstances and upon prior notice to the parties, on the arbitral tribunal's own initiative. [2015 c 276 § 22.]

7.05.230 Provision of security. (1) The arbitral tribunal may require the party requesting an interim measure to provide appropriate security in connection with the measure.

(2) The arbitral tribunal shall require the party applying for a preliminary order to provide security in connection with the order unless the arbitral tribunal considers it inappropriate to do so. [2015 c 276 § 23.]

7.05.240 Disclosures. (1) The arbitral tribunal may require any party promptly to disclose any material change in the circumstances on the basis of which the measure was requested or granted.

(2) The party applying for a preliminary order shall disclose to the arbitral tribunal all circumstances that are likely to be relevant to the arbitral tribunal's determination whether to grant or maintain the order, and such obligation shall continue until the party against whom the order has been requested has had an opportunity to present its case. Thereafter, subsection (1) of this section shall apply. [2015 c 276 § 24.]

7.05.250 Costs and damages. The party requesting an interim measure or applying for a preliminary order shall be liable for any costs and damages caused by the measure or the order to any party if the arbitral tribunal later determines that, in the circumstances, the measure or the order should not have been granted. The arbitral tribunal may award such costs and damages at any point during the proceedings. [2015 c 276 § 25.]

7.05.260 Recognition and enforcement of interim measures. (1) An interim measure issued by an arbitral tribunal shall be recognized as binding and, unless otherwise provided by the arbitral tribunal, enforced upon application to the superior court, irrespective of the country in which it was issued, subject to the provisions of RCW 7.05.270.

(2) The party who is seeking or has obtained recognition or enforcement of an interim measure shall promptly inform the court of any termination, suspension, or modification of that interim measure.

(3) The court of the state where recognition or enforcement is sought may, if it considers it proper, order the requesting party to provide appropriate security if the arbitral

tribunal has not already made a determination with respect to security or where such a decision is necessary to protect the rights of third parties. [2015 c 276 § 26.]

7.05.270 Grounds for refusing recognition and enforcement. (1) Recognition or enforcement of an interim award may be refused only:

(a) At the request of the party against whom it is invoked if the court is satisfied that:

(i) Such refusal is warranted on the grounds set forth in RCW 7.05.470(1)(a) (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv);

(ii) The arbitral tribunal's decision with respect to the provision of security in connection with the interim measure issued by the arbitral tribunal has not been complied with; or

(iii) The interim measure has been terminated or suspended by the arbitral tribunal or, where so empowered, by the court of the state in which the arbitration takes place or under the law of which that interim measure was granted; or

(b) If the court finds that:

(i) The interim measure is incompatible with the powers conferred upon the court unless the court decides to reformulate the interim measure to the extent necessary to adapt it to its own powers and procedures for the purposes of enforcing that interim measure and without modifying its substance; or

(ii) Any of the grounds set forth in RCW 7.05.470(1)(b) (i) or (ii) apply to the recognition and enforcement of the interim measure.

(2) Any determination made by the court on any ground in subsection (1) of this section shall be effective only for the purposes of the application to recognize and enforce the interim measure. The court where recognition or enforcement is sought shall not, in making that determination, undertake a review of the substance of the interim measure. [2015 c 276 § 27.]

7.05.280 Court-ordered interim measures. A court shall have the same power of issuing an interim measure in relation to arbitration proceedings, irrespective of whether their place is in the territory of this state, as it has in relation to proceedings in courts. The court shall exercise such power in accordance with its own procedures in consideration of the specific features of international arbitration. [2015 c 276 § 28.]

7.05.290 Equal treatment of parties. The parties shall be treated with equality, and each party shall be given a full opportunity of presenting its case. [2015 c 276 § 29.]

7.05.300 Determination of rules and procedure. (1) Subject to the provisions of this chapter, the parties are free to agree on the procedure to be followed by the arbitral tribunal in conducting the proceedings.

(2) Failing such agreement, the arbitral tribunal may, subject to the provisions of this chapter, conduct the arbitration in such manner as it considers appropriate. The power conferred upon the arbitral tribunal includes the power to determine the admissibility, relevance, materiality, and weight of any evidence. [2015 c 276 § 30.]

7.05.310 Place of arbitration. (1) The parties are free to agree on the place of arbitration. Failing such agreement, the place of arbitration shall be determined by the arbitral tribunal having regard to the circumstances of the case, including the convenience of the parties.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, the arbitral tribunal may, unless otherwise agreed by the parties, meet at any place it considers appropriate for consultation among its members, for hearing witnesses, experts, or the parties, or for inspection of goods, other property, or documents. [2015 c 276 § 31.]

7.05.320 Commencement of arbitral proceedings. Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, the arbitral proceedings in respect of a particular dispute commence on the date on which a request for that dispute to be referred to arbitration is received by the respondent. [2015 c 276 § 32.]

7.05.330 Language used in proceedings. (1) The parties are free to agree on the language or languages to be used in the arbitral proceedings. Failing such agreement, the arbitral tribunal shall determine the language or languages to be used in the proceedings. This agreement or determination, unless otherwise specified therein, shall apply to any written statement by a party, any hearing, and any award, decision, or other communication by the arbitral tribunal.

(2) The arbitral tribunal may order that any documentary evidence shall be accompanied by a translation into the language or languages agreed upon by the parties or determined by the arbitral tribunal. [2015 c 276 § 33.]

7.05.340 Statement of claim and defense. (1) Within the period of time agreed by the parties or determined by the arbitral tribunal, the claimant shall state the facts supporting its claim, the point at issue, and the relief or remedy sought, and the respondent shall state its defense in respect of these particulars, unless the parties have otherwise agreed as to the required elements of such statements. The parties may submit with their statements all documents they consider to be relevant or may add a reference to the documents or other evidence they will submit.

(2) Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, either party may amend or supplement its claims or defenses during the course of the arbitral proceedings, unless the arbitral tribunal considers it inappropriate to allow such amendment having regard to the delay in making it. [2015 c 276 § 34.]

7.05.350 Hearings and written proceedings. (1) Subject to any contrary agreement by the parties, the arbitral tribunal shall decide whether to hold oral hearings for the presentation of evidence or for oral argument, or whether the proceedings shall be conducted on the basis of documents and other materials. However, unless the parties have agreed that no hearings shall be held, the arbitral tribunal shall hold such hearings at an appropriate stage of the proceedings, if so requested by a party.

(2) The parties shall be given sufficient advance notice of any hearing and of any meeting of the arbitral tribunal for the purposes of inspection of goods, other property, or documents.

(3) All statements, documents, or other information supplied to the arbitral tribunal by one party shall be communicated to the other party. Any expert report or evidentiary doc-

ument on which the arbitral tribunal may rely in making its decision shall be communicated to the parties. [2015 c 276 § 35.]

7.05.360 Default of a party. Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, if, without showing sufficient cause:

(1) The claimant fails to communicate its statement of claim in accordance with RCW 7.05.340(1), the arbitral tribunal shall terminate the proceedings;

(2) The respondent fails to communicate its statements of defense in accordance with RCW 7.05.340(1), the arbitral tribunal shall continue the proceedings without treating such failure in itself as an admission of the claimant's allegations; and

(3) Any party fails to appear at a hearing or to produce documentary evidence, the arbitral tribunal may continue the proceedings and make the award on the evidence before it. [2015 c 276 § 36.]

7.05.370 Expert appointed by arbitral tribunal. (1) Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, the arbitral tribunal:

(a) May appoint one or more experts to report to it on specific issues to be determined by the arbitral tribunal; and

(b) May require a party to give the expert any relevant information or to produce, or to provide access to, any relevant documents, goods, or other property for the expert's inspection.

(2) Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, if a party so requests or if the arbitral tribunal considers it necessary, the expert shall, after delivery of the expert's written or oral report, participate in a hearing where the parties have the opportunity to put questions to the expert and to present expert witnesses in order to testify on the points at issue. [2015 c 276 § 37.]

7.05.380 Court assistance in taking evidence—Consolidation. (1) The arbitral tribunal or a party with the approval of the arbitral tribunal may request from the superior court assistance in taking evidence. The court may execute the request within its competence and according to its rules on taking evidence.

(2) When the parties to two or more arbitration agreements have agreed in their respective arbitration agreements or otherwise, the superior court may, on application by one party with the consent of all other parties to those arbitration agreements, do one or more of the following:

(a) Order the arbitration proceedings arising out of those arbitration agreements to be consolidated on terms the court considers just and necessary;

(b) Where all parties cannot agree on an arbitral tribunal for the consolidated arbitration, appoint an arbitral tribunal in accordance with RCW 7.05.120(4); and

(c) Where the parties cannot agree on any other matter necessary to conduct the consolidated arbitration, make any other order it considers necessary. [2015 c 276 § 38.]

7.05.390 Rules applicable to substance of dispute. (1) The arbitral tribunal shall decide the dispute in accordance with such rules of law as are chosen by the parties as applicable to the substance of the dispute. Any designation of the law or legal system of a given state shall be construed, unless otherwise expressed, as directly referring to the substantive law of that state and not to its conflict of laws rules.

(2) Failing any designation by the parties, the arbitral tribunal shall apply the law determined by the conflict of laws rules which it considers applicable.

(3) The arbitral tribunal shall decide *ex aequo et bono* or as *amiable compositeur* only if the parties have expressly authorized it to do so.

(4) In all cases, the arbitral tribunal shall decide in accordance with the terms of the contract and shall take into account the usages of the trade applicable to the transaction. [2015 c 276 § 39.]

7.05.400 Decision making by panel of arbitrators. In arbitral proceedings with more than one arbitrator, any decision of the arbitral tribunal shall be made, unless otherwise agreed by the parties, by a majority of all its members. However, questions of procedure may be decided by a presiding arbitrator, if so authorized by the parties or all members of the arbitral tribunal. [2015 c 276 § 40.]

7.05.410 Settlement. (1) If, during arbitral proceedings, the parties settle the dispute, the arbitral tribunal shall terminate the proceedings and, if requested by the parties and not objected to by the arbitral tribunal, record the settlement in the form of an arbitral award on agreed terms.

(2) An award on agreed terms shall be made in accordance with the provisions of RCW 7.05.420 and shall state that it is an award. Such an award has the same status and effect as any other award on the merits of the case. [2015 c 276 § 41.]

7.05.420 Form and contents of award. (1) The award shall be made in writing and shall be signed by the arbitrator or arbitrators. In arbitral proceedings with more than one arbitrator, the signatures of the majority of all members of the arbitral tribunal shall suffice, provided that the reason for any omitted signature is stated.

(2) The award shall state the reasons upon which it is based, unless the parties have agreed that no reasons are to be given or the award is an award on agreed terms under RCW 7.05.410.

(3) The award shall state its date and the place of arbitration as determined in accordance with RCW 7.05.310(1). The award shall be deemed to have been made at that place.

(4) After the award is made, a copy signed by the arbitrators in accordance with subsection (1) of this section shall be delivered to each party. [2015 c 276 § 42.]

7.05.430 Termination of proceedings. (1) The arbitral proceedings are terminated by the final award or by an order of the arbitral tribunal in accordance with subsection (2) of this section.

(2) The arbitral tribunal shall issue an order for the termination of the arbitral proceedings when:

(a) The claimant withdraws its claim, unless the respondent objects thereto and the arbitral tribunal recognizes a legitimate interest on the respondent's part in obtaining a final settlement of the dispute;

(b) The parties agree on the termination of the proceedings; or

(c) The arbitral tribunal finds that the continuation of the proceedings has for any other reason become unnecessary or impossible.

(3) The mandate of the arbitral tribunal terminates with the termination of the arbitral proceedings, subject to the provisions of RCW 7.05.440 and 7.05.450(4). [2015 c 276 § 43.]

7.05.440 Correction and interpretation of award—Additional award. (1) Within thirty days of receipt of the award, unless another period of time has been agreed upon by the parties:

(a) A party, with notice to the other party, may request the arbitral tribunal to correct in the award any errors in computation, any clerical or typographical errors, or any errors of similar nature;

(b) If so agreed by the parties, a party, with notice to the other party, may request the arbitral tribunal to give an interpretation of a specific point or part of the award; and

(c) If the arbitral tribunal considers the request to be justified, it shall make the correction or give the interpretation within thirty days of receipt of the request. The interpretation shall form part of the award.

(2) The arbitral tribunal may correct any error of the type referred to in subsection (1)(a) of this section on its own initiative within thirty days of the date of the award.

(3) Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, a party, with notice to the other party, may request, within thirty days of receipt of the award, the arbitral tribunal to make an additional award as to claims presented in the arbitral proceedings but omitted from the award. If the arbitral tribunal considers the request to be justified, it shall make the additional award within sixty days.

(4) The arbitral tribunal may extend, if necessary, the period of time within which it shall make a correction, interpretation, or an additional award under subsection (1) or (3) of this section.

(5) The provisions of RCW 7.05.420 shall apply to a correction or interpretation of the award or to an additional award. [2015 c 276 § 44.]

7.05.450 Application for setting aside as exclusive recourse against arbitral award. (1) Recourse to the superior court against an arbitral award may be made only by an application for setting aside in accordance with subsections (2) and (3) of this section.

(2) An arbitral award may be set aside by the superior court only if:

(a) The party making the application furnishes proof that:

(i) A party to the arbitration agreement referred to in RCW 7.05.080 was under some incapacity, or the said agreement is not valid under the law to which the parties have subjected it or, failing any indication thereon, under the law of this state;

(ii) The party making the application was not given proper notice of the appointment of an arbitrator or of the arbitral proceedings or was otherwise unable to present its case;

(iii) The award deals with a dispute not contemplated by or not falling within the terms of the submission to arbitration, or contains decisions on matters beyond the scope of the submission to arbitration, provided that, if the decisions on matters submitted to arbitration can be separated from those not so submitted, only that part of the award which contains decisions on matters not submitted to arbitration may be set aside; or

(iv) The composition of the arbitral tribunal or the arbitral procedure was not in accordance with the agreement of the parties, unless such agreement was in conflict with a provision of this chapter from which the parties cannot derogate, or, failing such agreement, was not in accordance with this chapter; or

(b) The court finds that:

(i) The subject matter of the dispute is not capable of settlement by arbitration under the law of this state; or

(ii) The award is in conflict with the public policy of this state.

(3) An application for setting aside may not be made after three months have elapsed from the date on which the party making that application had received the award or, if a request had been made under RCW 7.05.440, from the date on which that request had been disposed of by the arbitral tribunal.

(4) The court, when asked to set aside an award, may, where appropriate and so requested by a party, suspend the setting aside proceedings for a period of time determined by it in order to give the arbitral tribunal an opportunity to resume the arbitral proceedings or to take such other action as in the arbitral tribunal's opinion will eliminate the grounds for setting aside. [2015 c 276 § 45.]

7.05.460 Recognition and enforcement. (1) An arbitral award, irrespective of the country in which it was made, shall be recognized as binding and, upon application in writing to the superior court, shall be enforced subject to the provisions of this section and of RCW 7.05.470.

(2) The party relying on an award or applying for its enforcement shall supply the original award or a copy thereof. If the award is not made in English, the court may request the party to supply a translation thereof into English. [2015 c 276 § 46.]

7.05.470 Grounds for refusing recognition or enforcement. (1) Recognition or enforcement of an arbitral award, irrespective of the country in which it was made, may be refused only:

(a) At the request of the party against whom it is invoked, if that party furnishes to the competent court where recognition or enforcement is sought proof that:

(i) A party to the arbitration agreement referred to in RCW 7.05.080 was under some incapacity, or the said agreement is not valid under the law to which the parties have subjected it or, failing any indication thereon, under the law of the country where the award was made;

(ii) The party against whom the award is invoked was not given proper notice of the appointment of an arbitrator or of the arbitral proceedings or was otherwise unable to present its case;

(iii) The award deals with a dispute not contemplated by or not falling within the terms of the submission to arbitration, or contains decisions on matters beyond the scope of the

submission to arbitration, provided that, if the decisions on matters submitted to arbitration can be separated from those not so submitted, that part of the award which contains decisions on matters submitted to arbitration may be recognized and enforced;

(iv) The composition of the arbitral tribunal or the arbitral procedure was not in accordance with the agreement of the parties, or, failing such agreement, was not in accordance with the law of the country where the arbitration took place; or

(v) The award has not yet become binding on the parties or has been set aside or suspended by a court of the country in which, or under the law of which, that award was made; or

(b) The court finds that:

(i) The subject matter of the dispute is not capable of settlement by arbitration under the law of this state; or

(ii) The recognition or enforcement of the award would be contrary to the public policy of this state.

(2) If an application for setting aside or suspension of an award has been made to a court referred to in subsection (1)(a)(v) of this section, the court where recognition or enforcement is sought may, if it considers it proper, adjourn its decision and may also, on the application of the party claiming recognition or enforcement of the award, order the other party to provide appropriate security. [2015 c 276 § 47.]

Chapter 7.06 RCW
ARBITRATION OF CIVIL ACTIONS

Sections

Rules of court: *See Superior Court Mandatory Arbitration Rules (MAR).*

7.06.010 Authorization. In counties with a population of more than one hundred thousand, arbitration of civil actions under this chapter shall be required. In counties with a population of one hundred thousand or less, the superior court of the county, by majority vote of the judges thereof, or the county legislative authority may authorize arbitration of civil actions under this chapter. [2018 c 36 § 1; 2005 c 472 § 1; 2002 c 338 § 1; 1991 c 363 § 7; 1984 c 258 § 511; 1979 c 103 § 1.]

Applicability—Effective date—2018 c 36: See notes following RCW 7.06.043.

Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363: See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.06.020 Actions subject to civil arbitration—Court may authorize mandatory arbitration of maintenance and child support. (1) All civil actions, except for appeals from municipal or district courts, which are at issue in the superior court in counties which have authorized arbitration, where the sole relief sought is a money judgment, and where no party asserts a claim in excess of fifteen thousand dollars, or if approved by the superior court of a county by two-thirds or greater vote of the judges thereof, up to one hundred thousand dollars, exclusive of interest and costs, are subject to civil arbitration.

(2) If approved by majority vote of the superior court judges of a county which has authorized arbitration, all civil actions which are at issue in the superior court in which the sole relief sought is the establishment, termination, or modification of maintenance or child support payments are subject to mandatory arbitration. The arbitrability of any such action shall not be affected by the amount or number of payments involved. [2018 c 36 § 2; 2005 c 472 § 2. Prior: 1987 c 212 § 101; 1987 c 202 § 127; 1985 c 265 § 3; 1982 c 188 § 1; 1979 c 103 § 2.]

Rules of court: *MAR 1.2.*

Applicability—Effective date—2018 c 36: See notes following RCW 7.06.043.

Intent—1987 c 202: See note following RCW 2.04.190.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.06.030 Implementation by supreme court rules. The supreme court shall by rule adopt procedures to implement mandatory arbitration of civil actions under this chapter. [1979 c 103 § 3.]

7.06.040 Qualifications, appointment, and compensation of arbitrators. (1) The appointment of arbitrators shall be prescribed by rules adopted by the supreme court. An arbitrator must be a member of the state bar association who has been admitted to the bar for a minimum of five years or who is a retired judge.

(2)(a) A person may not serve as an arbitrator unless the person has completed a minimum of three credits of Washington state bar association approved continuing legal education credits on the professional and ethical consideration for serving as an arbitrator. A person serving as an arbitrator must file a declaration or affidavit stating or certifying to the appointing court that the person is in compliance with this section.

(b) The superior court judge or judges in any county may choose to waive the requirements of this subsection (2) for arbitrators who have acted as an arbitrator five or more times previously.

(3) The parties may stipulate to a nonlawyer arbitrator. The supreme court may prescribe by rule additional qualifications of arbitrators.

(4) Arbitrators shall be compensated in the same amount and manner as judges pro tempore of the superior court. [2018 c 36 § 5; 1987 c 212 § 102; 1979 c 103 § 4.]

Applicability—Effective date—2018 c 36: See notes following RCW 7.06.043.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.06.043 Hearing—Time, date, and place. The arbitrator shall set the time, date, and place of the hearing and shall give reasonable notice of the hearing date to the parties. Except by stipulation or for good cause shown, the hearing

shall be scheduled to take place not sooner than twenty-one days, nor later than seventy-five days, from the date of the assignment of the case to the arbitrator. The hearing shall take place in appropriate facilities provided or authorized by the court. [2018 c 36 § 3.]

Applicability—2018 c 36: "This act applies to all cases filed on or after September 1, 2018." [2018 c 36 § 8.]

Effective date—2018 c 36: "This act takes effect September 1, 2018." [2018 c 36 § 9.]

7.06.047 Discovery. After the assignment of a case to the arbitrator, a party may conduct discovery as follows: (1) Request from the arbitrator an examination under CR 35; (2) request admissions from a party under CR 36; and (3) take the deposition of another party. A party may request additional discovery from the arbitrator, including interrogatories, and the arbitrator will allow additional discovery only as reasonably necessary. [2018 c 36 § 4.]

Applicability—Effective date—2018 c 36: See notes following RCW 7.06.043.

7.06.050 Decision and award—Appeals—Trial—Judgment. (1) Following a hearing as prescribed by court rule, the arbitrator shall file his or her decision and award with the clerk of the superior court, together with proof of service thereof on the parties. Within twenty days after such filing, any aggrieved party may file with the clerk a written notice of appeal and request for a trial de novo in the superior court on all issues of law and fact. The notice must be signed by the party. Such trial de novo shall thereupon be held, including a right to jury, if demanded.

(a) Up to thirty days prior to the actual date of a trial de novo, a nonappealing party may serve upon the appealing party a written offer of compromise.

(b) In any case in which an offer of compromise is not accepted by the appealing party within ten calendar days after service thereof, for purposes of MAR 7.3, the amount of the offer of compromise shall replace the amount of the arbitrator's award for determining whether the party appealing the arbitrator's award has failed to improve that party's position on the trial de novo.

(c) A postarbitration offer of compromise shall not be filed or communicated to the court or the trier of fact until after judgment on the trial de novo, at which time a copy of the offer of compromise shall be filed for purposes of determining whether the party who appealed the arbitrator's award has failed to improve that party's position on the trial de novo, pursuant to MAR 7.3.

(2) If no appeal has been filed at the expiration of twenty days following filing of the arbitrator's decision and award, a judgment shall be entered and may be presented to the court by any party, on notice, which judgment when entered shall have the same force and effect as judgments in civil actions. [2018 c 36 § 6; 2011 c 336 § 164; 2002 c 339 § 1; 1982 c 188 § 2; 1979 c 103 § 5.]

Applicability—Effective date—2018 c 36: See notes following RCW 7.06.043.

7.06.060 Costs and attorneys' fees. (1) The superior court shall assess costs and reasonable attorneys' fees against a party who appeals the award and fails to improve his or her position on the trial de novo. The court may assess costs and reasonable attorneys' fees against a party who voluntarily withdraws a request for a trial de novo if the withdrawal is not requested in conjunction with the acceptance of an offer of compromise.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "costs and reasonable attorneys' fees" means those provided for by statute or court rule, or both, as well as all expenses related to expert witness testimony, that the court finds were reasonably necessary after the request for trial de novo has been filed.

(3) If the prevailing party in the arbitration also prevails at the trial de novo, even though at the trial de novo the appealing party may have improved his or her position from the arbitration, this section does not preclude the prevailing party from recovering those costs and disbursements otherwise allowed under chapter 4.84 RCW, for both actions. [2002 c 339 § 2; 1979 c 103 § 6.]

7.06.070 Right to trial by jury. No provision of this chapter may be construed to abridge the right to trial by jury. [1979 c 103 § 7.]

7.06.080 Application date for request under RCW 7.06.050 and 7.06.060. RCW 7.06.050 and 7.06.060 apply to all requests for a trial de novo filed pursuant to and in appeal of an arbitrator's decision and filed on or after June 13, 2002. [2002 c 339 § 3.]

7.06.910 Effective date—1979 c 103. This act shall take effect July 1, 1980. [1979 c 103 § 10.]

Chapter 7.07 RCW
UNIFORM MEDIATION ACT

Sections

7.07.010 Definitions. In this chapter:

(1) "Mediation" means a process in which a mediator facilitates communication and negotiation between parties to assist them in reaching a voluntary agreement regarding their dispute.

(2) "Mediation communication" means a statement, whether oral or in a record or verbal or nonverbal, that occurs during a mediation or is made for purposes of considering, conducting, participating in, initiating, continuing, or reconvening a mediation or retaining a mediator.

(3) "Mediator" means an individual who conducts a mediation.

(4) "Nonparty participant" means a person, other than a party or mediator, that participates in a mediation.

(5) "Mediation party" means a person that participates in a mediation and whose agreement is necessary to resolve the dispute.

(6) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture, government; governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality; or public corporation, or any other legal or commercial entity.

(7) "Proceeding" means:

(a) A judicial, administrative, arbitral, or other adjudicative process, including related prehearing and posthearing motions, conferences, and discovery; or

(b) A legislative hearing or similar process.

(8) "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

(9) "Sign" means:

(a) To execute or adopt a tangible symbol with the present intent to authenticate a record; or

(b) To attach or logically associate an electronic symbol, sound, or process to or with a record with the present intent to authenticate a record. [2005 c 172 § 2.]

7.07.020 Scope. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2) or (3) of this section, this chapter applies to a mediation in which:

(a) The mediation parties are required to mediate by statute or court or administrative agency rule or referred to mediation by a court, administrative agency, or arbitrator;

(b) The mediation parties and the mediator agree to mediate in a record that demonstrates an expectation that mediation communications will be privileged against disclosure; or

(c) The mediation parties use as a mediator an individual who holds himself or herself out as a mediator or the mediation is provided by a person that holds itself out as providing mediation.

(2) This chapter does not apply to a mediation:

(a) Conducted by a judge who might make a ruling on the case; or

(b) Conducted under the auspices of:

(i) A primary or secondary school if all the parties are students; or

(ii) A correctional institution for youths if all the parties are residents of that institution.

(3) If the parties agree in advance in a signed record, or a record of proceeding reflects agreement by the parties, that all or part of a mediation is not privileged, the privileges under RCW 7.07.030 through 7.07.050 do not apply to the mediation or part agreed upon. However, RCW 7.07.030 through 7.07.050 apply to a mediation communication made by a person that has not received actual notice of the agreement before the communication is made. [2005 c 172 § 3.]

7.07.030 Privilege against disclosure—Admissibility—Discovery. (1) Except as otherwise provided in RCW 7.07.050, a mediation communication is privileged as provided in subsection (2) of this section and is not subject to discovery or admissible in evidence in a proceeding unless waived or precluded as provided by RCW 7.07.040.

(2) In a proceeding, the following privileges apply:

(a) A mediation party may refuse to disclose, and may prevent any other person from disclosing, a mediation communication;

(b) A mediator may refuse to disclose a mediation communication, and may prevent any other person from disclosing a mediation communication of the mediator; and

(c) A nonparty participant may refuse to disclose, and may prevent any other person from disclosing, a mediation communication of the nonparty participant.

(3) Evidence or information that is otherwise admissible or subject to discovery does not become inadmissible or protected from discovery solely by reason of its disclosure or use in a mediation. [2005 c 172 § 4.]

7.07.040 Waiver and preclusion of privilege. (1) A privilege under RCW 7.07.030 may be waived in a record or orally during a proceeding if it is expressly waived by all parties to the mediation and:

(a) In the case of the privilege of a mediator, it is expressly waived by the mediator; and

(b) In the case of the privilege of a nonparty participant, it is expressly waived by the nonparty participant.

(2) A person that discloses or makes a representation about a mediation communication which prejudices another person in a proceeding is precluded from asserting a privilege under RCW 7.07.030, but only to the extent necessary for the person prejudiced to respond to the representation or disclosure.

(3) A person that intentionally uses a mediation to plan, attempt to commit, or commit a crime, or to conceal an ongoing crime or ongoing criminal activity is precluded from asserting a privilege under RCW 7.07.030. [2005 c 172 § 5.]

7.07.050 Exceptions to privilege. (1) There is no privilege under RCW 7.07.030 for a mediation communication that is:

(a) In an agreement evidenced by a record signed by all parties to the agreement;

(b) Made during a session of a mediation which is open, or is required by law to be open, to the public;

(c) A threat or statement of a plan to inflict bodily injury or commit a crime of violence;

(d) Intentionally used to plan a crime, attempt to commit or commit a crime, or to conceal an ongoing crime or ongoing criminal activity;

(e) Sought or offered to prove or disprove a claim or complaint of professional misconduct or malpractice filed against a mediator;

(f) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) of this section, sought or offered to prove or disprove a claim or complaint of professional misconduct or malpractice filed against a mediation party, nonparty participant, or representative of a party based on conduct occurring during a mediation; or

(g) Sought or offered to prove or disprove abuse, neglect, abandonment, or exploitation in a proceeding in which a child or adult protective services agency is a party, unless the public agency participates in the child or adult protection mediation.

(2) There is no privilege under RCW 7.07.030 if a court finds, after a hearing in camera, that the party seeking discov-

ery or the proponent of the evidence has shown that the evidence is not otherwise available, that there is a need for the evidence that substantially outweighs the interest in protecting confidentiality, and that the mediation communication is sought or offered in:

(a) A criminal court proceeding involving a felony; or

(b) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) of this section, a proceeding to prove a claim to rescind or reform or a defense to avoid liability on a contract arising out of the mediation.

(3) A mediator may not be compelled to provide evidence of a mediation communication referred to in subsection (1)(f) or (2)(b) of this section.

(4) If a mediation communication is not privileged under subsection (1) or (2) of this section, only the portion of the communication necessary for the application of the exception from nondisclosure may be admitted. Admission of evidence under subsection (1) or (2) of this section does not render the evidence, or any other mediation communication, discoverable or admissible for any other purpose.

(5) Records of mediation communications that are privileged under this chapter are exempt from the requirements of chapter 42.56 RCW. [2006 c 209 § 1; 2005 c 172 § 6.]

7.07.060 Prohibited mediator reports. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, a mediator may not make a report, assessment, evaluation, recommendation, finding, or other communication regarding a mediation to a court, administrative agency, or other authority that may make a ruling on the dispute that is the subject of the mediation.

(2) A mediator may disclose:

(a) Whether the mediation occurred or has terminated, whether a settlement was reached, attendance, and efforts to schedule a mediation ordered by a court, administrative agency, or other authority that may make a ruling on the dispute;

(b) A mediation communication as permitted under RCW 7.07.050; or

(c) A mediation communication evidencing abuse, neglect, abandonment, or exploitation of an individual to a public agency responsible for protecting individuals against such mistreatment.

(3) A communication made in violation of subsection (1) of this section may not be considered by a court, administrative agency, or arbitrator. [2005 c 172 § 7.]

7.07.070 Confidentiality. Unless subject to chapter 42.30 RCW, mediation communications are confidential to the extent agreed by the parties or provided by other law or rule of this state. [2005 c 172 § 8.]

7.07.080 Mediator's disclosure of conflicts of interest—Background. (1) Before accepting a mediation, an individual who is requested to serve as a mediator shall:

(a) Make an inquiry that is reasonable under the circumstances to determine whether there are any known facts that a reasonable individual would consider likely to affect the impartiality of the mediator, including a financial or personal interest in the outcome of the mediation and an existing or past relationship with a mediation party or foreseeable participant in the mediation; and

(b) Disclose any such known fact to the mediation parties as soon as is practical before accepting a mediation.

(2) If a mediator learns any fact described in subsection (1)(a) of this section after accepting a mediation, the mediator shall disclose it as soon as is practicable.

(3) At the request of a mediation party, an individual who is requested to serve as a mediator shall disclose the mediator's qualifications to mediate a dispute.

(4) A person that violates subsection (1) or (2) of this section is precluded by the violation from asserting a privilege under RCW 7.07.030.

(5) Subsections (1) through (3) of this section do not apply to an individual acting as a judge.

(6) This chapter does not require that a mediator have a special qualification by background or profession. [2005 c 172 § 9.]

7.07.090 Participation in mediation. An attorney or other individual designated by a party may accompany the party to and participate in a mediation, except that if the dispute being mediated is the subject of pending proceedings under chapter 12.40 RCW, then a party may not be represented by an attorney in mediation unless the party may be represented by an attorney in the proceedings under chapter 12.40 RCW. A waiver of participation given before the mediation may be rescinded. [2005 c 172 § 10.]

7.07.100 Relation to electronic signatures in global and national commerce act. This chapter modifies, limits, or supersedes the federal electronic signatures in global and national commerce act (15 U.S.C. Sec. 7001 et seq.), but this chapter does not modify, limit, or supersede section 101(c) of that act or authorize electronic delivery of any of the notices described in section 103(b) of that act. [2005 c 172 § 11.]

7.07.110 Uniformity of application and construction. In applying and construing this chapter, consideration should be given to the need to promote uniformity of the law with respect to its subject matter among states that enact it. [2005 c 172 § 12.]

7.07.900 Short title—2005 c 172. This act may be cited as the Uniform Mediation Act. [2005 c 172 § 1.]

7.07.903 Application to existing agreements or referrals. (1) This chapter governs a mediation pursuant to a referral or an agreement to mediate made on or after January 1, 2006.

(2) If all parties agree in a signed record or a record of proceeding reflects such an agreement by all parties, then this chapter governs a mediation pursuant to a referral or an agreement to mediate whenever made. [2005 c 172 § 22.]

7.07.904 Effective date—2005 c 172. This act takes effect January 1, 2006. [2005 c 172 § 23.]

Chapter 7.08 RCW
ASSIGNMENT FOR BENEFIT OF CREDITORS

Sections

Fraud in assignment for benefit of creditors: RCW 9.45.100.

7.08.010 Assignment must be for benefit of all creditors. No general assignment of property by an insolvent, or in contemplation of insolvency, for the benefit of creditors, shall be valid unless it be made for the benefit of all of the assignor's creditors in proportion to the amount of their respective claims. [2004 c 165 § 36; 1893 c 100 § 1; 1890 p 83 § 1; RRS § 1086.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.08.030 Assignment—Procedure—Creditor's selection of new assignee. (1) An assignment under this chapter must be in substantially the following form:

ASSIGNMENT

THIS ASSIGNMENT is made this . . . . day of . . . . . ., ..., by and between . . . . . ., with a principal place of business at . . . . . (hereinafter "assignor"), and . . . . . ., whose address is . . . . . (hereinafter "assignee").

WHEREAS, the assignor has been engaged in the business of . . . . . .

WHEREAS, the assignor is indebted to creditors, as set forth in Schedule A annexed hereto, is unable to pay debts as they become due, and is desirous of providing for the payment of debts, so far as it is possible by an assignment of all property for that purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, the assignor, in consideration of the assignee's acceptance of this assignment, and for other good and valuable consideration, hereby grants, assigns, conveys, transfers, and sets over, unto the assignee, and the assignee's successors and assigns, all of assignor's property, except such property as is exempt by law from levy and sale under an execution (and then only to the extent of such exemption), including, but not limited to, all real property, fixtures, goods, stock, inventory, equipment, furniture, furnishings, accounts receivable, general intangibles, bank deposits, cash, promissory notes, cash value and proceeds of insurance policies, claims, and demands belonging to the assignor, wherever such property may be located (hereinafter collectively the "estate"), which property is, to the best knowledge and belief of the assignor, fully and accurately set forth on Schedule B annexed hereto.

By making this assignment, the assignor consents to the appointment of the assignee as a general receiver with respect to the assignee's property in accordance with chapter 7.60 RCW.

The assignee shall take possession and administer the estate, and shall liquidate the estate with reasonable dispatch and convert the estate into money, collect all claims and demands hereby assigned as and to the extent they may be collectible, and pay and discharge all reasonable expenses, costs, and disbursements in connection with the execution and administration of this assignment from the proceeds of such liquidations and collections.

The assignee shall then pay and discharge in full, to the extent that funds are available in the estate after payment of administrative expenses, costs, and disbursements, all of the debts and liabilities now due from the assignor, including interest on such debts and liabilities in full, according to their priority as established by law, and on a pro rata basis within each class.

In the event that all debts and liabilities are paid in full, the remainder of the estate shall be returned to the assignor.

To accomplish the purposes of this assignment, the assignor hereby irrevocably appoints the assignee as the assignor's true and lawful attorney-in-fact, with full power and authority to do all acts and things which may be necessary to execute and fulfill the assignment hereby created, to the same extent as such acts and things might be done by assignor in the absence of this assignment, including but not limited to the power to demand and recover from all persons all property of the estate; to sue for the recovery of such property; to execute, acknowledge, and deliver all necessary deeds, instruments, and conveyances, and to grant and convey any or all of the real or personal property of the estate pursuant thereto; and to appoint one or more attorneys to assist the assignee in carrying out the assignee's duties hereunder.

The assignor hereby authorizes the assignee to sign the name of the assignor to any check, draft, promissory note, or other instrument in writing which is payable to the order of the assignor, or to sign the name of the assignor to any instrument in writing, whenever it shall be necessary to do so, to carry out the purposes of this assignment.

The assignor declares, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington, that the attached list of creditors and of the property of the assignor is true and complete to the best of the assignor's knowledge.

The assignment shall be signed by the assignor and duly acknowledged in the same manner as conveyances of real property before a notary public of this state, and shall include an acceptance of the assignment by the assignee in substantially the following form:

The assignee hereby accepts the trust created by the foregoing assignment, and agrees faithfully and without delay to carry out the assignee's duties under the foregoing assignment.

. . . . .	. . . . .
Assignor	Assignee
Dated:	Dated: . . . . .

(2) The assignor shall annex to such assignment schedules in the form provided for by RCW 7.60.090(3) in the case of general receiverships, setting forth the creditors and the property of the assignor.

(3) Every assignment shall be effective when a petition to appoint the assignee as receiver has been filed by the assignor, by the assignee, or by any creditor of the assignor with the clerk of the superior court in the county of the assignor's residence if the assignor is an individual or a marital community, or in the county of the assignor's principal place of business or registered office within this state if the assignor is any other person. A petition shall set forth the name and address of the assignor and the name and address of the assignee, and shall include a copy of the assignment and the schedules affixed thereto, and a request that the court fix the amount of the receiver's bond to be filed with the clerk of the court.

(4) A person to whom a general assignment of property for the benefit of creditors has been made shall be appointed as general receiver with respect to the assignor's property by the superior court upon the filing of a petition under subsection (3) of this section. Except as provided for by subsection (5) of this section, following the assignee's appointment as general receiver, all proceedings involving the administration of the assignor's property and the claims of the assignee's creditors shall be governed by the provisions of chapter 7.60 RCW applicable to general receiverships and court rules applicable thereto.

(5) Upon motion of two or more creditors of the assignor served and filed at any time within thirty days following the date upon which notice is mailed to all known creditors under RCW 7.60.200, it shall be the duty of the court to direct the clerk of the court to order a meeting of the creditors of the assignor, to determine whether a person other than the assignee named in the assignment should be appointed as general receiver with respect to the property of the assignor; and thereupon the clerk of the court shall immediately give notice to all the creditors identified in the schedules affixed to the assignment to meet at the clerk's office or at such other location within the county as the clerk may specify, at a time stated not to exceed fifteen days from the date of such notice, to determine whether a person other than the assignee named in the assignment should be appointed as general receiver with respect to the property of the assignor. The assignor's creditors may appear in person or by proxy at the meeting, and a majority in both number and value of claims of the creditors attending or represented at the meeting may select a person other than the assignee named in the assignment to serve as general receiver with respect to the assignor's property, whereupon the court shall appoint the selected person as receiver under subsection (4) of this section if a receiver has not already been appointed, and shall appoint the person to replace the original assignee as receiver if the appointment already has been made, unless the court determines upon good cause shown that the appointment as receiver of the person selected by the creditors would not be in the best interests of creditors in general, in which event the court shall appoint or substitute as the receiver a person selected by the court other than the original assignee. If at least one-third of the number or amount of claims represented in person or by proxy at the meeting of creditors vote for the appointment as receiver of a person or persons other than the assignee named in the assignment, then the court upon motion of any creditor served and filed within ten days following the meeting shall appoint as receiver a person selected by the court other than the original assignee, discharging the original assignee if the person previously was appointed as receiver. A creditor may not vote at any meeting of creditors called for the purpose of determining whether a person other than the assignee named in the assignment should be appointed as receiver, until the creditor has presented to the clerk, who presides at the meeting, a proof of claim in accordance with RCW 7.60.210.

(6) From the time a motion is made to elect a new assignee in accordance with subsection (5) of this section, and until either the meeting of creditors occurs without a selection of a new assignee, or until the court enters an order appointing as receiver a person other than the original assignee if the creditors vote to select a new assignee at that meeting, no property of the assignor, except perishable property, may be sold or disposed of by the assignee, whether or not the assignee has been appointed as receiver; but the same shall be safely and securely kept until then. [2004 c 165 § 37; 1890 p 83 § 3; RRS § 1088. Formerly RCW 7.08.030 and 7.08.040.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.08.900 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521. For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 16.]

Chapter 7.16 RCW
CERTIORARI, MANDAMUS, AND PROHIBITION

Sections

Rules of court: *Writ procedure superseded by RAP 2.1; special proceeding RAP 16.1 through 16.17.*

Camping resorts, writ of mandamus authorized: RCW 19.105.470.

7.16.010 Parties, how designated. The party prosecuting a special proceeding may be known as the plaintiff and the adverse party as the defendant. [1895 c 65 § 1; RRS § 999.]

7.16.020 Judgment, motion, and order defined. A judgment in a special proceeding is the final determination of the rights of the parties therein. The definitions of a motion and an order in a civil action are applicable to similar acts in a special proceeding. [1895 c 65 § 2; RRS § 1000.]

CERTIORARI

7.16.030 Certiorari defined. The writ of certiorari may be denominated the writ of review. [1895 c 65 § 3; RRS § 1001.]

7.16.040 Grounds for granting writ. A writ of review shall be granted by any court, except a municipal or district court, when an inferior tribunal, board or officer, exercising judicial functions, has exceeded the jurisdiction of such tribunal, board or officer, or one acting illegally, or to correct any erroneous or void proceeding, or a proceeding not according to the course of the common law, and there is no appeal, nor in the judgment of the court, any plain, speedy and adequate remedy at law. [1987 c 202 § 130; 1895 c 65 § 4; RRS § 1002.]

Intent—1987 c 202: See note following RCW 2.04.190.

7.16.050 Application for writ—Notice. The application must be made on affidavit by the party beneficially interested, and the court may require a notice of the application to be given to the adverse party, or may grant an order to show cause why it should not be allowed, or may grant the writ without notice. [1895 c 65 § 5; RRS § 1003.]

7.16.060 Writ, to whom directed. The writ may be directed to the inferior tribunal, board or officer, or to any other person having the custody of the record or proceedings to be certified. When directed to a tribunal the clerk, if there be one, must return the writ with the transcript required. [1895 c 65 § 6; RRS § 1004.]

7.16.070 Contents of writ. The writ of review must command the party to whom it is directed to certify fully to the court issuing the writ, at a specified time and place, a transcript of the record and proceedings (describing or referring to them with convenient certainty), that the same may be reviewed by the court, and requiring the party, in the meantime, to desist from further proceedings in the matter to be reviewed. [1895 c 65 § 7; RRS § 1005.]

7.16.080 Stay of proceedings. If a stay of proceedings be not intended, the words requiring the stay must be omitted from the writ. These words may be inserted or omitted, in the sound discretion of the court, but if omitted the power of the inferior court or office is not suspended or the proceedings stayed. [1895 c 65 § 8; RRS § 1006.]

7.16.100 Service of writ. The writ may be served as follows, except where different directions respecting the mode of service thereof are given by the court granting it:

(1) Where it is directed to a person or persons by name or by his or her official title or titles, or to a municipal corporation, it must be served upon each officer or other person to whom it is directed, or upon the corporation, in the same manner as a summons.

(2) Where it is directed to a court, or to the judges of a court, having a clerk appointed pursuant to law, service upon the court or the judges thereof may be made by filing the writ with the clerk. [1895 c 65 § 10; RRS § 1008.]

7.16.110 Defective return—Further return—Hearing—Judgment. If the return of the writ be defective, the court may order a further return to be made. When a full return has been made, the court must hear the parties, or such of them as may attend for that purpose, and may thereupon give judgment, either affirming or annulling or modifying the proceedings below. [1895 c 65 § 11; RRS § 1009.]

7.16.120 Questions involving merits to be determined. The questions involving the merits to be determined by the court upon the hearing are:

(1) Whether the body or officer had jurisdiction of the subject matter of the determination under review.

(2) Whether the authority, conferred upon the body or officer in relation to that subject matter, has been pursued in the mode required by law, in order to authorize it or to make the determination.

(3) Whether, in making the determination, any rule of law affecting the rights of the parties thereto has been violated to the prejudice of the relator.

(4) Whether there was any competent proof of all the facts necessary to be proved, in order to authorize the making of the determination.

(5) Whether the factual determinations were supported by substantial evidence. [1989 c 7 § 1; 1957 c 51 § 6; 1895 c 65 § 12; RRS § 1010.]

7.16.130 Copy of judgment to inferior tribunal, board, or officer. A copy of the judgment signed by the clerk, must be transmitted to the inferior tribunal, board or officer having the custody of the record or proceeding certified up. [1895 c 65 § 13; RRS § 1011.]

7.16.140 Judgment roll. A copy of the judgment signed by the clerk, entered upon or attached to the writ and return, constitute the judgment roll. [1895 c 65 § 14; RRS § 1012.]

MANDAMUS

7.16.150 Mandamus defined. The writ of mandamus may be denominated a writ of mandate. [1895 c 65 § 15; RRS § 1013.]

7.16.160 Grounds for granting writ. It may be issued by any court, except a district or municipal court, to any inferior tribunal, corporation, board or person, to compel the performance of an act which the law especially enjoins as a duty resulting from an office, trust or station, or to compel the admission of a party to the use and enjoyment of a right or office to which the party is entitled, and from which the party is unlawfully precluded by such inferior tribunal, corporation, board or person. [1987 c 202 § 131; 1987 c 3 § 3; 1895 c 65 § 16; RRS § 1014.]

Intent—1987 c 202: See note following RCW 2.04.190.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.16.170 Absence of remedy at law required—Affidavit. The writ must be issued in all cases where there is not a plain, speedy and adequate remedy in the ordinary course of law. It must be issued upon affidavit on the application of the party beneficially interested. [1895 c 65 § 17; RRS § 1015.]

7.16.180 Alternative or peremptory writs—Form. The writ may be either alternative or peremptory. The alternative writ must state generally the allegation against the party to whom it is directed, and command such party, immediately after the receipt of the writ, or at some other specified time, to do the act required to be performed, or to show cause before the court, at a specified time and place, why he or she has not done so. The peremptory writ must be in some similar form, except the words requiring the party to show cause why he or she has not done as commanded must be omitted and a return day inserted. [2011 c 336 § 165; 1895 c 65 § 18; RRS § 1016.]

7.16.190 Notice of application—No default. When the application to the court is made without notice to the party, and the writ be allowed, the alternative must be first issued; and if the application be upon due notice and the writ be allowed, the peremptory writ may be issued in the first instance. The notice of the application, when given, must be at least ten days. The writ cannot be granted by default. The case must be heard by the court, whether the adverse party appear or not. [1895 c 65 § 19; RRS § 1017.]

7.16.200 Answer. On the return of the alternative, or the day on which the application for the writ is noticed, the party on whom the writ or notice has been served may show cause by answer, under oath, made in the same manner as an answer to a complaint in a civil action. [1895 c 65 § 20; RRS § 1018.]

7.16.210 Questions of fact, how determined. If an answer be made which raises a question as to a matter of fact essential to the determination of the motion, and affecting the substantial rights of the parties, and upon the supposed truth of the allegation of which the application for the writ is based, the court may, in its discretion, order the question to be tried before a jury, and postpone the argument until such trial can be had, and the verdict certified to the court. The question to be tried must be distinctly stated in the order for trial, and the county must be designated in which the same shall be had. The order may also direct the jury to assess any damages which the appellant may have sustained, in case they find for him or her. [2011 c 336 § 166; 1895 c 65 § 21; RRS § 1019.]

7.16.220 Applicant may demur to answer or countervail it by proof. On the trial the applicant is not precluded by the answer from any valid objections to its sufficiency, and may countervail it by proof, either in direct denial or by way of avoidance. [1895 c 65 § 22; RRS § 1020.]

7.16.230 Motion for new trial, where made. The motion for new trial must be made in the court in which the issue of fact is tried. [1895 c 65 § 23; RRS § 1021.]

7.16.240 Certification of verdict—Argument. If no notice of a motion for a new trial be given, or if given, the motion be denied, the clerk, within five days after rendition of the verdict or denial of the motion, must transmit to the court in which the application for the writ is pending, a certified copy of the verdict attached to the order of trial, after which either party may bring on the argument of the application, upon reasonable notice to the adverse party. [1895 c 65 § 24; RRS § 1022.]

7.16.250 Hearing. If no answer be made, the case must be heard on the papers of the applicant. If the answer raises only questions of law, or puts in issue immaterial statements not affecting the substantial rights of the party, the court must proceed to hear or fix a day for hearing the argument of the case. [1895 c 65 § 25; RRS § 1023.]

7.16.260 Judgment for damages and costs—Peremptory mandate. If judgment be given for the applicant he or she may recover the damages which he or she has sustained, as found by the jury or as may be determined by the court or referee, upon a reference to be ordered, together with costs; and for such damages and costs an execution may issue, and a peremptory mandate must also be awarded without delay. [2011 c 336 § 167; 1895 c 65 § 26; RRS § 1024.]

7.16.270 Service of writ. The writ must be served in the same manner as a summons in a civil action, except when otherwise expressly directed by order of the court. Service upon a majority of the members of any board or body is service upon the board or body, whether at the time of the ser-

vice the board or body was in session or not. [1895 c 65 § 27; RRS § 1025.]

7.16.280 Enforcement of writ—Penalty. When a temporary mandate has been issued and directed to any inferior tribunal, corporation, board or person upon whom the writ has been personally served and such tribunal, corporation, board, or person has without just excuse, refused or neglected to obey the same, the court may, upon motion, impose a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars. In case of persistence in a refusal or disobedience, the court may order the party to be imprisoned until the writ is obeyed, and may make any orders necessary and proper for the complete enforcement of the writ. [1957 c 51 § 7; 1895 c 65 § 28; RRS § 1026.]

PROHIBITION

7.16.290 Prohibition defined. The writ of prohibition is the counterpart of the writ of mandate. It arrests the proceedings of any tribunal, corporation, board or person, when such proceedings are without or in excess of the jurisdiction of such tribunal, corporation, board or person. [1895 c 65 § 29; RRS § 1027.]

7.16.300 Grounds for granting writ—Affidavit. It may be issued by any court, except district or municipal courts, to an inferior tribunal, or to a corporation, board or person, in all cases where there is not a plain, speedy and adequate remedy in the ordinary course of law. It is issued upon affidavit, on the application of the person beneficially interested. [1987 c 202 § 132; 1895 c 65 § 30; RRS § 1028.]

Intent—1987 c 202: See note following RCW 2.04.190.

7.16.310 Alternative or peremptory writs—Form. The writ must be either alternative or peremptory. The alternative writ must state generally the allegations against the party to whom it is directed, and command such party to desist or refrain from further proceedings in the action or matter specified therein until the further order of the court from which it is issued, and to show cause before such court, at a specified time and place, why such party should not be absolutely restrained from any further proceedings in such action or matter. The peremptory writ must be in a similar form, except that the words requiring the party to show cause why he or she should not be absolutely restrained, etc., must be omitted and a return day inserted. [2011 c 336 § 168; 1895 c 65 § 31; RRS § 1029.]

7.16.320 Provisions relating to mandate applicable. The provisions of this chapter relating to writ of mandate, apply to this proceeding. [1895 c 65 § 32; RRS § 1030.]

IN GENERAL

7.16.330 When writs may be made returnable. Writs of review, mandate, and prohibition issued by the supreme court, the court of appeals, or by a superior court, may, in the discretion of the court issuing the writ, be made returnable, and a hearing thereon be had at any time. [1971 c 81 § 29; 1895 c 65 § 33; RRS § 1031.]

7.16.340 Rules of practice. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the provisions of the code of procedure concerning civil actions are applicable to and constitute the rules of practice in the proceedings in this chapter. [1895 c 65 § 34; RRS § 1032.]

7.16.350 Appellate review. From a final judgment in the superior court, in any such proceeding, appellate review by the supreme court or the court of appeals may be sought as in other actions. [1988 c 202 § 4; 1971 c 81 § 30; 1895 c 65 § 35; RRS § 1033.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.16.360 Inapplicability to action reviewable under Administrative Procedure Act or Land Use Petition Act. This chapter does not apply to state agency action reviewable under chapter 34.05 RCW or to land use decisions of local jurisdictions reviewable under chapter 36.70C RCW. [1995 c 347 § 716; 1989 c 175 § 38.]

Finding—Severability—Part headings and table of contents not law—1995 c 347: See notes following RCW 36.70A.470.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

Chapter 7.21 RCW
CONTEMPT OF COURT

Sections

7.21.010 Definitions. The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter:

(1) "Contempt of court" means intentional:

(a) Disorderly, contemptuous, or insolent behavior toward the judge while holding the court, tending to impair its authority, or to interrupt the due course of a trial or other judicial proceedings;

(b) Disobedience of any lawful judgment, decree, order, or process of the court;

(c) Refusal as a witness to appear, be sworn, or, without lawful authority, to answer a question; or

(d) Refusal, without lawful authority, to produce a record, document, or other object.

(2) "Punitive sanction" means a sanction imposed to punish a past contempt of court for the purpose of upholding the authority of the court.

(3) "Remedial sanction" means a sanction imposed for the purpose of coercing performance when the contempt consists of the omission or refusal to perform an act that is yet in the person's power to perform. [1989 c 373 § 1.]

7.21.020 Sanctions—Who may impose. A judge or commissioner of the supreme court, the court of appeals, or the superior court, a judge of a court of limited jurisdiction, and a commissioner of a court of limited jurisdiction may

impose a sanction for contempt of court under this chapter. [1998 c 3 § 1; 1989 c 373 § 2.]

7.21.030 Remedial sanctions—Payment for losses. ***(Effective until July 1, 2023.)*** (1) The court may initiate a proceeding to impose a remedial sanction on its own motion or on the motion of a person aggrieved by a contempt of court in the proceeding to which the contempt is related. Except as provided in RCW 7.21.050, the court, after notice and hearing, may impose a remedial sanction authorized by this chapter.

(2) If the court finds that the person has failed or refused to perform an act that is yet within the person's power to perform, the court may find the person in contempt of court and impose one or more of the following remedial sanctions:

(a) Imprisonment if the contempt of court is of a type defined in RCW 7.21.010(1) (b) through (d). The imprisonment may extend only so long as it serves a coercive purpose.

(b) A forfeiture not to exceed two thousand dollars for each day the contempt of court continues.

(c) An order designed to ensure compliance with a prior order of the court.

(d) Any other remedial sanction other than the sanctions specified in (a) through (c) of this subsection if the court expressly finds that those sanctions would be ineffectual to terminate a continuing contempt of court.

(e)(i) In at-risk youth petition cases only under chapter 13.32A RCW and subject to the requirements under RCW 13.32A.250, commitment to juvenile detention for a period of time not to exceed seventy-two hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. The seventy-two hour period shall commence upon the next nonholiday weekday following the court order and shall run to the end of the last nonholiday weekday within the seventy-two hour period. This sanction may be imposed in addition to, or as an alternative to, any other remedial sanction authorized by this chapter. This remedy is specifically determined to be a remedial sanction.

(ii) Prior to committing any youth to juvenile detention as a sanction for contempt in at-risk youth petition cases only under chapter 13.32A RCW, or for failure to appear at a court hearing in at-risk youth petition cases only under chapter 13.32A RCW, the court must:

(A) Consider, on the record, the mitigating and aggravating factors used to determine the appropriateness of detention for enforcement of its order;

(B) Enter written findings affirming that it considered all less restrictive options, that detention is the only appropriate alternative, including its rationale and the clear, cogent, and convincing evidence used to enforce the order;

(C) Afford the same due process considerations that it affords all youth in criminal contempt proceedings; and

(D) Seek input from all relevant parties, including the youth.

(iii) Detention periods for youth sanctioned to juvenile detention for contempt in at-risk youth petition cases only under chapter 13.32A RCW, or for failure to appear at a court hearing in at-risk youth petition cases only under chapter 13.32A RCW, shall be:

(A) No more than seventy-two hours, regardless of the number of violations being considered at the hearing; and

(B) Limited to no more than two sanctions, up to seventy-two hours each, in any thirty-day period.

(iv) Nothing in this subsection (2)(e) or in RCW 13.32A.250, 13.34.165, or 28A.225.090 shall be construed to limit the court's inherent contempt power or curtail its exercise.

(3) The court may, in addition to the remedial sanctions set forth in subsection (2) of this section, order a person found in contempt of court to pay a party for any losses suffered by the party as a result of the contempt and any costs incurred in connection with the contempt proceeding, including reasonable attorney's fees.

(4) If the court finds that a person under the age of eighteen years has willfully disobeyed the terms of an order issued under *chapter 10.14 RCW, the court may find the person in contempt of court and may, as a sole sanction for such contempt, commit the person to juvenile detention for a period of time not to exceed seven days. [2019 c 312 § 5; 2019 c 312 § 4; 2019 c 312 § 3; 2001 c 260 § 6; 1998 c 296 § 36; 1989 c 373 § 3.]

***Reviser's note:** Chapter 10.14 RCW was repealed in its entirety by 2021 c 215 § 170, effective July 1, 2022.

Effective date—2019 c 312 §§ 5 and 14: "Sections 5 and 14 of this act take effect July 1, 2021." [2019 c 312 § 21.]

Effective date—2019 c 312 §§ 4, 8, and 12: "Sections 4, 8, and 12 of this act take effect July 1, 2020." [2019 c 312 § 20.]

Findings—Intent—2019 c 312: See note following RCW 7.21.080.

Findings—Intent—2001 c 260: "The legislature finds that unlawful harassment directed at a child by a person under the age of eighteen is not acceptable and can have serious consequences. The legislature further finds that some interactions between minors, such as "schoolyard scuffles," though not to be condoned, may not rise to the level of unlawful harassment. It is the intent of the legislature that a projection order sought by the parent or guardian of a child as provided for in this chapter be available only when the alleged behavior of the person under the age of eighteen to be restrained rises to the level set forth in chapter 10.14 RCW." [2001 c 260 § 1.]

Findings—Intent—Part headings not law—Short title—1998 c 296: See notes following RCW 74.13.025.

7.21.030 Remedial sanctions—Payment for losses. ***(Effective July 1, 2023.)*** (1) The court may initiate a proceeding to impose a remedial sanction on its own motion or on the motion of a person aggrieved by a contempt of court in the proceeding to which the contempt is related. Except as provided in RCW 7.21.050, the court, after notice and hearing, may impose a remedial sanction authorized by this chapter.

(2) If the court finds that the person has failed or refused to perform an act that is yet within the person's power to perform, the court may find the person in contempt of court and impose one or more of the following remedial sanctions:

(a) Imprisonment if the contempt of court is of a type defined in RCW 7.21.010(1) (b) through (d). The imprisonment may extend only so long as it serves a coercive purpose.

(b) A forfeiture not to exceed two thousand dollars for each day the contempt of court continues.

(c) An order designed to ensure compliance with a prior order of the court.

(d) Any other remedial sanction other than the sanctions specified in (a) through (c) of this subsection if the court expressly finds that those sanctions would be ineffectual to terminate a continuing contempt of court.

(e)(i) In at-risk youth petition cases only under chapter 13.32A RCW and subject to the requirements under RCW 13.32A.250, commitment to a secure residential program with intensive wraparound services.

(ii) Beginning July 1, 2023, prior to committing any youth to a secure residential program with intensive wraparound services as a sanction for contempt in at-risk youth petition cases only under chapter 13.32A RCW, or for failure to appear at a court hearing in at-risk youth petition cases only under chapter 13.32A RCW, the court must:

(A) Consider, on the record, the mitigating and aggravating factors used to determine the appropriateness of detention for enforcement of its order;

(B) Enter written findings affirming that it considered all less restrictive options, that detention is the only appropriate alternative, including its rationale and the clear, cogent, and convincing evidence used to enforce the order;

(C) Afford the same due process considerations that it affords all youth in criminal contempt proceedings; and

(D) Seek input from all relevant parties, including the youth.

(iii) Nothing in this subsection (2)(e) or in RCW 13.32A.250, 13.34.165, or 28A.225.090 shall be construed to limit the court's inherent contempt power or curtail its exercise.

(3) The court may, in addition to the remedial sanctions set forth in subsection (2) of this section, order a person found in contempt of court to pay a party for any losses suffered by the party as a result of the contempt and any costs incurred in connection with the contempt proceeding, including reasonable attorney's fees.

(4) If the court finds that a person under the age of eighteen years has willfully disobeyed the terms of an order issued under *chapter 10.14 RCW, the court may find the person in contempt of court and may, as a sole sanction for such contempt, commit the person to juvenile detention for a period of time not to exceed seven days. [2019 c 312 § 6; 2019 c 312 § 5; 2019 c 312 § 4; 2019 c 312 § 3; 2001 c 260 § 6; 1998 c 296 § 36; 1989 c 373 § 3.]

***Reviser's note:** Chapter 10.14 RCW was repealed in its entirety by 2021 c 215 § 170, effective July 1, 2022.

Effective date—2019 c 312 §§ 6 and 9: "Sections 6 and 9 of this act take effect July 1, 2023." [2019 c 312 § 22.]

Findings—Intent—2019 c 312: See note following RCW 7.21.080.

Findings—Intent—2001 c 260: "The legislature finds that unlawful harassment directed at a child by a person under the age of eighteen is not acceptable and can have serious consequences. The legislature further finds that some interactions between minors, such as "schoolyard scuffles," though not to be condoned, may not rise to the level of unlawful harassment. It is the intent of the legislature that a projection order sought by the parent or guardian of a child as provided for in this chapter be available only when the alleged behavior of the person under the age of eighteen to be restrained rises to the level set forth in chapter 10.14 RCW." [2001 c 260 § 1.]

Findings—Intent—Part headings not law—Short title—1998 c 296: See notes following RCW 74.13.025.

7.21.040 Punitive sanctions—Fines. (1) Except as otherwise provided in RCW 7.21.050, a punitive sanction for contempt of court may be imposed only pursuant to this section.

(2)(a) An action to impose a punitive sanction for contempt of court shall be commenced by a complaint or information filed by the prosecuting attorney or city attorney charging a person with contempt of court and reciting the punitive sanction sought to be imposed.

(b) If there is probable cause to believe that a contempt has been committed, the prosecuting attorney or city attorney may file the information or complaint on his or her own initiative or at the request of a person aggrieved by the contempt.

(c) A request that the prosecuting attorney or the city attorney commence an action under this section may be made by a judge presiding in an action or proceeding to which a contempt relates. If required for the administration of justice, the judge making the request may appoint a special counsel to prosecute an action to impose a punitive sanction for contempt of court.

A judge making a request pursuant to this subsection shall be disqualified from presiding at the trial.

(d) If the alleged contempt involves disrespect to or criticism of a judge, that judge is disqualified from presiding at the trial of the contempt unless the person charged consents to the judge presiding at the trial.

(3) The court may hold a hearing on a motion for a remedial sanction jointly with a trial on an information or complaint seeking a punitive sanction.

(4) A punitive sanction may be imposed for past conduct that was a contempt of court even though similar present conduct is a continuing contempt of court.

(5) If the defendant is found guilty of contempt of court under this section, the court may impose for each separate contempt of court a fine of not more than five thousand dollars or imprisonment for up to three hundred sixty-four days, or both. [2011 c 96 § 3; 2009 c 37 § 1; 1989 c 373 § 4.]

Findings—Intent—2011 c 96: See note following RCW 9A.20.021.

7.21.050 Sanctions—Summary imposition—Procedure. (1) The judge presiding in an action or proceeding may summarily impose either a remedial or punitive sanction authorized by this chapter upon a person who commits a contempt of court within the courtroom if the judge certifies that he or she saw or heard the contempt. The judge shall impose the sanctions immediately after the contempt of court or at the end of the proceeding and only for the purpose of preserving order in the court and protecting the authority and dignity of the court. The person committing the contempt of court shall be given an opportunity to speak in mitigation of the contempt unless compelling circumstances demand otherwise. The order of contempt shall recite the facts, state the sanctions imposed, and be signed by the judge and entered on the record.

(2) A court, after a finding of contempt of court in a proceeding under subsection (1) of this section may impose for each separate contempt of court a punitive sanction of a fine of not more than five hundred dollars or imprisonment for not more than thirty days, or both, or a remedial sanction set forth in RCW 7.21.030(2). A forfeiture imposed as a remedial sanction under this subsection may not exceed more than five hundred dollars for each day the contempt continues. [2009 c 37 § 2; 1989 c 373 § 5.]

7.21.060 Administrative actions or proceedings—Petition to court for imposition of sanctions. A state administrative agency conducting an action or proceeding or

a party to the action or proceeding may petition the superior court in the county in which the action or proceeding is being conducted for a remedial sanction specified in RCW 7.21.030 for conduct specified in RCW 7.21.010 in the action or proceeding. [1989 c 373 § 6.]

7.21.070 Appellate review. A party in a proceeding or action under this chapter may seek appellate review under applicable court rules. Appellate review does not stay the proceedings in any other action, suit, or proceeding, or any judgment, decree, or order in the action, suit, or proceeding to which the contempt relates. [1989 c 373 § 7.]

7.21.080 Juvenile detention as remedy. (1) It is the policy of the state of Washington to eliminate the use of juvenile detention as a remedy for contempt of a valid court order for youth under chapters 13.34 and 28A.225 RCW and child in need of services petition youth under chapter 13.32A RCW.

(a) Beginning July 1, 2020, youth may not be committed to juvenile detention as a contempt sanction under chapter 13.34 RCW, and a warrant may not be issued for such youth for failure to appear at a court hearing that requires commitment of such youth to juvenile detention.

(b) Beginning July 1, 2020, youth may not be committed to juvenile detention as a contempt sanction for child in need of services proceedings under chapter 13.32A RCW, and a warrant may not be issued for such youth for failure to appear at a court hearing that requires commitment of such youth to juvenile detention.

(c) Beginning July 1, 2021, youth may not be committed to juvenile detention as a contempt sanction for truancy proceedings under chapter 28A.225 RCW, and a warrant may not be issued for such youth for failure to appear at a court hearing that requires commitment of such youth to juvenile detention.

(2)(a) It is also the policy of the state of Washington to entirely phase out the use of juvenile detention as a remedy for contempt of a valid court order for at-risk youth under chapter 13.32A RCW by July 1, 2023. After this date, at-risk youth may not be committed to juvenile detention as a contempt sanction under chapter 13.32A RCW, and a warrant may not be issued for failure to appear at a court hearing that requires commitment of the at-risk youth to juvenile detention.

(b) Until July 1, 2023, any at-risk youth committed to juvenile detention as a sanction for contempt under chapter 13.32A RCW, or for failure to appear at a court hearing under chapter 13.32A RCW, must be detained in such a manner so that no direct communication or physical contact may be made between the youth and any youth who is detained to juvenile detention pursuant to a violation of criminal law, unless these separation requirements would result in a youth being detained in solitary confinement.

(c) After July 1, 2023, at-risk youth may be committed to a secure residential program with intensive wraparound services, subject to the requirements under RCW 13.32A.250, as a remedial sanction for contempt under chapter 13.32A RCW or for failure to appear at a court hearing under chapter 13.32A RCW. [2019 c 312 § 2.]

Effective date—2019 c 312: "Except for sections 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, and 14 of this act, this [act is] necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 2019." [2019 c 312 § 19.]

Findings—Intent—2019 c 312: "(1) The legislature finds that it is a goal of our state to divert juveniles who have committed status offenses, behaviors that are prohibited under law only because of an individual's status as a minor, away from the juvenile justice system because a stay in detention is a predictive factor for future criminal justice system involvement. The legislature finds that Washington has been using the valid court order exception of the juvenile justice and delinquency prevention act, a loophole in federal law allowing judges to detain status offenders for disobeying court orders, more than any other state in the country. The legislature finds that use of the valid court order exception to detain youth for acts like truancy, breaking curfew, or running away from home is counterproductive and may worsen outcomes for at-risk youth.

(2) The legislature further finds that these youth should not be confined with or treated with the same interventions as criminal offenders. The legislature also finds that studies show a disproportionality in race, gender, and socioeconomic status of youth referred to courts or detained, or both. Likewise, the legislature finds that community-based interventions are more effective at addressing underlying causes of status offenses than detention and can reduce court caseloads and lower system costs. As a result, it is the intent of the legislature to strengthen and fund community-based programs that are culturally relevant and focus on addressing disproportionality of youth of color, especially at-risk youth.

(3) The legislature finds that appropriate interventions may include secure, semi-secure, and nonsecure out-of-home placement options, community-based mentoring, counseling, family reconciliation, behavioral health services, and other services designed to support youth and families in crisis and to prevent the need for out-of-home placement. The legislature recognizes that in certain circumstances, a court may find pursuant to this act that less restrictive alternatives to secure confinement are not available or appropriate and that clear, cogent, and convincing evidence requires commitment to a secure residential program with intensive wraparound services. The legislature intends to expand the availability of such interventions statewide by July 1, 2023." [2019 c 312 § 1.]

Chapter 7.24 RCW
UNIFORM DECLARATORY JUDGMENTS ACT

Sections

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 57.*

7.24.010 Authority of courts to render. Courts of record within their respective jurisdictions shall have power to declare rights, status and other legal relations whether or not further relief is or could be claimed. An action or proceeding shall not be open to objection on the ground that a declaratory judgment or decree is prayed for. The declaration may be either affirmative or negative in form and effect; and such declarations shall have the force and effect of a final judgment or decree. [1937 c 14 § 1; 1935 c 113 § 1; RRS § 784-1.]

7.24.020 Rights and status under written instruments, statutes, ordinances. A person interested under a deed, will, written contract or other writings constituting a contract, or whose rights, status or other legal relations are affected by a statute, municipal ordinance, contract or franchise, may have determined any question of construction or validity arising under the instrument, statute, ordinance, contract or franchise and obtain a declaration of rights, status or other legal relations thereunder. [1935 c 113 § 2; RRS § 784-2.]

7.24.030 Construction of contracts. A contract may be construed either before or after there has been a breach thereof. [1935 c 113 § 3; RRS § 784-3.]

7.24.050 General powers not restricted by express enumeration. The enumeration in RCW 7.24.020 and 7.24.030 does not limit or restrict the exercise of the general powers conferred in RCW 7.24.010, in any proceeding where declaratory relief is sought, in which a judgment or decree will terminate the controversy or remove an uncertainty. [1985 c 9 § 2. Prior: 1984 c 149 § 3; 1935 c 113 § 5; RRS § 784-5.]

Reviser's note: 1985 c 9 reenacted RCW 7.24.050 without amendment.

Purpose—Reenactment—1985 c 9: "The purpose of this act is to make technical corrections to chapter 149, Laws of 1984, and to ensure that the changes made in that chapter meet the constitutional requirements of Article II, section 19 of the state Constitution." [1985 c 9 § 1.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.24.060 Refusal of declaration where judgment would not terminate controversy. The court may refuse to render or enter a declaratory judgment or decree where such judgment or decree, if rendered or entered, would not terminate the uncertainty or controversy giving rise to the proceeding. [1935 c 113 § 6; RRS § 784-6.]

7.24.070 Review. All orders, judgments and decrees under this chapter may be reviewed as other orders, judgments and decrees. [1935 c 113 § 7; RRS § 784-7.]

7.24.080 Further relief. Further relief based on a declaratory judgment or decree may be granted whenever necessary or proper. The application therefor shall be by petition to a court having jurisdiction to grant the relief. When the application is deemed sufficient, the court shall, on reasonable notice, require any adverse party whose rights have been adjudicated by the declaratory judgment or decree, to show cause why further relief should not be granted forthwith. [1935 c 113 § 8; RRS § 784-8.]

7.24.090 Determination of issues of fact. When a proceeding under this chapter involves the determination of an issue of fact, such issue may be tried and determined in the same manner as issues of fact are tried and determined in other civil actions, in the court in which the proceeding is pending. [1935 c 113 § 9; RRS § 784-9.]

7.24.100 Costs. In any proceeding under this chapter, the court may make such award of costs as may seem equitable and just. [1935 c 113 § 10; RRS § 784-10.]

7.24.110 Parties—City as party—Attorney general to be served, when. When declaratory relief is sought, all persons shall be made parties who have or claim any interest which would be affected by the declaration, and no declaration shall prejudice the rights of persons not parties to the proceeding. In any proceeding which involves the validity of a municipal ordinance or franchise, such municipality shall be made a party, and shall be entitled to be heard, and if the statute, ordinance or franchise is alleged to be unconstitutional, the attorney general shall also be served with a copy of the proceeding and be entitled to be heard. [1935 c 113 § 11; RRS § 784-11.]

7.24.120 Construction of chapter. This chapter is declared to be remedial; its purpose is to settle and to afford relief from uncertainty and insecurity with respect to rights, status and other legal relations; and is to be liberally construed and administered. [1935 c 113 § 12; RRS § 784-12.]

7.24.130 "Person" defined. The word "person" wherever used in this chapter, shall be construed to mean any person, partnership, joint stock company, unincorporated association or society, or municipal or other corporation of any character whatsoever. [1935 c 113 § 13; RRS § 784-13.]

7.24.135 Severability—1935 c 113. The several sections and provisions of this chapter, except RCW 7.24.010 and 7.24.020, are hereby declared independent and severable, and the invalidity, if any, of any part or feature thereof shall not affect or render the remainder of the chapter invalid or inoperative. [1935 c 113 § 14; RRS § 784-14.]

7.24.140 General purpose stated. This chapter shall be so interpreted and construed as to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law of those states which enact it, and to harmonize, as far as possible, with federal laws and regulations on the subject of declaratory judgments and decrees. [1935 c 113 § 15; RRS § 784-15.]

7.24.144 Short title. This chapter may be cited as the Uniform Declaratory Judgments Act. [1935 c 113 § 16; RRS § 784-16.]

7.24.146 Application of chapter—Validation of proceedings. This chapter shall apply to all actions and proceedings now pending in the courts of record of the state of Washington seeking relief under the terms of the uniform declaratory judgments act [this chapter]; and all judgments heretofore rendered; and all such actions and proceedings heretofore instituted and now pending in said courts of record of the state of Washington, seeking such relief, are hereby validated, and the respective courts of record in said actions shall have jurisdiction and power to proceed in said actions and to declare the rights, status and other legal relations sought to have been declared in said pending actions and proceedings in accordance with the provisions of said chapter. This chapter does not apply to state agency action reviewable under chapter 34.05 RCW. [1989 c 175 § 39; 1937 c 14 § 2; RRS § 784-17.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.24.190 Court may stay proceedings and restrain parties. The court, in its discretion and upon such conditions and with or without such bond or other security as it deems necessary and proper, may stay any ruling, order, or any court proceedings prior to final judgment or decree and may restrain all parties involved in order to secure the benefits and preserve and protect the rights of all parties to the court proceedings. [1965 c 131 § 1.]

Rules of court: *CR 57.*

Chapter 7.25 RCW
DECLARATORY JUDGMENTS OF LOCAL BOND ISSUES

Sections

Local bond issues generally: Title 39 RCW.

7.25.005 Definitions. As used in this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

(1) "Government entity" means the state of Washington, the state finance committee, any county, city, school district, other municipal corporation, taxing district, or any agency, instrumentality, or public corporation thereof.

(2) "Bonds" means one or more bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness.

(3) "Interested parties" means all taxpayers, ratepayers, or any other persons who have any obligations, rights, or other interests in the bonds or issuance thereof, or the project or purpose for which the bonds were issued or are to be issued. [1999 c 284 § 2.]

7.25.010 Validity of bond issues may be tested. Whenever the legislative or governing body of the state or any county, city, school district, other municipal corporation, taxing district, or any agency, instrumentality, or public corporation thereof shall desire to issue bonds of any kind and shall have passed an ordinance or resolution authorizing the same, the validity of such proposed bond issue may be tested and determined in the manner provided in this chapter. [1999 c 284 § 1; 1983 c 263 § 1; 1939 c 153 § 1; RRS § 5616-11. Formerly RCW 7.24.150.]

7.25.020 Complaint—Defendants—Service—Intervention—Attorneys' fee—Notice of action. A complaint shall be prepared and filed in the superior court by such government entity setting forth such ordinance or resolution and that it is the purpose of the plaintiff to issue and sell bonds as stated therein and that it is desired that the right of the plaintiff to so issue such bonds and sell the same shall be tested and determined in said action. In said action all interested parties shall be deemed to be defendants. The title of the action shall be "In re (name of bond issue)." Upon the filing of the complaint the court shall, upon the application of the plaintiff, enter an order naming one or more interested parties upon whom service in said action shall be made as the representative of all interested parties, except such as may intervene as herein provided, and in such case the court shall fix and allow a reasonable attorneys' fee in said action to the attorney who shall represent the representative interested parties as aforesaid, and such fee and all taxable costs incurred by such representative interested parties shall be taxed as costs against the plaintiff: PROVIDED, That if the interested parties appointed by the court shall default, the court shall appoint an attorney who shall defend said action on behalf of all interested parties, and such attorney shall be allowed a reasonable fee and taxable costs to be taxed against the plaintiff: PROVIDED FURTHER, That after filing the complaint, the plaintiff shall twice place a notice in a newspaper of general circulation within the boundaries of the government entity, stating the title of the action, informing the interested parties that the action has been commenced testing the validity of the bonds, and stating that any interested parties, as that term is defined herein, may intervene in such action and be represented therein by his or her own attorney. Thereupon, any interested parties who desire to intervene must apply to the court to intervene within ten days after the second publication of the notice. [2011 c 336 § 169; 1999 c 284 § 3; 1983 c 263 § 2; 1939 c 153 § 2; RRS § 5616-12. Formerly RCW 7.24.160.]

7.25.030 Judgment as to validity of all or part of bond issue—Effect. The court in such action shall enter its judgment determining whether or not the bonds as proposed will be valid, and if the court finds that a portion, but not all, of the said bond issue is authorized by law, the court shall so declare, and find by its judgment what portion of such bond issue will be valid, and the judgment in said action shall be conclusive and binding upon all interested parties and upon all other persons. [1999 c 284 § 4; 1939 c 153 § 3; RRS § 5616-13. Formerly RCW 7.24.170.]

7.25.040 Other declaratory judgment provisions applicable. Except as otherwise herein provided, all the provisions of the laws of Washington relating to declaratory judgments shall apply to the action herein provided for. The remedy and procedure herein provided shall be in addition to other remedies and procedures now provided by law. [1999 c 284 § 5; 1939 c 153 § 4; RRS § 5616-14. Formerly RCW 7.24.180.]

Uniform Declaratory Judgments Act: Chapter 7.24 RCW.

Chapter 7.28 RCW
EJECTMENT, QUIETING TITLE

Sections

Forcible and unlawful entry, detainer: Chapters 59.12, 59.16 RCW.

Liens: Title 60 RCW.

Real property: Title 64 RCW.

Rent default, less than forty dollars: Chapter 59.08 RCW.

Tenancies: Chapter 59.04 RCW.

7.28.010 Who may maintain actions—Service on nonresident defendant. Any person having a valid subsisting interest in real property, and a right to the possession thereof, may recover the same by action in the superior court of the proper county, to be brought against the tenant in possession; if there is no such tenant, then against the person claiming the title or some interest therein, and may have judgment in such action quieting or removing a cloud from plaintiff's title; an action to quiet title may be brought by the known heirs of any deceased person, or of any person presumed in law to be deceased, or by the successors in interest of such known heirs against the unknown heirs of such deceased person or against such person presumed to be deceased and his or her unknown heirs, and if it shall be made to appear in such action that the plaintiffs are heirs of the deceased person, or the person presumed in law to be deceased, or the successors in interest of such heirs, and have been in possession of the real property involved in such action for ten years preceding the time of the commencement of such action, and that during said time no person other than the plaintiff in the action or his or her grantors has claimed or asserted any right or title or interest in said property, the court may adjudge and decree the plaintiff or plaintiffs in such action to be the owners of such real property, free from all claims of any unknown heirs of such deceased person, or person presumed in law to be deceased; and an action to quiet title may be maintained by any person in the actual possession of real property against the unknown heirs of a person known to be dead, or against any person where it is not known whether such person is dead or not, and against the unknown heirs of such person, and if it shall thereafter transpire that such person was at the time of commencing such action dead the judgment or decree in such action shall be as binding and conclusive on the heirs of such person as though they had been known and named; and in all actions, under this section, to quiet or remove a cloud from the title to real property, if the defendant be absent or a nonresident of this state, or cannot, after due diligence, be found within the state, or conceals himself or herself to avoid the service of summons, service may be made upon such defendant by publication of summons as provided by law; and the court may appoint a trustee for such absent or nonresident defendant, to make or cancel any deed or conveyance of whatsoever nature, or do any other act to carry into effect the judgment or the decree of the court. [2011 c 336 § 170; 1911 c 83 § 1; 1890 c 72 § 1; Code 1881 § 536; 1879 p 134 § 1; 1877 p 112 § 540; 1869 p 128 § 488; 1854 p 205 § 398; RRS § 785. Formerly RCW 7.28.010, 7.28.020, 7.28.030, and 7.28.040.]

Process, publication, etc.: Chapter 4.28 RCW.

Publication of legal notices: Chapter 65.16 RCW.

7.28.050 Limitation of actions for recovery of real property—Adverse possession under title deducible of record. That all actions brought for the recovery of any lands, tenements or hereditaments of which any person may be possessed by actual, open and notorious possession for seven successive years, having a connected title in law or equity deducible of record from this state or the United States, or from any public officer, or other person authorized by the laws of this state to sell such land for the nonpayment of taxes, or from any sheriff, marshal or other person authorized to sell such land on execution or under any order, judgment or decree of any court of record, shall be brought within seven years next after possession being taken as aforesaid, but when the possessor shall acquire title after taking such possession, the limitation shall begin to run from the time of acquiring title. [1893 c 11 § 1; RRS § 786.]

7.28.060 Rights inhere to heirs, devisees and assigns. The heirs, devisees and assigns of the person having such title and possession shall have the same benefit of RCW 7.28.050 as the person from whom the possession is derived. [1893 c 11 § 2; RRS § 787.]

7.28.070 Adverse possession under claim and color of title—Payment of taxes. Every person in actual, open and notorious possession of lands or tenements under claim and color of title, made in good faith, and who shall for seven successive years continue in possession, and shall also during said time pay all taxes legally assessed on such lands or tenements, shall be held and adjudged to be the legal owner of said lands or tenements, to the extent and according to the purport of his or her paper title. All persons holding under such possession, by purchase, devise or descent, before said seven years shall have expired, and who shall continue such possession and continue to pay the taxes as aforesaid, so as to complete the possession and payment of taxes for the term aforesaid, shall be entitled to the benefit of this section. [1893 c 11 § 3; RRS § 788.]

7.28.080 Color of title to vacant and unoccupied land. Every person having color of title made in good faith

to vacant and unoccupied land, who shall pay all taxes legally assessed thereon for seven successive years, he or she shall be deemed and adjudged to be the legal owner of said vacant and unoccupied land to the extent and according to the purport of his or her paper title. All persons holding under such taxpayer, by purchase, devise or descent, before said seven years shall have expired, and who shall continue to pay the taxes as aforesaid, so as to complete the payment of said taxes for the term aforesaid, shall be entitled to the benefit of this section: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, If any person having a better paper title to said vacant and unoccupied land shall, during the said term of seven years, pay the taxes as assessed on said land for any one or more years of said term of seven years, then and in that case such taxpayer, his heirs or assigns, shall not be entitled to the benefit of this section. [1893 c 11 § 4; RRS § 789.]

7.28.083 Adverse possession—Reimbursement of taxes or assessments—Payment of unpaid taxes or assessments—Awarding of costs and attorneys' fees. (1) A party who prevails against the holder of record title at the time an action asserting title to real property by adverse possession was filed, or against a subsequent purchaser from such holder, may be required to:

(a) Reimburse such holder or purchaser for part or all of any taxes or assessments levied on the real property during the period the prevailing party was in possession of the real property in question and which are proven by competent evidence to have been paid by such holder or purchaser; and

(b) Pay to the treasurer of the county in which the real property is located part or all of any taxes or assessments levied on the real property after the filing of the adverse possession claim and which are due and remain unpaid at the time judgment on the claim is entered.

(2) If the court orders reimbursement for taxes or assessments paid or payment of taxes or assessments due under subsection (1) of this section, the court shall determine how to allocate taxes or assessments between the property acquired by adverse possession and the property retained by the title holder. In making its determination, the court shall consider all the facts and shall order such reimbursement or payment as appears equitable and just.

(3) The prevailing party in an action asserting title to real property by adverse possession may request the court to award costs and reasonable attorneys' fees. The court may award all or a portion of costs and reasonable attorneys' fees to the prevailing party if, after considering all the facts, the court determines such an award is equitable and just. [2011 c 255 § 1.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.28.085 Adverse possession—Forestland—Additional requirements—Exceptions. (1) In any action seeking to establish an adverse claimant as the legal owner of a fee or other interest in forestland based on a claim of adverse possession, and in any defense to an action brought by the holder of record title for recovery of title to or possession of a fee or other interest in forestland where such defense is based on a claim of adverse possession, the adverse claimant shall not be deemed to have established open and notorious possession of the forestlands at issue unless, as a minimum requirement, the adverse claimant establishes by clear and convincing evidence that the adverse claimant has made or erected substantial improvements, which improvements have remained entirely or partially on such lands for at least ten years. If the interests of justice so require, the making, erecting, and continuous presence of substantial improvements on the lands at issue, in the absence of additional acts by the adverse claimant, may be found insufficient to establish open and notorious possession.

(2) This section shall not apply to any adverse claimant who establishes by clear and convincing evidence that the adverse claimant occupied the lands at issue and made continuous use thereof for at least ten years in good faith reliance on location stakes or other boundary markers set by a registered land surveyor purporting to establish the boundaries of property to which the adverse claimant has record title.

(3) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Adverse claimant" means any person, other than the holder of record title, occupying the lands at issue together with any prior occupants of the land in privity with such person by purchase, devise, or decent [descent];

(b) "Claim of adverse possession" does not include a claim asserted under RCW 7.28.050, 7.28.070, or 7.28.080;

(c) "Forestland" has the meaning given in *RCW 84.33.100; and

(d) "Substantial improvement" means a permanent or semipermanent structure or enclosure for which the costs of construction exceeded fifty thousand dollars.

(4) This section shall not apply to any adverse claimant who, before June 11, 1998, acquired title to the lands in question by adverse possession under the law then in effect.

(5) This section shall not apply to any adverse claimant who seeks to assert a claim or defense of adverse possession in an action against any person who, at the time such action is commenced, owns less than twenty acres of forestland in the state of Washington. [1998 c 57 § 1.]

***Reviser's note:** RCW 84.33.100 was repealed by 2001 c 249 § 16.

7.28.090 Adverse possession—Public lands—Adverse title in minors, persons under guardianship or conservatorship. RCW 7.28.070 and 7.28.080 shall not extend to lands or tenements owned by the United States or this state, nor to school lands, nor to lands held for any public purpose. Nor shall they extend to lands or tenements when there shall be an adverse title to such lands or tenements, and the holder of such adverse title is a person under eighteen years of age, or has been placed under a guardianship under RCW 11.130.265 or has been placed under a conservatorship under RCW 11.130.360. However, such persons as aforesaid shall commence an action to recover such lands or tenements so possessed as aforesaid, within three years after the several disabilities herein enumerated shall cease to exist, and shall prosecute such action to judgment, or in case of vacant and unoccupied land shall, within the time last aforesaid, pay to the person or persons who have paid the same for his or her betterments, and the taxes, with interest on said taxes at the legal rate per annum that have been paid on said vacant and unimproved land. [2020 c 312 § 703; 1977 ex.s. c 80 § 7; 1971 ex.s. c 292 § 7; 1893 c 11 § 5; RRS § 790.]

Effective dates—2020 c 312: See note following RCW 11.130.915.

Purpose—Intent—Severability—1977 ex.s. c 80: See notes following RCW 4.16.190.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.28.100 Construction. That the provisions of RCW 7.28.050 through 7.28.100 shall be liberally construed for the purposes set forth in those sections. [1893 c 11 § 6; RRS § 791.]

7.28.110 Substitution of landlord in action against tenant. A defendant who is in actual possession may, for answer, plead that he or she is in possession only as a tenant of another, naming him or her and his or her place of residence, and thereupon the landlord, if he or she applies therefor, shall be made defendant in place of the tenant, and the action shall proceed in all respects as if originally commenced against him or her. If the landlord does not apply to be made defendant within the time the tenant is allowed to answer, thereafter he or she shall not be allowed to, but he or she shall be made defendant if the plaintiff require it. If the landlord be made defendant on motion of the plaintiff he or she shall be required to appear and answer within ten days from notice of the pendency of the action and the order making him or her defendant, or such further notice as the court or judge thereof may prescribe. [2011 c 336 § 171; Code 1881 § 537; 1877 p 112 § 541; 1869 p 128 § 489; RRS § 792.]

7.28.120 Pleadings—Superior title prevails. The plaintiff in such action shall set forth in his or her complaint the nature of his or her estate, claim, or title to the property, and the defendant may set up a legal or equitable defense to plaintiff's claims; and the superior title, whether legal or equitable, shall prevail. The property shall be described with such certainty as to enable the possession thereof to be delivered if a recovery be had. [2011 c 336 § 172; Code 1881 § 538; 1879 p 134 § 2; 1877 p 113 § 542; 1869 p 128 § 490; RRS § 793.]

7.28.130 Defendant must plead nature of his or her estate or right to possession. The defendant shall not be allowed to give in evidence any estate in himself, herself, or another in the property, or any license or right to the possession thereof unless the same be pleaded in his or her answer. If so pleaded, the nature and duration of such estate, or license or right to the possession, shall be set forth with the certainty and particularity required in a complaint. If the defendant does not defend for the whole of the property, he or she shall specify for what particular part he or she does defend. In an action against a tenant, the judgment shall be conclusive against a landlord who has been made defendant in place of the tenant, to the same extent as if the action had been originally commenced against him or her. [2011 c 336 § 173; Code 1881 § 539; 1877 p 113 § 543; 1869 p 129 § 491; RRS § 794.]

7.28.140 Verdict of jury. The jury by their verdict shall find as follows:

(1) If the verdict be for the plaintiff, that he or she is entitled to the possession of the property described in the complaint, or some part thereof, or some undivided share or interest in either, and the nature and duration of his or her estate in such property, part thereof, or undivided share or interest, in either, as the case may be.

(2) If the verdict be for the defendant, that the plaintiff is not entitled to the possession of the property described in the complaint, or to such part thereof as the defendant defends for, and the estate in such property or part thereof, or license, or right to the possession of either established on the trial by the defendant, if any, in effect as the same is required to be pleaded. [2011 c 336 § 174; Code 1881 § 540; 1877 p 113 § 544; 1869 p 129 § 492; RRS § 795.]

Rules of court: *CR 49.*

General, special verdicts: RCW 4.44.410 through 4.44.440.

7.28.150 Damages—Limitation—Permanent improvements. The plaintiff shall only be entitled to recover damages for withholding the property for the term of six years next preceding the commencement of the action, and for any period that may elapse from such commencement, to the time of giving a verdict therein, exclusive of the use of permanent improvements made by the defendant. When permanent improvements have been made upon the property by the defendant, or those under whom he or she claims holding under color of title adversely to the claim of the plaintiff, in good faith, the value thereof at the time of trial shall be allowed as a setoff against such damages. [2011 c 336 § 175; Code 1881 § 541; 1877 p 113 § 545; 1869 p 129 § 493; RRS § 796.]

Reviser's note: Compare the last sentence of this section with RCW 7.28.160 through 7.28.180.

7.28.160 Defendant's counterclaim for permanent improvements and taxes paid. In an action for the recovery of real property upon which permanent improvements have been made or general or special taxes or local assessments have been paid by a defendant, or those under whom he or she claims, holding in good faith under color or claim of title adversely to the claim of plaintiff, the value of such improvements and the amount of such taxes or assessments with interest thereon from date of payment must be allowed as a counterclaim to the defendant. [2011 c 336 § 176; 1903 c 137 § 1; RRS § 797.]

7.28.170 Defendant's counterclaim for permanent improvements and taxes paid—Pleadings, issues and trial on counterclaim. The counterclaim shall set forth the value of the land apart from the improvements, and the nature and value of the improvements apart from the land and the amount of said taxes and assessments so paid, and the date of payment. Issues shall be joined and tried as in other actions, and the value of the land and the amount of said taxes and assessments apart from the improvements, and the value of the improvements apart from the land must be specifically found by the verdict of the jury, report of the referee, or findings of the court as the case may be. [1903 c 137 § 2; RRS § 798.]

7.28.180 Defendant's counterclaim for permanent improvements and taxes paid—Judgment on counterclaim—Payment. If the judgment be in favor of the plaintiff for the recovery of the realty, and of the defendant upon the counterclaim, the plaintiff shall be entitled to recover such

damages as he or she may be found to have suffered through the withholding of the premises and waste committed thereupon by the defendant or those under whom he or she claims, but against this recovery shall be offset pro tanto the value of the permanent improvements and the amount of said taxes and assessments with interest found as above provided. Should the value of improvements or taxes or assessments with interest exceed the recovery for damages, the plaintiff, shall, within two months, pay to the defendant the difference between the two sums and upon proof, after notice, to the defendant, that this has been done, the court shall make an order declaring that fact, and that title to the improvements is vested in him or her. Should the plaintiff fail to make such payment, the defendant may at any time within two months after the time limited for such payment to be made, pay to the plaintiff the value of the land apart from the improvements, and the amount of the damages awarded against him or her, and he or she thereupon shall be vested with title to the land, and, after notice to the plaintiff, the court shall make an order reciting the fact and adjudging title to be in him or her. Should neither party make the payment above provided, within the specified time, they shall be deemed to be tenants in common of the premises, including the improvements, each holding an interest proportionate to the value of his or her property determined in the manner specified in RCW 7.28.170: PROVIDED, That the interest of the owner of the improvements shall be the difference between the value of the improvements and the amount of damages recovered against him or her by the plaintiff. [2011 c 336 § 177; 1903 c 137 § 3; RRS § 799.]

7.28.190 Verdict where plaintiff's right to possession expires before trial. If the right of the plaintiff to the possession of the property expire, after the commencement of the action and before the trial, the verdict shall be given according to the fact, and judgment shall be given only for the damages. [Code 1881 § 542; 1877 p 114 § 546; 1869 p 130 § 494; RRS § 800.]

7.28.200 Order for survey of property. The court or judge thereof, on motion, and after notice to the adverse party, may, for cause shown, grant an order allowing the party applying therefor to enter upon the property in controversy and make survey and admeasurement thereof, for the purposes of the action. [Code 1881 § 543; 1877 p 114 § 547; 1869 p 130 § 495; RRS § 801.]

7.28.210 Order for survey of property—Contents of order—Service. The order shall describe the property, and a copy thereof shall be served upon the defendant, and thereupon the party may enter upon the property and make such survey and admeasurement; but if any unnecessary injury be done to the premises, he or she shall be liable therefor. [2011 c 336 § 178; Code 1881 § 544; 1877 p 114 § 548; 1869 p 130 § 496; RRS § 802.]

7.28.220 Alienation by defendant, effect of. An action for the recovery of the possession of real property against a person in possession, cannot be prejudiced by any alienation made by such person either before or after the commencement of the action; but if such alienation be made after the commencement of the action, and the defendant do not satisfy the judgment recovered for damages for withholding the possession, such damages may be recovered by action against the purchaser. [Code 1881 § 545; 1877 p 114 § 549; 1869 p 130 § 497; RRS § 803.]

7.28.230 Mortgagee cannot maintain action for possession—Possession to collect mortgaged, pledged, or assigned rents and profits—Perfection of security interest. (1) A mortgage of any interest in real property shall not be deemed a conveyance so as to enable the owner of the mortgage to recover possession of the real property, without a foreclosure and sale according to law: PROVIDED, That nothing in this section shall be construed as any limitation upon the right of the owner of real property to mortgage, pledge or assign the rents and profits thereof, nor as prohibiting the mortgagee, pledgee or assignee of such rents and profits, or any trustee under a mortgage or trust deed either contemporaneously or upon the happening of a future event of default, from entering into possession of any real property, other than farmlands or the homestead of the mortgagor or his or her successor in interest, for the purpose of collecting the rents and profits thereof for application in accordance with the provisions of the mortgage or trust deed or other instrument creating the lien, nor as any limitation upon the power of a court of equity to appoint a receiver to take charge of such real property and collect such rents and profits thereof for application in accordance with the terms of such mortgage, trust deed, or assignment.

(2) Until paid, the rents and profits of real property constitute real property for the purposes of mortgages, trust deeds, or assignments whether or not said rents and profits have accrued. The provisions of RCW 65.08.070 as now or hereafter amended shall be applicable to such rents and profits, and such rents and profits are excluded from *Article 62A.9 RCW.

(3) The recording of an assignment, mortgage, or pledge of unpaid rents and profits of real property, intended as security, in accordance with RCW 65.08.070, shall immediately perfect the security interest in the assignee, mortgagee, or pledgee and shall not require any further action by the holder of the security interest to be perfected as to any subsequent purchaser, mortgagee, or assignee. Any lien created by such assignment, mortgage, or pledge shall, when recorded, be deemed specific, perfected, and choate even if recorded prior to July 23, 1989. [2011 c 336 § 179; 1991 c 188 § 1; 1989 c 73 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 122 § 1; Code 1881 § 546; 1877 p 114 § 550; 1869 p 130 § 498; RRS § 804.]

***Reviser's note:** Article 62A.9 RCW was repealed in its entirety by 2000 c 250 § 9A-901, effective July 1, 2001. For later enactment, see Article 62A.9A RCW.

7.28.240 Action between cotenants. In an action by a tenant in common, or a joint tenant of real property against his or her cotenant, the plaintiff must show, in addition to his or her evidence of right, that the defendant either denied the plaintiff's right or did some act amounting to such denial. [2011 c 336 § 180; Code 1881 § 547; 1877 p 114 § 551; 1869 p 130 § 499; RRS § 805.]

7.28.250 Action against tenant on failure to pay rent. When in the case of a lease of real property and the failure of tenant to pay rent, the landlord has a subsisting right to reenter for such failure; he or she may bring an action to recover the possession of such property, and such action is equivalent to a demand of the rent and a reentry upon the property. But if at any time before the judgment in such action, the lessee or his or her successor in interest as to the whole or a part of the property, pay to the plaintiff, or bring into court the amount of rent then in arrear, with interest and cost of action, and perform the other covenants or agreements on the part of the lessee, he or she shall be entitled to continue in the possession according to the terms of the lease. [2011 c 336 § 181; Code 1881 § 548; 1877 p 114 § 552; 1869 p 131 § 500; No RRS.]

Forcible entry, detainer: Chapter 59.12 RCW.

Rent default, less than forty dollars: Chapter 59.08 RCW.

Tenancies: Chapter 59.04 RCW.

7.28.260 Effect of judgment—Lis pendens—Vacation. In an action to recover possession of real property, the judgment rendered therein shall be conclusive as to the estate in such property and the right of possession thereof, so far as the same is thereby determined, upon all persons claiming by, through, or under the party against whom the judgment is rendered, by title or interest passing after the commencement of the action, if the party in whose favor the judgment is rendered shall have filed a notice of the pendency of the action as required by RCW 4.28.320. When service of the notice is made by publication, and judgment is given for failure to answer, at any time within two years from the entry thereof, the defendant or his or her successor in interest as to the whole or any part of the property, shall, upon application to the court or judge thereof, be entitled to an order, vacating the judgment and granting him or her a new trial, upon the payment of the costs of the action. [2011 c 336 § 182; 1909 c 35 § 1; Code 1881 § 549; 1877 p 114 § 553; 1869 p 131 § 501; RRS § 806.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 58, 60(e).*

New trials: Chapter 4.76 RCW.

Vacation of judgments: Chapter 4.72 RCW.

7.28.270 Effect of vacation of judgment. If the plaintiff has taken possession of the property before the judgment is set aside and a new trial granted, as provided in RCW 7.28.260, such possession shall not be thereby affected in any way; and if judgment be given for defendant in the new trial, he or she shall be entitled to restitution by execution in the same manner as if he or she were plaintiff. [2011 c 336 § 183; Code 1881 § 550; 1877 p 115 § 554; 1869 p 131 § 502; RRS § 807.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 58, 60(e).*

7.28.280 Conflicting claims, donation law, generally—Joinder of parties. In an action at law, for the recovery of the possession of real property, if either party claims the property as a donee of the United States, and under the act of congress approved September 27th, 1850, commonly called the "Donation law," or the acts amendatory thereof, such party, from the date of his or her settlement thereon, as provided in said act, shall be deemed to have a legal estate in fee, in such property, to continue upon condition that he or she perform the conditions required by such acts, which estate is unconditional and indefeasible after the performance of such conditions. In such action, if both plaintiff and defendant claim title to the same real property, by virtue of settlement, under such acts, such settlement and performance of the subsequent condition shall be prima facie presumed in favor of the party having or claiming under the elder certificate, or patent, as the case may be, unless it appears upon the face of such certificate or patent that the same is absolutely void. Any person in possession, by himself or herself or his or her tenant, of real property, and any private or municipal corporation in possession by itself or its tenant of any real property, or when such real property is not in the actual possession of anyone, any person or private or municipal corporation claiming title to any real property under a patent from the United States, or during his, her, or its claim of title to such real property under a patent from the United States for such real estate, may maintain a civil action against any person or persons, corporations, or associations claiming an interest in said real property or any part thereof, or any right thereto adverse to him, her, them, or it, for the purpose of determining such claim, estate, or interest; and where several persons, or private or municipal corporations are in possession of, or claim as aforesaid, separate parcels of real property, and an adverse interest is claimed or claim made in or to any such parcels, by any other person, persons, corporations, or associations, arising out of a question, conveyance, statute, grant, or other matter common to all such parcels of real estate, all or any portion of such persons or corporations so in possession, or claiming such parcel of real property may unite as plaintiffs in such suit to determine such adverse claim or interest against all persons, corporations, or associations claiming such adverse interest. [2011 c 336 § 184; Code 1881 § 551; 1877 p 116 § 556; 1869 p 132 § 504; RRS §§ 808, 809. Formerly RCW 7.28.280 and 7.28.290.]

7.28.300 Quieting title against outlawed mortgage or deed of trust. The record owner of real estate may maintain an action to quiet title against the lien of a mortgage or deed of trust on the real estate where an action to foreclose such mortgage or deed of trust would be barred by the statute of limitations, and, upon proof sufficient to satisfy the court, may have judgment quieting title against such a lien. [1998 c 295 § 17; 1937 c 124 § 1; RRS § 785-1.]

Limitation of actions, generally: Chapter 4.16 RCW.

Real estate mortgages, foreclosure: Chapter 61.12 RCW.

7.28.310 Quieting title to personal property. Any person or corporation claiming to be the owner of or interested in any tangible or intangible personal property may institute and maintain a suit against any person or corporation also claiming title to or any interest in such property for the purpose of adjudicating the title of the plaintiff to such property, or any interest therein, against any and all adverse claims; removing all such adverse claims as clouds upon the title of the plaintiff and quieting the title of the plaintiff against any and all such adverse claims. [1929 c 100 § 1; RRS § 809-1.]

7.28.320 Possession no defense. The fact that any person or corporation against whom such action may be brought is in the possession of such property, or evidence of title to

such property, shall not prevent the maintenance of such suit. [1929 c 100 § 2; RRS § 809-2.]

Chapter 7.36 RCW
HABEAS CORPUS

Sections

Rules of court: *RAP 16.3 through 16.15.*

7.36.010 Who may prosecute writ. Every person restrained of his or her liberty under any pretense whatever, may prosecute a writ of habeas corpus to inquire into the cause of the restraint, and shall be delivered therefrom when illegal. [2011 c 336 § 185; Code 1881 § 666; 1877 p 138 § 669; 1869 p 156 § 606; 1854 p 212 § 434; RRS § 1063.]

7.36.020 Parents, guardians, etc., may act for minors, persons under guardianship or conservatorship. Writs of habeas corpus shall be granted in favor of parents, guardians, limited guardians where appropriate, spouses or domestic partners, and next of kin, and to enforce the rights, and for the protection of minors and persons who have been placed under a guardianship under RCW 11.130.265 or under a conservatorship under RCW 11.130.360; and the proceedings shall in all cases conform to the provisions of this chapter. [2020 c 312 § 704; 2008 c 6 § 801; 1977 ex.s. c 80 § 8; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 17; Code 1881 § 688; 1877 p 141 § 692; 1869 p 159 § 628; 1854 p 214 § 456; RRS § 1064.]

Effective dates—2020 c 312: See note following RCW 11.130.915.

Purpose—Intent—Severability—1977 ex.s. c 80: See notes following RCW 4.16.190.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.36.030 Petition—Contents. Application for the writ shall be made by petition, signed and verified either by the plaintiff or by some person in his or her behalf, and shall specify:

(1) By whom the petitioner is restrained of his or her liberty, and the place where, (naming the parties if they are known, or describing them if they are not known).

(2) The cause or pretense of the restraint according to the best of the knowledge and belief of the applicant.

(3) If the restraint be alleged to be illegal, in what the illegality consists. [2011 c 336 § 186; Code 1881 § 667; 1877 p 138 § 670; 1869 p 156 § 607; 1854 p 212 § 435; RRS § 1065.]

7.36.040 Who may grant writ. Writs of habeas corpus may be granted by the supreme court, the court of appeals, or superior court, or by any judge of such courts, and upon application the writ shall be granted without delay. [1971 c 81 § 31; 1957 c 9 § 10; Code 1881 § 668; 1877 p 138 § 671; 1869 p 156 § 608; 1854 p 212 § 436; RRS § 1066.]

Rules of court: *Cf. RAP 16.3, 18.22.*

7.36.050 To whom directed—Contents. The writ shall be directed to the officer or party having the person under restraint, commanding him or her to have such person before the court or judge at such time and place as the court or judge shall direct to do and receive what shall be ordered concerning him or her, and have then and there the writ. [2011 c 336 § 187; Code 1881 § 669; 1877 p 138 § 672; 1869 p 156 § 609; 1854 p 212 § 437; RRS § 1067.]

7.36.060 Delivery to sheriff if to him or her directed. If the writ be directed to the sheriff, it shall be delivered by the clerk to him or her without delay. [2011 c 336 § 188; Code 1881 § 670; 1877 p 138 § 673; 1869 p 156 § 610; 1854 p 212 § 438; RRS § 1068.]

7.36.070 Service by sheriff if directed to another. If the writ be directed to any other person, it shall be delivered to the sheriff and shall be by him or her served by delivering the same to such person without delay. [2011 c 336 § 189; Code 1881 § 671; 1877 p 139 § 674; 1869 p 156 § 611; 1854 p 212 § 430; RRS § 1069.]

7.36.080 Service when person not found. If the person to whom such writ is directed cannot be found or shall refuse admittance to the sheriff, the same may be served by leaving it at the residence of the person to whom it is directed, or by posting the same in some conspicuous place, either on his or her dwelling house or where the party is confined or under restraint. [2011 c 336 § 190; Code 1881 § 672; 1877 p 139 § 675; 1869 p 157 § 612; 1854 p 212 § 440; RRS § 1070.]

7.36.090 Return—Attachment for refusal. The sheriff or other person to whom the writ is directed shall make immediate return thereof, and if he or she refuse after due service to make return, the court shall enforce obedience by attachment. [2011 c 336 § 191; Code 1881 § 673; 1877 p 139 § 676; 1869 p 157 § 613; 1854 p 213 § 441; RRS § 1071.]

7.36.100 Form of return—Production of person. The return must be signed and verified by the person making it, who shall state:

(1) The authority or cause of the restraint of the party in his or her custody.

(2) If the authority shall be in writing, he or she shall return a copy and produce the original on the hearing.

(3) If he or she has had the party in his or her custody or under his or her restraint, and has transferred him or her to another, he or she shall state to whom, the time, place, and cause of the transfer. He or she shall produce the party at the hearing unless prevented by sickness or infirmity, which must be shown in the return. [2011 c 336 § 192; Code 1881 § 674; 1877 p 139 § 677; 1869 p 157 § 614; 1854 p 213 § 442; RRS § 1072.]

7.36.110 Procedure—Pleadings—Amendment. The court or judge, if satisfied of the truth of the allegation of sickness or infirmity, may proceed to decide on the return, or the hearing may be adjourned until the party can be produced, or for other good cause. The plaintiff may except to the sufficiency of, or controvert the return or any part thereof, or allege any new matter in evidence. The new matter shall be verified, except in cases of commitment on a criminal charge. The return and pleadings may be amended without causing a delay. [Code 1881 § 675; 1877 p 139 § 678; 1869 p 157 § 615; 1854 p 213 § 443; RRS § 1073.]

7.36.120 Hearing—Determination. The court or judge shall thereupon proceed in a summary way to hear and determine the cause, and if no legal cause be shown for the restraint or for the continuation thereof, shall discharge the party. [Code 1881 § 676; 1877 p 139 § 679; 1869 p 157 § 616; 1854 p 213 § 444; RRS § 1074.]

Rules of court: *ER 1101.*

7.36.130 Limitation upon inquiry. No court or judge shall inquire into the legality of any judgment or process whereby the party is in custody, or discharge the party when the term of commitment has not expired, in either of the cases following:

(1) Upon any process issued on any final judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction except where it is alleged in the petition that rights guaranteed the petitioner by the Constitution of the state of Washington or of the United States have been violated and the petition is filed within the time allowed by RCW 10.73.090 and 10.73.100.

(2) For any contempt of any court, officer or body having authority in the premises to commit; but an order of commitment, as for a contempt upon proceedings to enforce the remedy of a party, is not included in any of the foregoing specifications.

(3) Upon a warrant issued from the superior court upon an indictment or information. [1989 c 395 § 3; 1947 c 256 § 3; 1891 c 43 § 1; Code 1881 § 677; 1869 p 157 § 617; 1854 p 213 § 445; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 1075.]

7.36.140 Duty of courts when federal question is raised. In the consideration of any petition for a writ of habeas corpus by the supreme court or the court of appeals, whether in an original proceeding or upon an appeal, if any federal question shall be presented by the pleadings, it shall be the duty of the supreme court to determine in its opinion whether or not the petitioner has been denied a right guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. [1971 c 81 § 32; 1947 c 256 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 1085-2.]

7.36.150 Admission to bail or discharge—Duty of court. No person shall be discharged from an order of commitment issued by any judicial or peace officer for want of bail, or in cases not bailable on account of any defect in the charge or process, or for alleged want of probable cause; but in all cases the court or judge shall summon the prosecuting witnesses, investigate the criminal charge, and discharge, admit to bail or recommit the prisoner, as may be just and legal, and recognize witnesses when proper. [Code 1881 § 678; 1877 p 140 § 681; 1869 p 157 § 618; 1854 p 213 § 446; RRS § 1076.]

7.36.160 Writ to admit prisoner to bail. The writ may be had for the purpose of admitting a prisoner to bail in civil and criminal actions. When any person has an interest in the detention, and the prisoner shall not be discharged until the person having such interest is notified. [Code 1881 § 679; 1877 p 140 § 682; 1869 p 158 § 619; 1854 p 214 § 447; RRS § 1077.]

7.36.170 Compelling attendance of witnesses. The court or judge shall have power to require and compel the attendance of witnesses, and to do all other acts necessary to determine the case. [Code 1881 § 680; 1877 p 140 § 683; 1869 p 158 § 620; 1854 p 214 § 448; RRS § 1078.]

Witnesses, compelling attendance: Chapter 5.56 RCW.

7.36.180 Officers protected from civil liability. No sheriff or other officer shall be liable to a civil action for obeying any writ of habeas corpus or order of discharge made thereon. [Code 1881 § 681; 1877 p 140 § 684; 1869 p 158 § 621; 1854 p 214 § 449; RRS § 1079.]

7.36.190 Warrant to prevent removal. Whenever it shall appear by affidavit that any one is illegally held in custody or restraint, and that there is good reason to believe that such person will be carried out of the jurisdiction of the court or judge before whom the application is made, or will suffer some irreparable injury before compliance with the writ can be enforced, such court or judge may cause a warrant to be issued reciting the facts, and directed to the sheriff or any constable of the county, commanding him or her to take the person thus held in custody or restraint, and forthwith bring him or her before the court or judge to be dealt with according to the law. [2011 c 336 § 193; Code 1881 § 682; 1877 p 140 § 685; 1869 p 158 § 622; 1854 p 214 § 450; RRS § 1080.]

7.36.200 Warrant may call for apprehension of offending party. The court or judge may also, if the same be deemed necessary, insert in the warrant a command for the apprehension of the person charged with causing the illegal restraint. [Code 1881 § 683; 1877 p 141 § 687; 1869 p 159 § 623; 1854 p 214 § 451; RRS § 1081.]

7.36.210 Execution of warrant. The officer shall execute the writ [warrant] by bringing the person therein named before the court or judge, and the like return of proceedings shall be required and had as in case of writs of habeas corpus. [Code 1881 § 684; 1877 p 141 § 688; 1869 p 159 § 624; 1854 p 214 § 452; RRS § 1082.]

7.36.220 Temporary orders. The court or judge may make any temporary orders in the cause or disposition of the party during the progress of the proceedings that justice may require. The custody of any party restrained may be changed from one person to another, by order of the court or judge. [Code 1881 § 685; 1877 p 141 § 689; 1869 p 159 § 625; 1854 p 214 § 453; RRS § 1083.]

7.36.230 Emergency acts on Sunday authorized. Any writ or process authorized by this chapter may be issued and served, in cases of emergency, on Sunday. [Code 1881 § 686; 1877 p 141 § 690; 1869 p 159 § 626; 1854 p 214 § 454; RRS § 1084.]

Superior court, issuance of habeas corpus on nonjudicial days: State Constitution Art. 4 § 6 (Amendment 28).

7.36.240 Writs and process—Issuance—Service—Defects—Amendments. All writs and other process authorized by this chapter shall be issued by the clerk of the court, and sealed with the seal of such court, and shall be served and returned forthwith, unless the court or judge shall specify a particular time for such return. And no writ or other process shall be disregarded for any defect therein, if enough is shown to notify the officer or person of the purport of the process. Amendments may be allowed and temporary commitments when necessary. [Code 1881 § 687; 1877 p 141 § 691; 1869 p 159 § 627; 1854 p 214 § 455; RRS § 1085.]

7.36.250 Proceeding in forma pauperis. Any person entitled to prosecute a writ of habeas corpus who, by reason of poverty is unable to pay the costs of such proceeding or give security therefor, may file in the court having original jurisdiction of the proceeding an affidavit setting forth such facts and that he or she believes himself or herself to be entitled to the redress sought. Upon the filing of such an affidavit the court may, if satisfied that the proceeding or appeal is instituted or taken in good faith, order that such proceeding, including appeal, may be prosecuted without prepayment of fees or costs or the giving of security therefor. This section also applies to filing fees assessed under RCW 36.18.016. [2002 c 338 § 3; 1947 c 256 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 1085-1.]

Rules of court: *RAP 16.15(f), 16.15(g).*

7.36.260 Waiver of fees—Service of writ of habeas corpus issued for return of a child. Notwithstanding RCW 36.18.040, the sheriff may waive fees associated with service of a writ of habeas corpus that was issued for the return of a child when the person who was granted the writ is, by reason of poverty, unable to pay the cost of service. [2017 c 272 § 6.]

Chapter 7.40 RCW
INJUNCTIONS

Sections

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 65, 52(a)(2)(A).*

Abortion clinics, interference with: Chapter 9A.50 RCW.

Camping resorts, relating to: RCW 19.105.470, 19.105.490.

Health care facilities, interference with: Chapter 9A.50 RCW.

Injunctions in labor disputes: Chapter 49.32 RCW.

Medical facilities, interference with: Chapter 9A.50 RCW.

Term papers, theses, dissertations, sale of prohibited—Injunctions: RCW 28B.10.584.

7.40.010 Who may grant restraining orders and injunctions. Restraining orders and injunctions may be granted by the superior court, or by any judge thereof. [1957 c 9 § 11; Code 1881 § 153; 1877 p 32 § 153; 1869 p 38 § 151; 1854 p 152 § 111; RRS § 718.]

7.40.020 Grounds for issuance. When it appears by the complaint that the plaintiff is entitled to the relief demanded and the relief, or any part thereof, consists in restraining the commission or continuance of some act, the commission or continuance of which during the litigation would produce great injury to the plaintiff; or when during the litigation, it appears that the defendant is doing, or threatened, or is about to do, or is procuring, or is suffering some act to be done in violation of the plaintiff's rights respecting the subject of the action tending to render the judgment ineffectual; or where such relief, or any part thereof, consists in restraining proceedings upon any final order or judgment, an injunction may be granted to restrain such act or proceedings until the further order of the court, which may afterwards be dissolved or modified upon motion. And where it appears in the complaint at the commencement of the action, or during the pendency thereof, by affidavit, that the defendant threatens, or is about to remove or dispose of his or her property with intent to defraud his or her creditors, a temporary injunction may be granted to restrain the removal or disposition of his or her property. [2011 c 336 § 194; Code 1881 § 154; 1877 p 33 § 154; 1869 p 38 § 152; 1854 p 152 § 112; RRS § 719.]

7.40.030 Malicious erection of structure may be enjoined. An injunction may be granted to restrain the malicious erection, by any owner or lessee of land, of any structure intended to spite, injure or annoy an adjoining proprietor. And where any owner or lessee of land has maliciously erected such a structure with such intent, a mandatory injunction will lie to compel its abatement and removal. [1883 p 44 § 1, part; Code 1881 § 154 1/2; RRS § 720.]

7.40.040 Time of granting. The injunction may be granted at the time of commencing the action, or at any time afterwards, before judgment in that proceeding. [Code 1881 § 155; 1877 p 33 § 155; 1869 p 39 § 153; 1854 p 153 § 113; RRS § 721.]

7.40.050 Notice—Restraining orders in emergencies. No injunction shall be granted until it shall appear to the court or judge granting it, that some one or more of the opposite party concerned, has had reasonable notice of the time and place of making application, except that in cases of emergency to be shown in the complaint, the court may grant a restraining order until notice can be given and hearing had thereon. [Code 1881 § 156; 1877 p 33 § 156; 1869 p 39 § 154; 1854 p 153 § 114; RRS § 722.]

Rules of court: *CR 52(a)(2)(A), 65.*

7.40.060 Affidavits at hearing. On the hearing of an application for an injunction, each party may read affidavits. [Code 1881 § 157; 1877 p 33 § 157; 1869 p 39 § 155; 1854 p 153 § 115; RRS § 723.]

Rules of court: *CR 65.*

7.40.070 Terms and conditions may be imposed. Upon the granting or continuing an injunction, such terms and conditions may be imposed upon the party obtaining it as may be deemed equitable. [Code 1881 § 158; 1877 p 33 § 158; 1869 p 39 § 156; 1854 p 153 § 116; RRS § 724.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 65(d).*

7.40.080 Injunction bond. No injunction or restraining order shall be granted until the party asking it shall enter into a bond, in such a sum as shall be fixed by the court or judge granting the order, with surety to the satisfaction of the clerk of the superior court, to the adverse party affected thereby, conditioned to pay all damages and costs which may accrue by reason of the injunction or restraining order. The sureties shall, if required by the clerk, justify as provided by law, and until they so justify, the clerk shall be responsible for their sufficiency. The court in its sound discretion may waive the required bond in situations in which a person's health or life would be jeopardized. [1994 c 185 § 5; 1957 c 51 § 9; Code 1881 § 159; 1877 p 33 § 159; 1869 p 39 § 157; 1854 p 153 § 117; RRS § 725.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 65(c).*

Corporate surety—Insurance: Chapter 48.28 RCW.

7.40.085 Injunction bonds for injunctions affecting public construction contracts. In determining the amount of the bond required by RCW 7.40.080 as now or hereafter amended, with respect to an injunction or restraining order that will delay or enjoin a notice to proceed or the performance of work under a construction contract for a public contracting body among the factors regarded in the exercise of its discretion, the court shall consider:

(1) All costs and liquidated damages provided for in the contract or otherwise that may result from such delay;

(2) The probable costs to the public in terms of inconvenience, delayed use of the proposed facilities, and escalation of costs of delayed construction of the proposed facilities that may be incurred as a result of a delay subsequently found to be without good cause; and

(3) The procedures for consideration of objections to proposed construction and the opportunity the one seeking the injunction had for objecting prior to the letting of the contract. [1974 ex.s. c 153 § 1.]

7.40.090 Bond for injunction after temporary restraining order. When an injunction is granted upon the hearing, after a temporary restraining order, the plaintiff shall not be required to enter into a second bond, unless the former shall be deemed insufficient, but the plaintiff and his or her surety shall remain liable upon his or her original bond. [2011 c 336 § 195; Code 1881 § 160; 1877 p 33 § 160; 1869 p 39 § 158; 1854 p 153 § 118; RRS § 726.]

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 65(c).*

7.40.100 Copy of order serves as writ. It shall not be necessary to issue a writ of injunction, but the clerk shall issue a copy of the order of injunction duly certified by him or her, which shall be forthwith served by delivering the same to the adverse party. [2011 c 336 § 196; Code 1881 § 161; 1877 p 33 § 161; 1869 p 39 § 159; 1854 p 153 § 119; RRS § 727.]

7.40.110 Stay of judgment—Release of errors. In application to stay proceedings after judgment, the plaintiff shall endorse upon his or her complaint a release of errors in the judgment whenever required to do so by the judge or court. [2011 c 336 § 197; Code 1881 § 162; 1877 p 33 § 162; 1869 p 39 § 160; 1854 p 153 § 120; RRS § 728.]

7.40.120 Injunction, who is bound by. An order of injunction shall bind every person and officer restrained from the time he or she is informed thereof. [2011 c 336 § 198; Code 1881 § 163; 1877 p 33 § 163; 1869 p 40 § 161; 1854 p 153 § 121; RRS § 729.]

7.40.130 When adverse party becomes bound. When notice of the application for an injunction has been served upon the adverse party, it shall not be necessary to serve the order upon him or her, but he or she shall be bound by the injunction as soon as the bond required of the plaintiff is executed and delivered to the proper officer. [2011 c 336 § 199; Code 1881 § 164; 1877 p 34 § 164; 1869 p 40 § 162; 1854 p 154 § 122; RRS § 730.]

7.40.140 Disposition of money collected on enjoined judgment. Money collected upon a judgment afterward enjoined, remaining in the hands of the collecting officer, shall be paid to the clerk of the court granting the injunction, subject to the order of the court. [Code 1881 § 165; 1877 p 34 § 165; 1869 p 40 § 163; 1854 p 154 § 123; RRS § 731.]

7.40.150 Contempt for disobedience. Whenever it shall appear to any court granting a restraining order or an order of injunction, or by affidavit, that any person has willfully disobeyed the order after notice thereof, such court shall award an attachment for contempt against the party charged, or an order to show cause why it should not issue. The attachment or order shall be issued by the clerk of the court, and

directed to the sheriff, and shall be served by him or her. [2011 c 336 § 200; 1957 c 9 § 12; Code 1881 § 166; 1877 p 34 § 166; 1869 p 40 § 164; 1854 p 154 § 124; RRS § 732.]

7.40.160 Attachment and arrest—Indemnity of plaintiff. The attachment for contempt shall be immediately served, by arresting the party charged, and bringing him or her into court, if in session, to be dealt with as in other cases of contempt; and the court shall also take all necessary measures to secure and indemnify the plaintiff against damages in the premises. [2011 c 336 § 201; Code 1881 § 167; 1877 p 34 § 167; 1869 p 40 § 165; 1854 p 154 § 125; RRS § 733.]

7.40.170 Bond for appearance. If the court is not in session the officer making the arrest shall cause the person to enter into a bond, with surety, to be approved by the officer, conditioned that he or she personally appear in open court whenever his or her appearance shall be required, to answer such contempt, and that he or she will pay to the plaintiff all his or her damages and costs occasioned by the breach of the order; and in default thereof he or she shall be committed to the jail of the county until he or she shall enter into such bond with surety, or be otherwise legally discharged. [2011 c 336 § 202; 1891 c 56 § 1; Code 1881 § 168; 1877 p 34 § 168; 1869 p 40 § 166; 1854 p 154 § 126; RRS § 734.]

7.40.180 Motion to dissolve or modify. Motions to dissolve or modify injunctions may be made in open court, or before a judge of the superior court, at any time after reasonable notice to the adverse party. [1891 c 36 § 1; Code 1881 § 169; 1877 p 34 § 169; 1869 p 40 § 167; 1854 p 154 § 127; RRS § 735.]

Rules of court: *CR 65.*

7.40.190 Damages on dissolution of injunction to stay judgment. When an injunction to stay proceedings after judgment for debt or damages shall be dissolved, the court shall award such damages not exceeding ten percent on the judgment, as the court may deem right, against the party in whose favor the injunction issued. [Code 1881 § 170; 1877 p 34 § 170; 1869 p 41 § 168; 1854 p 154 § 128; RRS § 736.]

7.40.200 Damages for rents and waste. If an injunction to stay proceedings after verdict or judgment in an action for the recovery of real estate, or the possession thereof, be dissolved, the damages assessed against the party obtaining the injunction, shall include the reasonable rents and profits of the lands recovered, and all waste committed after granting injunction. [Code 1881 § 171; 1877 p 35 § 171; 1869 p 41 § 169; 1854 p 154 § 129; RRS § 737.]

7.40.210 Motion to reinstate. Upon an order being made dissolving or modifying an order of injunction, the plaintiff may move the court to reinstate the order, and the court may, in its discretion, allow the motion, and appoint a time for hearing the same before the court, or a time and place for hearing before some judge thereof, and upon the hearing, the parties may produce such additional affidavits or depositions as the court shall direct, and the order of injunction shall be dissolved, modified, or reinstated, as the court or judge may deem right. Until the hearing of the motion to reinstate the order of injunction, the order to dissolve or modify it, shall be suspended. [Code 1881 § 172; 1877 p 35 § 172; 1869 p 41 § 170; 1854 p 154 § 130; RRS § 738.]

7.40.230 Injunctions—Fraud in obtaining telecommunications service. (1) Whenever it appears that any person is engaged in or about to engage in any act that constitutes or will constitute a violation of RCW 9.26A.110, 9.26A.115, or 9.26A.090, the prosecuting attorney, a telecommunications company, or any person harmed by an alleged violation of RCW 9.26A.110, 9.26A.115, or 9.26A.090 may initiate a civil proceeding in superior court to enjoin such violation, and may petition the court to issue an order for the discontinuance of the specific telephone service being used in violation of RCW 9.26A.110, 9.26A.115, or 9.26A.090.

(2) An action under this section shall be brought in the county in which the unlawful act or acts are alleged to have taken place, and shall be commenced by the filing of a verified complaint, or shall be accompanied by an affidavit.

(3) If it is shown to the satisfaction of the court, either by verified complaint or affidavit, that a person is engaged in or about to engage in any act that constitutes a violation of RCW 9.26A.110, 9.26A.115, or 9.26A.090, the court may issue a temporary restraining order to abate and prevent the continuance or recurrence of the act. The court may direct the sheriff to seize and retain until further order of the court any device that is being used in violation of RCW 9.26A.110, 9.26A.115, or 9.26A.090. All property seized pursuant to the order of the court shall remain in the custody of the court.

(4) The court may issue a permanent injunction to restrain, abate or prevent the continuance or recurrence of the violation of RCW 9.26A.110, 9.26A.115, or 9.26A.090. The court may grant declaratory relief, mandatory orders, or any other relief deemed necessary to accomplish the purposes of the injunction. The court may retain jurisdiction of the case for the purpose of enforcing its orders.

(5) If it is shown to the satisfaction of the court, either by verified complaint or affidavit, that a person is engaged in or is about to engage in any act that constitutes a violation of RCW 9.26A.110, 9.26A.115, or 9.26A.090, the court may issue an order which shall be promptly served upon the person in whose name the telecommunications device is listed, requiring the party, within a reasonable time, to be fixed by the court, from the time of service of the petition on the party, to show cause before the judge why telephone service should not promptly be discontinued. At the hearing the burden of proof shall be on the complainant.

(6) Upon a finding by the court that the telecommunications device is being used or has been used in violation of RCW 9.26A.110 or 9.26A.115, the court may issue an order requiring the telephone company which is rendering service over the device to disconnect such service. Upon receipt of such order, which shall be served upon an officer of the telephone company by the sheriff or deputy of the county in which the telecommunications device is installed, the telephone company shall proceed promptly to disconnect and remove such device and discontinue all telephone service until further order of the court, provided that the telephone company may do so without breach of the peace or trespass.

(7) The telecommunications company that petitions the court for the removal of any telecommunications device under this section shall be a necessary party to any proceeding or action arising out of or under RCW 9.26A.110 or 9.26A.115.

(8) No telephone company shall be liable for any damages, penalty, or forfeiture, whether civil or criminal, for any legal act performed in compliance with any order issued by the court.

(9) Property seized pursuant to the direction of the court that the court has determined to have been used in violation of RCW 9.26A.110 or 9.26A.115 shall be forfeited after notice and hearing. The court may remit or mitigate the forfeiture upon terms and conditions as the court deems reasonable if it finds that such forfeiture was incurred without gross negligence or without any intent of the petitioner to violate the law, or it finds the existence of such mitigating circumstances as to justify the remission or the mitigation of the forfeiture. In determining whether to remit or mitigate forfeiture, the court shall consider losses that may have been suffered by victims as the result of the use of the forfeited property. [2003 c 53 § 5; 1990 c 11 § 4.]

Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53: See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

Chapter 7.42 RCW
INJUNCTIONS—OBSCENE MATERIALS

Sections

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 65.*

Crimes, obscenity: Chapter 9.68 RCW.

Criminal procedure, sufficiency of indictment, information for obscene literature: RCW 10.37.130.

7.42.010 Obscene prints and articles—Jurisdiction to enjoin. The superior courts shall have jurisdiction to enjoin the sale or distribution of obscene prints and articles as hereinafter specified. [1959 c 105 § 1.]

7.42.020 Injunction authorized. The prosecuting attorney of every county of the state, in which a person, firm, or corporation sells or distributes or offers to sell or distribute or has in his or her possession with intent to sell or distribute any book, magazine, pamphlet, comic book, story paper, writing, paper, newspaper, phonograph record, magnetic tape, electric or mechanical transcription, picture, drawing, photograph, figure, image, or any written or printed matter of an indecent character, which is obscene, lewd, lascivious, filthy, or indecent, or which contains an article or instrument of indecent use or purports to be for indecent use or purpose, may maintain an action in the name of the state for an injunction against such person, firm, or corporation in the superior court to prevent the sale or further sale or the distribution or further distribution or the acquisition or possession of any book, magazine, pamphlet, comic book, story paper, writing, paper, newspaper, phonograph record, magnetic tape, electric or mechanical transcription, picture, drawing, photograph, figure, or image or any written or printed matter of indecent character, herein described. [2011 c 336 § 203; 1959 c 105 § 2.]

7.42.030 Trial by jury—Judgment. The person, firm, or corporation sought to be enjoined shall be entitled to a trial by jury of the issues within a reasonable time after joinder of issue and a judgment shall be entered by the court within two days of the conclusion of the trial. No injunction or restraining order shall be issued prior to the conclusion of the trial. [1959 c 105 § 3.]

7.42.040 Matter to be surrendered to sheriff—Seizure, destruction. In the event that a final order or judgment of injunction be entered in favor of the state and against the person, firm, or corporation sought to be enjoined, such final order or judgment shall contain a provision directing the person, firm, or corporation to surrender to the sheriff of the county in which the action was brought any of the matter described in RCW 7.42.020, and each sheriff shall be directed to seize and destroy the same. [1959 c 105 § 4.]

7.42.050 Prosecuting attorney need not file undertaking prior to order—Nonliability. In any action brought as herein provided, the prosecuting attorney shall not be required to file any undertaking before the issuance of an injunction order provided for in RCW 7.42.040, shall not be liable for costs and shall not be liable for damages sustained by reason of the injunction order in cases where judgment is rendered in favor of the person, firm, or corporation sought to be enjoined. [1959 c 105 § 5.]

7.42.060 Knowledge of contents chargeable after service. Every person, firm, or corporation who sells, distributes, or acquires possession with intent to sell or distribute any of the matter described in RCW 7.42.020, after the service upon him or her of a summons and complaint in an action brought by the prosecuting attorney pursuant to this chapter is chargeable with knowledge of the contents thereof. [2011 c 336 § 204; 1959 c 105 § 6.]

7.42.070 Exemptions. Nothing in this chapter shall apply to any recognized historical society or museum, the state law library, any county law library, the state library, the public library, any library of any college or university, or to any archive or library under the supervision and control of the state, county, municipality, or other political subdivision. [1959 c 105 § 7.]

Chapter 7.43 RCW
INJUNCTIONS—DRUG NUISANCES

Sections

7.43.010 Injunction authorized. (1) Every building or unit within a building used for the purpose of unlawfully manufacturing, delivering, selling, storing, or giving away any controlled substance as defined in chapter 69.50 RCW, legend drug as defined in chapter 69.41 RCW, or imitation controlled substances as defined in chapter 69.52 RCW, and every building or unit within a building wherein or upon which such acts take place, is a nuisance which shall be enjoined, abated, and prevented, whether it is a public or private nuisance.

(2) As used in this chapter, "building" includes, but is not limited to, any structure or any separate part or portion thereof, whether permanent or not, or the ground itself. [1988 c 141 § 4.]

7.43.020 Complaint—Affidavit. The action provided for in RCW 7.43.010 shall be brought in the superior court in the county in which the property is located. Such action shall be commenced by the filing of a complaint alleging the facts constituting the nuisance.

Any complaint filed under this chapter shall be verified or accompanied by affidavit. For purposes of showing that the owner or his or her agent has had an opportunity to abate the nuisance, the affidavit shall contain a description of all attempts by the applicant to notify and locate the owner of the property or the owner's agent.

In addition, the affidavit shall describe in detail the adverse impact associated with the property on the surrounding neighborhood. "Adverse impact" includes, but is not limited to, the following: Any search warrants served on the property where controlled substances were seized; investigative purchases of controlled substances on or near the property by law enforcement or their agents; arrests of persons who frequent the property for violation of controlled substances laws; increased volume of traffic associated with the property; and the number of complaints made to law enforcement of illegal activity associated with the property.

After filing the complaint, the court shall grant a hearing within three business days after the filing. [1988 c 141 § 5.]

7.43.030 Temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction. Upon application for a temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction, the court may, upon a showing of good cause, issue an ex parte restraining order or preliminary injunction, preventing the defendant and all other persons from removing or in any manner interfering with the personal property and contents of the place where the nuisance is alleged to exist and may grant such preliminary equitable relief as is necessary to prevent the continuance or recurrence of the nuisance pending final resolution of the matter on the merits. However, pending the decision, the stock in trade may not be so restrained, but an inventory and full accounting of all business transactions may be required.

The restraining order or preliminary injunction may be served by handing to and leaving a copy with any person in charge of the place or residing in the place, or by posting a copy in a conspicuous place at or upon one or more of the principal doors or entrances to the place, or by both delivery and posting. The officer serving the order or injunction shall forthwith make and return into court an inventory of the personal property and contents situated in and used in conducting or maintaining the nuisance.

Any violation of the order or injunction is a contempt of court, and where such order or injunction is posted, mutilation or removal thereof while the same remains in force is a contempt of court if such posted order or injunction contains a notice to that effect. [1988 c 141 § 6.]

7.43.040 Temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction—Bond required. A temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction shall not issue under this chapter except upon the giving of a bond or security by the applicant, in the sum that the court deems proper, but not less than one thousand dollars, for the payment of such costs and damages as may be incurred or suffered by any party who is found to have been wrongfully restrained or enjoined. A bond or security shall not be required of the state of Washington, municipal corporations, or political subdivisions of the state of Washington. [1988 c 141 § 7.]

7.43.050 Priority of actions. An action under this chapter shall have precedence over all other actions, except prior matters of the same character, criminal proceedings, election contests, hearings on temporary restraining orders and injunctions, and actions to forfeit vehicles used in violation of the uniform controlled substances act. [1988 c 141 § 8.]

7.43.060 Dismissal of citizen complaint—Limitations. (1) If the complaint under this chapter is filed by a citizen, the complaint shall not be dismissed by the citizen for want of prosecution except upon a sworn statement made by the citizen and the citizen's attorney, if the citizen has one. The statement shall set forth the reasons why the action should be dismissed. The case shall only be dismissed if so ordered by the court.

(2) In case of failure to prosecute the action with reasonable diligence, or at the request of the plaintiff, the court, in its discretion, may substitute any other citizen consenting to be substituted for the plaintiff. [1988 c 141 § 9.]

7.43.070 Service of complaint. A copy of the complaint, together with a notice of the time and place of the hearing of the action shall be served upon the defendant at least one business day before the hearing. Service may also be made by posting the papers in the same manner as is provided for in RCW 7.43.030. If the hearing is then continued at the request of any defendant, all temporary orders and injunctions shall be extended as a matter of course. [1988 c 141 § 10.]

7.43.080 Order of abatement. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, if the existence of the nuisance is established in the action, an order of abatement shall be entered as part of the final judgment in the case. Plaintiff's costs in the action, including those of abatement, are a lien upon the building or unit within a building. The lien is

enforceable and collectible by execution issued by order of the court.

(2) If the court finds and concludes that the owner of the building or unit within a building: (a) Had no knowledge of the existence of the nuisance or has been making reasonable efforts to abate the nuisance, (b) has not been guilty of any contempt of court in the proceedings, and (c) will immediately abate any such nuisance that may exist at the building or unit within a building and prevent it from being a nuisance within a period of one year thereafter, the court shall, if satisfied of the owner's good faith, order the building or unit within a building to be delivered to the owner, and no order of abatement shall be entered. If an order of abatement has been entered and the owner subsequently meets the requirements of this subsection, the order of abatement shall be canceled. [1988 c 141 § 11.]

7.43.090 Final order of abatement. Any final order of abatement issued under this chapter shall:

(1) Direct the removal of all personal property subject to seizure and forfeiture pursuant to RCW 69.50.505 from the building or unit within a building, and direct their disposition pursuant to the forfeiture provisions of RCW 69.50.505;

(2) Provide for the immediate closure of the building or unit within a building against its use for any purpose, and for keeping it closed for a period of one year unless released sooner as provided in this chapter; and

(3) State that while the order of abatement remains in effect the building or unit within a building shall remain in the custody of the court. [1988 c 141 § 12.]

7.43.100 Sale of items subject to forfeiture—Use of proceeds. In all actions brought under this chapter, the proceeds and all moneys forfeited pursuant to the forfeiture provisions of RCW 69.50.505 shall be applied as follows:

(1) First, to the fees and costs of the removal and sale;

(2) Second, to the allowances and costs of closing and keeping closed the building or unit within a building;

(3) Third, to the payment of the plaintiff's costs in the action; and

(4) Fourth, the balance, if any, to the owner of the property.

If the proceeds of the sale of items subject to seizure and forfeiture do not fully discharge all of the costs, fees, and allowances, the building or unit within a building shall then also be sold under execution issued upon the order of the court, and the proceeds of the sale shall be applied in a like manner.

A building or unit within a building shall not be sold under this section unless the court finds and concludes by clear and convincing evidence that the owner of the building or unit within a building had actual or constructive knowledge or notice of the existence of the nuisance. However, this shall not be construed as limiting or prohibiting the entry of any final order of abatement as provided in this chapter. [1988 c 141 § 13.]

7.43.110 Violation of injunction—Contempt of court. An intentional violation of a restraining order, preliminary injunction, or order of abatement under this chapter is a contempt of court as provided in chapter 7.21 RCW. [1989 c 373 § 9; 1988 c 141 § 14.]

7.43.120 Fine constitutes lien. Whenever the owner of a building or unit within a building upon which the act or acts constituting the contempt have been committed, or the owner of any interest in the building or unit has been found in contempt of court, and fined in any proceedings under this chapter, the fine is a lien upon the building or unit within a building to the extent of the owner's interest. The lien is enforceable and collectible by execution issued by order of the court. [1989 c 373 § 10; 1988 c 141 § 15.]

7.43.130 Recovery of damages not precluded. The abatement of a nuisance under this chapter does not prejudice the right of any person to recover damages for its past existence. [1988 c 141 § 16.]

Chapter 7.44 RCW
NE EXEAT

Sections

7.44.010 Affidavit for writ. Actions may be commenced upon any agreement in writing before the time for the performance of the contract expires, when the plaintiff or his or her agent shall make and file an affidavit with the clerk of the proper court, that the defendant is about to leave the state without performing or making provisions for the performance of the contract, taking with him or her property, moneys, credits, or effects subject to execution, with intent to defraud plaintiff. [2011 c 336 § 205; Code 1881 § 636; 1877 p 133 § 639; 1869 p 149 § 576; 1854 p 209 § 418; RRS § 778.]

7.44.020 Complaint. At the time of filing the affidavit the plaintiff shall also file his or her complaint in the action, and thenceforth the action shall proceed as other actions at law, except as otherwise provided in this chapter. [2011 c 336 § 206; 1891 c 42 (p 81) § 1; Code 1881 § 637; 1877 p 133 § 640; 1869 p 149 § 577; 1854 p 209 § 419; RRS § 779, part: FORMER PARTS OF SECTION: 1891 c 42 § 2 now codified as RCW 7.44.021.]

7.44.021 Arrest and bail—Bond. Upon such affidavit and complaint being filed, the clerk shall issue an order of arrest and bail, directed to the sheriff, which shall be issued, served, and returned in all respects as such orders in other cases; before such order shall issue the plaintiff shall file in the office of the clerk a bond, with sufficient surety, to be approved by the clerk, conditioned that the plaintiff will pay the defendant such damages and costs as he or she shall wrongfully sustain by reason of the action, which surety shall

justify as provided by law. [2011 c 336 § 207; 1957 c 51 § 10; 1891 c 42 § 2. Formerly RCW 7.44.020, part.]

Corporate surety—Insurance: Chapter 48.28 RCW.

7.44.030 Recognizance of defendant. The sheriff shall require the defendant to enter into a bond, with sufficient surety, personally to appear within the time allowed by law for answering the complaint, and to abide the order of the court; and in default thereof the defendant shall be committed to prison until discharged in due course of law; such special bail shall be liable for the principal, and shall have a right to arrest and deliver him or her up, as in other cases, and the defendant may give other bail. [2011 c 336 § 208; 1891 c 42 § 3; Code 1881 § 638; 1877 p 133 § 641; 1869 p 149 § 578; 1854 p 209 § 420; RRS § 780, part. FORMER PARTS OF SECTION: Code 1881 § 639; 1877 p 133 § 642; 1869 p 150 § 579; 1854 p 209 § 421 now codified as RCW 7.44.031.]

7.44.031 Recognizance of defendant—Discharge by securing performance. Instead of giving special bail, as above provided, the defendant shall be entitled to his or her discharge from custody if he or she will secure the performance of the contract to the satisfaction of the plaintiff. [2011 c 336 § 209; Code 1881 § 639; 1877 p 133 § 642; 1869 p 150 § 579; 1854 p 209 § 421; RRS § 780, part. Formerly RCW 7.44.030, part.]

7.44.040 Subrogation of surety—Rights of contractor. This proceeding may be had in favor of any surety or other person jointly bound with the defendant. It may also be prosecuted by the person in whose favor the contract exists, against any one or more of the persons bound thereby, upon filing such affidavit, when the co-contractors are nonresidents or probably insolvent, or at the request of any of them when they are residents and solvent. [Code 1881 § 640; 1877 p 133 § 643; 1869 p 150 § 580; 1854 p 210 § 422; RRS § 781.]

7.44.050 Habeas corpus available to defendant. The defendant may have the same remedy by writ of habeas corpus as in other cases of arrest and bail. [Code 1881 § 641; 1877 p 134 § 644; 1869 p 150 § 581; 1854 p 210 § 423; RRS § 782.]

7.44.060 District judges have jurisdiction. The proceedings provided for in this chapter may be had before district judges in all cases within their jurisdiction. [1987 c 202 § 135; 1891 c 42 § 4; Code 1881 § 642; 1877 p 134 § 644; 1869 p 150 § 582; 1854 p 210 § 424; RRS § 783.]

Intent—1987 c 202: See note following RCW 2.04.190.

7.44.070 Venue. The affidavit and bond may be filed, and proceedings had in any county where the defendants may be found. [Code 1881 § 643; 1877 p 134 § 646; 1869 p 150 § 583; 1854 p 210 § 425; RRS § 784.]

Chapter 7.48 RCW
NUISANCES

Sections

Nuisances
criminal: Chapter 9.66 RCW.
drug, injunctions: Chapter 7.43 RCW.
jurisdiction of superior court: State Constitution Art. 4 § 6 (Amendment 28).

7.48.010 Actionable nuisance defined. The obstruction of any highway or the closing of the channel of any stream used for boating or rafting logs, lumber or timber, or whatever is injurious to health or indecent or offensive to the senses, or an obstruction to the free use of property, so as to essentially interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of the life and property, is a nuisance and the subject of an action for damages and other and further relief. [Code 1881 § 605; 1877 p 126 § 610; 1869 p 144 § 599; 1854 p 207 § 405; RRS § 943.]

Crimes
malicious mischief: Chapter 9.61 RCW.
public nuisance: RCW 9.66.010.

7.48.020 Who may sue—Judgment for damages—Warrant for abatement—Injunction. Such action may be

brought by any person whose property is, or whose patrons or employees are, injuriously affected or whose personal enjoyment is lessened by the nuisance. If judgment be given for the plaintiff in such action, he or she may, in addition to the execution to enforce the same, on motion, have an order allowing a warrant to issue to the sheriff to abate and to deter or prevent the resumption of such nuisance. Such motion shall be allowed, of course, unless it appear on the hearing that the nuisance has ceased, or that such remedy is inadequate to abate or prevent the continuance of the nuisance, in which latter case the plaintiff may have the defendant enjoined. [1994 c 45 § 5; 1891 c 50 § 1; Code 1881 § 606; 1877 p 126 § 611; 1869 p 144 § 560; 1854 p 207 § 406; RRS § 944.]

Findings—Declaration—Severability—1994 c 45: See notes following RCW 7.48.140.

7.48.030 Issuance and execution of warrant. If the order be made, the clerk shall thereafter, at any time within six months, when requested by the plaintiff, issue such warrant directed to the sheriff, requiring him or her forthwith to abate the nuisance at the expense of the defendant, and return the warrant as soon thereafter as may be, with his or her proceedings indorsed thereon. The expenses of abating the nuisance may be levied by the sheriff on the property of the defendant, and in this respect the warrant is to be deemed an execution against property. [2011 c 336 § 210; Code 1881 § 607; 1877 p 126 § 612; 1869 p 145 § 561; 1854 p 207 § 407; RRS § 945.]

7.48.040 Stay of issuance of warrant. At any time before the order is made or the warrant issues, the defendant may, on motion to the court or judge thereof, have an order to stay the issue of such warrant for such period as may be necessary, not exceeding six months, to allow the defendant to abate the nuisance himself or herself, upon his or her giving bond to the plaintiff in a sufficient amount with one or more sureties, to the satisfaction of the court or judge thereof, that he or she will abate it within the time and in the manner specified in such order. The sureties shall justify as provided by law. If the defendant fails to abate such nuisance within the time specified, the warrant for the abatement of the nuisance may issue as if the same had not been stayed. [2011 c 336 § 211; 1957 c 51 § 11; Code 1881 § 608; 1877 p 127 § 613; 1869 p 145 § 562; RRS § 946.]

Corporate surety—Insurance: Chapter 48.28 RCW.

7.48.050 Moral nuisances—Definitions. The definitions set forth in this section shall apply throughout this chapter as they relate to moral nuisances.

(1) "Knowledge" or "knowledge of such nuisance" means having knowledge of the contents and character of the patently offensive sexual conduct which appears in the lewd matter, or knowledge of the acts of lewdness, assignation, or prostitution which occur on the premises.

(2) "Lewd matter" is synonymous with "obscene matter" and means any matter:

(a) Which the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find, when considered as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest; and

(b) Which depicts or describes patently offensive representations or descriptions of:

(i) Ultimate sexual acts, normal or perverted, actual or simulated; or

(ii) Masturbation, excretory functions, or lewd exhibition of the genitals or genital area.

Nothing herein contained is intended to include or proscribe any matter which, when considered as a whole, and in the context in which it is used, possesses serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

(3) "Lewdness" shall have and include all those meanings which are assigned to it under the common law.

(4) "Live performance" means any play, show, skit, dance, or other exhibition performed or presented to or before an audience of one or more, in person or by electronic transmission, with or without consideration.

(5) "Matter" shall mean a live performance, a motion picture film, or a publication or any combination thereof.

(6) "Moral nuisance" means a nuisance which is injurious to public morals.

(7) "Motion picture film" shall include any:

(a) Film or plate negative;

(b) Film or plate positive;

(c) Film designed to be projected on a screen for exhibition;

(d) Films, glass slides, or transparencies, either in negative or positive form, designed for exhibition by projection on a screen;

(e) Videotape or any other medium used to electronically reproduce images on a screen.

(8) "Person" means any individual, partnership, firm, association, corporation, or other legal entity.

(9) "Place" includes, but is not limited to, any building, structure, or places, or any separate part or portion thereof, whether permanent or not, or the ground itself.

(10) "Publication" shall include any book, magazine, article, pamphlet, writing, printing, illustration, picture, sound recording, or a motion picture film which is offered for sale or exhibited in a coin-operated machine.

(11) "Sale" means a passing of title or right of possession from a seller to a buyer for valuable consideration, and shall include, but is not limited to, any lease or rental arrangement or other transaction wherein or whereby any valuable consideration is received for the use of, or transfer of possession of, lewd matter. [1990 c 152 § 1; 1979 c 1 § 1 (Initiative Measure No. 335, approved November 8, 1977); 1913 c 127 § 1; RRS § 946-1.]

Reviser's note: As to the constitutionality of this section, see note following RCW 7.48.052.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.48.052 Moral nuisances. The following are declared to be moral nuisances:

(1) Any and every place in the state where lewd films are publicly exhibited as a regular course of business, or possessed for the purpose of such exhibition, or where lewd live performances are publicly exhibited as a regular course of business;

(2) Any and every place in the state where a lewd film is publicly and repeatedly exhibited, or possessed for the purpose of such exhibition, or where a lewd live performance is publicly and repeatedly exhibited;

(3) Any and every lewd film which is publicly exhibited, or possessed for such purpose at a place which is a moral nuisance under this section;

(4) Any and every place of business in the state in which lewd publications constitute a principal part of the stock in trade;

(5) Any and every lewd publication possessed at a place which is a moral nuisance under this section;

(6) Every place which, as a regular course of business, is used for the purpose of lewdness, assignation, or prostitution, and every such place in or upon which acts of lewdness, assignation, or prostitution are conducted, permitted, carried on, continued, or exist;

(7) All public houses or places of resort where illegal gambling is carried on or permitted; all houses or places within any city, town, or village, or upon any public road, or highway where drunkenness, illegal gambling, fighting, or breaches of the peace are carried on or permitted; all houses, housing units, other buildings, or places of resort where controlled substances identified in Article II of chapter 69.50 RCW and not authorized by that chapter, are manufactured, delivered or possessed, or where any such substance not obtained in a manner authorized by chapter 69.50 RCW is consumed by ingestion, inhalation, injection or any other means. [1990 c 152 § 2; 1988 c 141 § 1; 1979 c 1 § 2 (Initiative Measure No. 335, approved November 8, 1977).]

Reviser's note: As to the constitutionality of this section, see *Spokane Arcades, Inc. v. Brockett*, 631 F.2d 135 (9th Cir. 1980), aff'd without opinion *Brockett v. Spokane Arcades, Inc.*, 454 U.S. 1022, 102 S. Ct. 557, 70 L.Ed.2d 468 (1981).

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.48.054 Moral nuisance—Personal property—Effects of notice. The following are also declared to be moral nuisances, as personal property used in conducting and maintaining a moral nuisance:

(1) All moneys paid as admission price to the exhibition of any lewd film or lewd live performance found to be a moral nuisance;

(2) All valuable consideration received for the sale of any lewd publication which is found to be a moral nuisance;

(3) The furniture, fixtures, and contents of a place which is a moral nuisance.

From and after service of a copy of the notice of hearing of the application for a preliminary injunction, provided for in RCW 7.48.064, upon the place or its manager, acting manager, or person then in charge, all such persons are deemed to have knowledge of the acts, conditions, or things which make such place a moral nuisance. Where the circumstantial proof warrants a determination that a person had knowledge of the moral nuisance prior to such service of process, the court shall make such finding. [1990 c 152 § 3; 1979 c 1 § 3 (Initiative Measure No. 335, approved November 8, 1977).]

Reviser's note: As to the constitutionality of this section, see note following RCW 7.48.052.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.48.056 Abate moral nuisance—Enjoin owner. In addition to any other remedy provided by law, any act, occupation, structure, or thing which is a moral nuisance may be abated, and the person doing such act or engaged in such occupation, and the owner and agent of the owner of any such structure or thing, may be enjoined as provided in this chapter. [1979 c 1 § 4 (Initiative Measure No. 335, approved November 8, 1977).]

Reviser's note: As to the constitutionality of this section, see note following RCW 7.48.052.

7.48.058 Maintaining action to abate moral nuisance—Bond. The attorney general, prosecuting attorney, city attorney, city prosecutor, or any citizen of the county may maintain an action of an equitable nature in the name of the state of Washington upon the relation of such attorney general, prosecuting attorney, city attorney, city prosecutor, or citizen, to abate a moral nuisance, to perpetually enjoin all persons from maintaining the same, and to enjoin the use of any structure or thing adjudged to be a moral nuisance.

If such action is instituted by a private person, the complainant shall execute a bond to the person against whom complaint is made, with good and sufficient surety to be approved by the court or clerk thereof, in the sum of not less than five hundred dollars, to secure to the party enjoined the damages he or she may sustain if such action is wrongfully brought, and the court finds there was no reasonable grounds or cause for said action and the case is dismissed for that reason before trial or for want of prosecution. No bond shall be required of the attorney general, prosecuting attorney, city attorney, or city prosecutor, and no action shall be maintained against such public official for his or her official action when brought in good faith. [2011 c 336 § 212; 1979 c 1 § 5 (Initiative Measure No. 335, approved November 8, 1977).]

Reviser's note: As to the constitutionality of this section, see note following RCW 7.48.052.

7.48.060 Moral nuisance—Jurisdiction—Filing a complaint. The action provided for in RCW 7.48.058 shall be brought in any court of competent jurisdiction in the county in which the property is located. Such action shall be commenced by the filing of a verified complaint alleging the facts constituting the nuisance. After the filing of said complaint, application for a temporary injunction may be made to the court in which the action is filed, or to a judge thereof, who shall grant a hearing within ten days after the filing. [1979 c 1 § 6 (Initiative Measure No. 335, approved November 8, 1977); 1913 c 127 § 2; RRS § 946-2.]

Reviser's note: As to the constitutionality of this section, see note following RCW 7.48.052.

7.48.062 Moral nuisance—Restraining order—Violations. Where such application for a temporary injunction is made, the court or judge thereof may, on application of the complainant showing good cause, issue an ex parte restraining order, restraining the defendant and all other persons from removing or in any manner interfering with the personal property and contents of the place where such nuisance is alleged to exist, until the decision of the court or judge granting or refusing such temporary injunction and until the further order of the court thereon, except that pending such decision, the stock in trade may not be so restrained, but an inventory and full accounting of all business transactions may be required.

The restraining order may be served by handing to and leaving a copy of such order with any person in charge of such place or residing therein, or by posting a copy thereof in a conspicuous place at or upon one or more of the principal doors or entrances to such place, or by both such delivery and posting. The officer serving such restraining order shall forthwith make and return into court an inventory of the personal property and contents situated in and used in conducting or maintaining such nuisance.

Any violation of such restraining order is a contempt of court, and where such order is posted, mutilation or removal thereof while the same remains in force is a contempt of court if such posted order contains therein a notice to that effect. [1979 c 1 § 7 (Initiative Measure No. 335, approved November 8, 1977).]

Reviser's note: As to the constitutionality of this section, see note following RCW 7.48.052.

7.48.064 Moral nuisance—Hearing—Notice—Consolidation with trial. A copy of the complaint, together with a notice of the time and place of the hearing of the application for a temporary injunction, shall be served upon the defendant at least three days before such hearing. The place may also be served by posting such papers in the same manner as is provided for in RCW 7.48.062 in the case of a restraining order. If the hearing is then continued at the instance of any defendant, the temporary writ as prayed shall be granted as a matter of course.

Before or after the commencement of the hearing of an application for a temporary injunction, the court, on application of either of the parties or on its own motion, may order the trial of the action on the merits to be advanced and consolidated with the hearing on the application for the temporary injunction. Any evidence received upon an application for a temporary injunction which would be admissible in the trial on the merits becomes a part of the record of the trial and need not be repeated as to such parties at the trial on the merits. [1979 c 1 § 8 (Initiative Measure No. 335, approved November 8, 1977).]

Reviser's note: As to the constitutionality of this section, see note following RCW 7.48.052.

7.48.066 Finding of moral nuisance—Orders. If upon hearing, the allegations of the complaint are sustained to the satisfaction of the court or judge, the court or judge shall issue a temporary injunction without additional bond, restraining the defendant and any other person from continuing the nuisance.

If at the time the temporary injunction is granted, it further appears that the person owning, in control of, or in charge of the nuisance so enjoined had received three days notice of the hearing, then the court shall declare a temporary forfeiture of the use of the real property upon which such public nuisance is located and the personal property located therein, and shall forthwith issue an order closing such place against its use for any purpose until a final decision is rendered on the application for a permanent injunction, unless:

(1) The person owning, in control of, or in charge of such nuisance shows to the satisfaction of the court or judge, by competent and admissible evidence which is subject to cross-examination, that the nuisance complained of has been abated by such person; or

(2) The owner of such property, as a "good faith" lessor, has taken action to void said lease as is authorized by RCW 7.48.085.

Such order shall also continue in effect for such further period as the order authorized in RCW 7.48.062 provides. If no order has been issued pursuant to RCW 7.48.062, then an order restraining the removal or interference with the personal property and contents located therein shall be issued. Such restraining order shall be served and the inventory of such property shall be made and filed as provided for in RCW 7.48.062.

Such order shall also require such persons to show cause within thirty days why such closing order should not be made permanent, as provided for in RCW 7.48.078. [1979 c 1 § 9 (Initiative Measure No. 335, approved November 8, 1977).]

Reviser's note: As to the constitutionality of this section, see note following RCW 7.48.052.

7.48.068 Abatement of moral nuisance by owner—Effect on injunction. The owner of any real or personal property to be closed or restrained, or which has been closed or restrained, may appear after the filing of the complaint and before the hearing on the application for a permanent injunction.

The court, if satisfied of the good faith of the owner of the real property and of the innocence on the part of any owner of the personal property of any knowledge of its use as a nuisance, and that with reasonable care and diligence such owner could not have known thereof shall, at the time of the hearing on the application for the temporary injunction and upon payment of all costs incurred and upon the filing of a bond by the owner of the real property with sureties to be approved by the clerk in the full value of the property to be ascertained by the court, conditioned that such owner will immediately abate the nuisance and prevent the same from being established or kept, refrain from issuing any order closing such real property or restraining the removal or interference with such personal property, and, if such temporary injunction has already been issued, shall cancel said order and shall deliver such real or personal property, or both, to the respective owners thereof. The release of any real or personal property under this section shall not release it from any judgment, lien, penalty, or liability to which it may be subjected by law. [1979 c 1 § 10 (Initiative Measure No. 335, approved November 8, 1977).]

Reviser's note: As to the constitutionality of this section, see note following RCW 7.48.052.

Voluntary abatement: RCW 7.48.110.

7.48.070 Moral nuisance—Priority of action on calendar. The action provided for in RCW 7.48.058 shall be set down for trial at the first term of the court and shall have precedence over all other cases except crimes, election contests, or injunctions. [1979 c 1 § 11 (Initiative Measure No. 335, approved November 8, 1977); 1913 c 127 § 3; RRS § 946-3.]

Reviser's note: As to the constitutionality of this section, see note following RCW 7.48.052.

7.48.072 Moral nuisance—Effects of admission or finding of guilt. In such action, an admission or finding of guilty of any person under the criminal laws against lewdness, prostitution, or assignation at any such place is admissible for the purpose of proving the existence of such nuisance, and is prima facie evidence of such nuisance and of knowledge of, and of acquiescence and participation therein, on the part of the person charged with maintaining such nuisance. [1979 c 1 § 12 (Initiative Measure No. 335, approved November 8, 1977).]

Reviser's note: As to the constitutionality of this section, see note following RCW 7.48.052.

7.48.074 Moral nuisance—Evidence of reputation—Admissibility. At all hearings upon the merits, evidence of the general reputation of the building or place constituting the alleged nuisance, of the inmates thereof, and of those resorting thereto, is admissible for the purpose of proving the existence of such nuisance. [1979 c 1 § 13 (Initiative Measure No. 335, approved November 8, 1977).]

Reviser's note: As to the constitutionality of this section, see note following RCW 7.48.052.

7.48.076 Moral nuisance—Trial—Costs—Dismissal—Judgment. If the action is brought by a person who is a citizen of the county, and the court finds that there were no reasonable grounds or probable cause for bringing said action, and the case is dismissed before trial for that reason or for want of prosecution, the costs, including attorneys' fees, may be taxed to such person.

If the existence of the nuisance is established upon the trial, a judgment shall be entered which shall perpetually enjoin the defendant and any other person from further maintaining the nuisance at the place complained of, and the defendant from maintaining such nuisance elsewhere. The entire expenses of such abatement, including attorneys' fees, shall be recoverable by the plaintiff as a part of his or her costs of the lawsuit.

If the complaint is filed by a person who is a citizen of the county, it shall not be dismissed except upon a sworn statement by the complainant and his or her attorney, setting forth the reason why the action should be dismissed and the dismissal approved by the prosecuting attorney in writing or in open court. If the judge is of the opinion that the action should not be dismissed, he or she may direct the prosecuting attorney to prosecute said action to judgment at the expense of the county, and if the action is continued for more than one term of court, any person who is a citizen of the county or has an office therein, or the attorney general, the prosecuting attorney, city attorney, or city prosecutor, may be substituted for the complainant and prosecute said action to judgment. [2011 c 336 § 213; 1979 c 1 § 14 (Initiative Measure No. 335, approved November 8, 1977).]

Reviser's note: As to the constitutionality of this section, see note following RCW 7.48.052.

7.48.078 Moral nuisance—Judgment—Penalties—Disposal of personal property. If the existence of a nuisance is admitted or established in an action as provided for in RCW 7.48.058 or in a criminal proceeding, an order of abatement shall be entered as a part of the judgment in the case, which order shall direct the removal from the place of all personal property and contents used in conducting the nuisance and not already released under authority of the court as provided for in RCW 7.48.066 and 7.48.068, and shall direct the sale of such thereof as belong to the defendants notified or appearing, in the manner provided for the sale of chattels under execution. Lewd matter shall be destroyed and shall not be sold.

Such judgment shall impose a penalty of three hundred dollars for the maintenance of such nuisance, which penalty shall be imposed against the person or persons found to have maintained the nuisance, and, in case any owner or agent of the building found to have had actual or constructive notice of the maintenance of such nuisance, against such owner or agent, and against the building kept or used for the purposes of maintaining a moral nuisance, which penalty shall be collected by execution as in civil actions, and when collected, shall be paid into the current expense fund of the county in which the judgment is had.

Such order shall also require the renewal for one year of any bond furnished by the owner of the real property, as provided in RCW 7.48.068 or, if not so furnished, shall continue for one year any closing order issued at the time of granting the temporary injunction, or, if no such closing order was then issued, shall include an order directing the effectual closing of the place against its use for any purpose and keeping it closed for a period of one year unless sooner released.

The owner of any place closed and not released under bond may then appear and obtain such release in the manner and upon fulfilling the requirements provided in RCW 7.48.068.

Owners of unsold personal property and contents so seized must appear and claim the same within ten days after such order of abatement is made, and prove innocence to the satisfaction of the court of any knowledge of such use thereof, and that with reasonable care and diligence they could not have known thereof. If such innocence is established, such unsold personal property and contents shall be delivered to the owner, otherwise it shall be sold as provided in this section. For removing and selling the personal property and contents, the officer shall be entitled to charge and receive the same fees as he or she would for levying upon and selling like property on execution; and for closing the place and keeping it closed, a reasonable sum shall be allowed by the court. [2011 c 336 § 214; 1979 c 1 § 15 (Initiative Measure No. 335, approved November 8, 1977).]

Reviser's note: As to the constitutionality of this section, see note following RCW 7.48.052.

7.48.080 Moral nuisance—Violation of injunction—Contempt of court. A violation of any injunction granted under RCW 7.48.050 through 7.48.100 is a contempt of court as provided in chapter 7.21 RCW. [1989 c 373 § 11; 1979 c 1 § 16 (Initiative Measure No. 335, approved November 8, 1977); 1913 c 127 § 4; RRS § 946-4.]

Reviser's note: As to the constitutionality of this section, see note following RCW 7.48.052.

7.48.085 Moral nuisance—Property owner may repossess. If a tenant or occupant of a building or tenement, under a lawful title, uses such place for the purposes of maintaining a moral nuisance, such use makes void at the option of

the owner the lease or other title under which he or she holds, and without any act of the owner causes the right of possession to revert and vest in such owner, who may without process of law make immediate entry upon the premises. [2011 c 336 § 215; 1979 c 1 § 17 (Initiative Measure No. 335, approved November 8, 1977).]

Reviser's note: As to the constitutionality of this section, see note following RCW 7.48.052.

7.48.090 Moral nuisance—Contraband—Forfeitures. Lewd matter is contraband, and there are no property rights therein. All personal property declared to be a moral nuisance in RCW 7.48.052 and 7.48.054 and all moneys and other consideration declared to be a moral nuisance under RCW 7.48.056 are the subject of forfeiture to the local government and are recoverable as damages in the county wherein such matter is sold, exhibited, or otherwise used. Such moneys may be traced to and shall be recoverable from persons who, under RCW 7.48.064, have knowledge of the nuisance at the time such moneys are received by them.

Upon judgment against the defendants in legal proceedings brought pursuant to RCW 7.48.050 through 7.48.100 as now or hereafter amended, an accounting shall be made by such defendant or defendants of all moneys received by them which have been declared to be a public nuisance under this section. An amount equal to the sum of all moneys estimated to have been taken in as gross income from such unlawful commercial activity shall be forfeited to the general funds of the city and county governments wherein such matter is sold or exhibited, to be shared equally, as a forfeiture of the fruits of an unlawful enterprise and as partial restitution for damages done to the public welfare, public health, and public morals.

Where the action is brought pursuant to RCW 7.48.050 through 7.48.100 as now or hereafter amended, special injury need not be proven, and the costs of abatement are a lien on both the real and personal property used in maintaining the nuisance. Costs of abatement include, but are not limited to the following:

(1) Investigative costs;

(2) Court costs;

(3) Reasonable attorney's fees arising out of the preparation for and trial of the cause, appeals therefrom, and other costs allowed on appeal;

(4) Printing costs of trial and appellate briefs, and all other papers filed in such proceedings. [1979 c 1 § 18 (Initiative Measure No. 335, approved November 8, 1977); 1927 c 94 § 1; 1913 c 127 § 5; RRS § 946-5.]

Reviser's note: As to the constitutionality of this section, see note following RCW 7.48.052.

7.48.100 Moral nuisance—Immunity of certain motion picture theater employees. The provisions of any criminal statutes with respect to the exhibition of, or the possession with the intent to exhibit, any obscene film shall not apply to a motion picture projectionist, usher, or ticket taker acting within the scope of his or her employment, if such projectionist, usher, or ticket taker (1) has no financial interest in the place wherein he or she is so employed, other than his or her salary, and (2) freely and willingly gives testimony regarding such employment in any judicial proceedings brought under RCW 7.48.050 through 7.48.100 as now or hereafter amended, including pretrial discovery proceedings incident thereto, when and if such is requested, and upon being granted immunity by the trial judge sitting in such matters. [2011 c 336 § 216; 1979 c 1 § 19 (Initiative Measure No. 335, approved November 8, 1977); 1927 c 94 § 2; 1913 c 127 § 6; RRS § 946-6.]

Reviser's note: As to the constitutionality of this section, see note following RCW 7.48.052.

7.48.110 Houses of lewdness, assignation or prostitution may be abated—Voluntary abatement. If the owner of the building in which a nuisance is found to be maintained, appears and pays all costs of the proceeding, and files a bond with sureties to be approved by the clerk in the full value of the property to be ascertained by the court, conditioned that he or she will immediately abate said nuisance and prevent the same from being established or kept therein within a period of one year thereafter, the court or judge may, if satisfied of his or her good faith, order the premises, closed under the order of abatement, to be delivered to said owner, and said order closing the building canceled. The release of the property under the provisions of this section shall not release it from any judgment, lien, penalty, or liability to which it may be subject by law. [2011 c 336 § 217; 1927 c 94 § 3; 1913 c 127 § 7; RRS § 946-7.]

7.48.120 Nuisance defined. Nuisance consists in unlawfully doing an act, or omitting to perform a duty, which act or omission either annoys, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health or safety of others, offends decency, or unlawfully interferes with, obstructs or tends to obstruct, or render dangerous for passage, any lake or navigable river, bay, stream, canal or basin, or any public park, square, street or highway; or in any way renders other persons insecure in life, or in the use of property. [Code 1881 § 1235; 1875 p 79 § 1; RRS § 9914.]

Crimes
malicious mischief: Chapter 9.61 RCW.
nuisances: Chapter 9.66 RCW.

7.48.130 Public nuisance defined. A public nuisance is one which affects equally the rights of an entire community or neighborhood, although the extent of the damage may be unequal. [Code 1881 § 1236; 1875 p 79 § 2; RRS § 9912.]

Crimes, nuisances: Chapter 9.66 RCW.

7.48.140 Public nuisances enumerated. It is a public nuisance:

(1) To cause or suffer the carcass of any animal or any offal, filth, or noisome substance to be collected, deposited, or to remain in any place to the prejudice of others;

(2) To throw or deposit any offal or other offensive matter, or the carcass of any dead animal, in any watercourse, stream, lake, pond, spring, well, or common sewer, street, or public highway, or in any manner to corrupt or render unwholesome or impure the water of any such spring, stream, pond, lake, or well, to the injury or prejudice of others;

(3) To obstruct or impede, without legal authority, the passage of any river, harbor, or collection of water;

(4) To obstruct or encroach upon public highway, private ways, streets, alleys, commons, landing places, and ways to burying places or to unlawfully obstruct or impede the flow of municipal transit vehicles as defined in RCW 46.04.355 or passenger traffic, access to municipal transit vehicles or stations as defined in *RCW 9.91.025(2)(a), or otherwise interfere with the provision or use of public transportation services, or obstruct or impede a municipal transit driver, operator, or supervisor in the performance of that individual's duties;

(5) To carry on the business of manufacturing gun powder, nitroglycerine, or other highly explosive substance, or mixing or grinding the materials therefor, in any building within fifty rods of any valuable building erected at the time such business may be commenced;

(6) To establish powder magazines near incorporated cities or towns, at a point different from that appointed by the corporate authorities of such city or town; or within fifty rods of any occupied dwelling house;

(7) To erect, continue, or use any building, or other place, for the exercise of any trade, employment, or manufacture, which, by occasioning obnoxious exhalations, offensive smells, or otherwise is offensive or dangerous to the health of individuals or of the public;

(8) To suffer or maintain on one's own premises, or upon the premises of another, or to permit to be maintained on one's own premises, any place where wines, spirituous, fermented, malt, or other intoxicating liquors are kept for sale or disposal to the public in contravention of law;

(9) For an owner or occupier of land, knowing of the existence of a well, septic tank, cesspool, or other hole or excavation ten inches or more in width at the top and four feet or more in depth, to fail to cover, fence or fill the same, or provide other proper and adequate safeguards: PROVIDED, That this section shall not apply to a hole one hundred square feet or more in area or one that is open, apparent, and obvious.

Every person who has the care, government, management, or control of any building, structure, powder magazine, or any other place mentioned in this section shall, for the purposes of this section, be taken and deemed to be the owner or agent of the owner or owners of such building, structure, powder magazine or other place, and, as such, may be proceeded against for erecting, contriving, causing, continuing, or maintaining such nuisance. [1994 c 45 § 2; 1955 c 237 § 1; 1895 c 14 § 1; Code 1881 § 1246; RRS § 9913.]

***Reviser's note:** The reference to RCW 9.91.025(2)(a) appears to be erroneous. Reference to RCW 9.91.025(2) was apparently intended.

Findings—Declaration—1994 c 45: "The legislature finds that it is important to the general welfare to protect and preserve public safety in the operation of public transportation facilities and vehicles, in order to protect the personal safety of both passengers and employees. The legislature further finds that public transportation facilities and services will be utilized more fully by the general public if they are assured of personal safety and security in the utilization.

The legislature recognizes that cities, towns, counties, public transportation benefit areas, and other municipalities that offer public transportation services have the independent authority to adopt regulations, rules, and guidelines that regulate conduct in public transportation vehicles and facilities to protect and preserve the public safety in the operation of the vehicles and facilities. The legislature finds that this act is not intended to limit the independent authority to regulate conduct by these municipalities. The legislature, however, further finds that this act is necessary to provide statewide guidelines that regulate conduct in public transportation vehicles and facilities to further enhance the independent regulatory authority of cities, towns, counties, public transportation benefit areas, and any other municipalities that offer public transportation services." [1994 c 45 § 1.]

Crimes
malicious mischief: Chapter 9.61 RCW.
nuisance: Chapter 9.66 RCW.

Devices simulating traffic control signs declared public nuisance: RCW 47.36.180.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.48.150 Private nuisance defined. Every nuisance not included in the definition of RCW 7.48.130 is private. [Code 1881 § 1237; 1875 p 79 § 3; RRS § 9915.]

7.48.155 Unlawful use of firearm or deadly weapon—Arrest required. The unlawful use of a firearm or other deadly weapon by a person in, or adjacent to his or her dwelling, that imminently threatens the physical safety of other people in the adjacent area, so as to essentially interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of their residences, is a nuisance and may be abated, and the person who unlawfully used the firearm or deadly weapon is subject to the punishment provided in this chapter. This section does not apply unless the person who unlawfully used the firearm or other deadly weapon is arrested for this activity. [1992 c 38 § 10.]

Intent—Effective date—1992 c 38: See notes following RCW 59.18.352.

7.48.160 Authorized act not a nuisance. Nothing which is done or maintained under the express authority of a statute, can be deemed a nuisance. [Code 1881 § 1238; 1875 p 79 § 4; RRS § 9916.]

7.48.170 Successive owners liable. Every successive owner of property who neglects to abate a continuing nuisance upon, or in the use of such property caused by a former owner, is liable therefor in the same manner as the one who first created it. [Code 1881 § 1239; 1875 p 79 § 5; RRS § 9917.]

7.48.180 Abatement does not preclude action for damages. The abatement of a nuisance does not prejudice the right of any person to recover damages for its past existence. [Code 1881 § 1240; 1875 p 79 § 6; RRS § 9918.]

7.48.190 Nuisance does not become legal by prescription. No lapse of time can legalize a public nuisance, amounting to an actual obstruction of public right. [Code 1881 § 1241; 1875 p 80 § 7; RRS § 9919.]

7.48.200 Remedies. The remedies against a public nuisance are: Indictment or information, a civil action, or abatement. The remedy by indictment or information shall be as regulated and prescribed in this chapter. When a civil action for damage is resorted to, the practice shall conform to RCW 7.48.010 through 7.48.040. [1957 c 51 § 12; Code 1881 § 1242; 1875 p 80 § 8; RRS § 9920.]

7.48.210 Civil action, who may maintain. A private person may maintain a civil action for a public nuisance, if it is specially injurious to himself or herself but not otherwise.

[2011 c 336 § 218; Code 1881 § 1243; 1875 p 80 § 9; RRS § 9921.]

7.48.220 Abatement, by whom. A public nuisance may be abated by any public body or officer authorized thereto by law. [Code 1881 § 1244; 1875 p 80 § 10; RRS § 9922.]

7.48.230 Public nuisance—Abatement. Any person may abate a public nuisance which is specially injurious to him or her by removing, or if necessary, destroying the thing which constitutes the same, without committing a breach of the peace, or doing unnecessary injury. [2011 c 336 § 219; Code 1881 § 1245; 1875 p 80 § 11; RRS § 9923.]

7.48.240 Certain places of resort declared nuisances. Houses of ill fame, kept for the purpose, where persons are employed for purposes of prostitution; all public houses or places of resort where gambling is carried on, or permitted; all houses or places within any city, town, or village, or upon any public road, or highway where drunkenness, gambling, fighting or breaches of the peace are carried on, or permitted; all opium dens, or houses, or places of resort where opium smoking is permitted, are nuisances, and may be abated, and the owners, keepers, or persons in charge thereof, and persons carrying on such unlawful business shall be punished as provided in this chapter. [1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 18; Code 1881 § 1247; 1875 p 81 § 13; RRS § 9924.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.48.250 Penalty—Abatement. Whoever is convicted of erecting, causing or contriving a public or common nuisance as described in this chapter, or at common law, when the same has not been modified or repealed by statute, where no other punishment therefor is specially provided, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, and the court with or without such fine, may order such nuisance to be abated, and issue a warrant as hereinafter provided: PROVIDED, That orders and warrants of abatement shall not be issued by district judges. [1987 c 202 § 136; 1957 c 45 § 1; Code 1881 § 1248; 1875 p 81 § 14; RRS § 9925.]

Intent—1987 c 202: See note following RCW 2.04.190.

7.48.260 Warrant of abatement. When, upon indictment or information, complaint or action, any person is adjudged guilty of a nuisance, if it be in superior court the court may in addition to the fine imposed, if any, or to the judgment for damages or costs, for which a separate execution may issue, order that such nuisance be abated, or removed at the expense of the defendant, and after inquiry into and estimating, as nearly as may be, the sum necessary to defray the expenses of such abatement, the court may issue a warrant therefor: PROVIDED, That if the conviction was had in a district court, the district judge shall not issue the order and warrant of abatement, but on application therefor, shall transfer the cause to the superior court which shall proceed to try the issue of abatement in the same manner as if the action had been originally commenced therein. [1987 c 202 § 137; 1957 c 45 § 2; Code 1881 § 1249; 1875 p 81 § 15; RRS § 9926, part. FORMER PARTS OF SECTION: Code 1881 § 1250; 1875 p 81 § 16.]

Intent—1987 c 202: See note following RCW 2.04.190.

7.48.270 Stay of warrant. Instead of issuing such warrant, the court may order the same to be stayed upon motion of the defendant, and upon his or her entering into a bond in such sum and with such surety as the court may direct to the state, conditioned either that the defendant will discontinue said nuisance, or that within a time limited by the court, and not exceeding six months, he or she will cause the same to be abated and removed, as either is directed by the court, and upon his or her default to perform the condition of his or her bond, the same shall be forfeited, and the court, upon being satisfied of such default, may order such warrant forthwith to issue, and an order to show cause why judgment should not be entered against the sureties of said bond. [2011 c 336 § 220; 1957 c 45 § 3; Code 1881 § 1251; 1875 p 81 § 17; RRS § 9927.]

7.48.280 Costs of abatement. The expense of abating a nuisance, by virtue of a warrant, can be collected by the officer in the same manner as damages and costs are collected on execution, except that the materials of any buildings, fences, or other things that may be removed as a nuisance, may be first levied upon and sold by the officer, and if any of the proceeds remain after satisfying the expense of the removal, such balance must be paid by the officer to the defendant or to the owner of the property levied upon, and if said proceeds are not sufficient to pay such expenses, the officer must collect the residue thereof. [Code 1881 § 1252; 1875 p 82 § 18; RRS § 9928.]

7.48.300 Agricultural activities and forest practices—Legislative finding and purpose. The legislature finds that agricultural activities conducted on farmland and forest practices in urbanizing areas are often subjected to nuisance lawsuits, and that such suits encourage and even force the premature removal of the lands from agricultural uses and timber production. It is therefore the purpose of RCW 7.48.300 through 7.48.310 and 7.48.905 to provide that agricultural activities conducted on farmland and forest practices be protected from nuisance lawsuits. [1992 c 52 § 2; 1979 c 122 § 1.]

7.48.305 Agricultural activities and forest practices—Presumed reasonable and not a nuisance—Exception—Damages. (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, agricultural activities conducted on farmland and forest practices, if consistent with good agricultural and forest practices and established prior to surrounding nonagricultural and nonforestry activities, are presumed to be reasonable and shall not be found to constitute a nuisance unless the activity or practice has a substantial adverse effect on public health and safety.

(2) Agricultural activities and forest practices undertaken in conformity with all applicable laws and rules are presumed to be good agricultural and forest practices not adversely affecting the public health and safety for purposes of this section and RCW 7.48.300. An agricultural activity that is in conformity with such laws and rules shall not be restricted as to the hours of the day or day or days of the week during which it may be conducted.

(3) The act of owning land upon which a growing crop of trees is located, even if the tree growth is being managed passively and even if the owner does not indicate the land's status as a working forest, is considered to be a forest practice occurring on the land if the crop of trees is located on land that is capable of supporting a merchantable stand of timber that is not being actively used for a use that is incompatible with timber growing. If the growing of trees has been established prior to surrounding nonforestry activities, then the act of tree growth is considered a necessary part of any other subsequent stages of forest practices necessary to bring a crop of trees from its planting to final harvest and is included in the provisions of this section.

(4) Nothing in this section shall affect or impair any right to sue for damages. [2009 c 200 § 2; 2007 c 331 § 2. Prior: 1992 c 151 § 1; 1992 c 52 § 3; 1979 c 122 § 2.]

Intent—2009 c 200: "Commercial forestry produces jobs and revenue while also providing clean water and air, wildlife habitat, open space, and carbon storage. Maintaining a base of forestlands that can be utilized for commercial forestry is of utmost importance for the state.

As the population of the state increases, forestlands are converted to residential, suburban, and urban uses. The encroachment of these other uses into neighboring forestlands often makes it more difficult for forestland owners to continue practicing commercial forestry. It is the legislature's intent that a forestland owner's right to practice commercial forestry in a manner consistent with the state forest practices laws be protected and preserved." [2009 c 200 § 1.]

Findings—Intent—2007 c 331: "The legislature finds that agricultural activities are often subjected to nuisance lawsuits. The legislature also finds that such lawsuits hasten premature conversion of agricultural lands to other uses. The legislature further finds that agricultural activities must be able to adopt new technologies and diversify into new crops and products if the agricultural industry is to survive and agricultural lands are to be conserved. Therefore, the legislature intends to enhance the protection of agricultural activities from nuisance lawsuits, and to further the clear legislative directive of the state growth management act to maintain and enhance the agricultural industry and conserve productive agricultural lands." [2007 c 331 § 1.]

7.48.310 Agricultural activities and forest practices —Definitions. For the purposes of RCW 7.48.305 only:

(1) "Agricultural activity" means a condition or activity which occurs on a farm in connection with the commercial production of farm products and includes, but is not limited to, marketed produce at roadside stands or farm markets; noise; odors; dust; fumes; operation of machinery and irrigation pumps; movement, including, but not limited to, use of current county road ditches, streams, rivers, canals, and drains, and use of water for agricultural activities; ground and aerial application of seed, fertilizers, conditioners, and plant protection products; keeping of bees for production of agricultural or apicultural products; employment and use of labor; roadway movement of equipment and livestock; protection from damage by wildlife; prevention of trespass; construction and maintenance of buildings, fences, roads, bridges, ponds, drains, waterways, and similar features and maintenance of stream banks and watercourses; and conversion from one agricultural activity to another, including a change in the type of plant-related farm product being produced. The term includes use of new practices and equipment consistent with technological development within the agricultural industry.

(2) "Farm" means the land, buildings, freshwater ponds, freshwater culturing and growing facilities, and machinery used in the commercial production of farm products.

(3) "Farmland" means land or freshwater ponds devoted primarily to the production, for commercial purposes, of livestock, freshwater aquacultural, or other farm products.

(4) "Farm product" means those plants and animals useful to humans and includes, but is not limited to, forages and sod crops, dairy and dairy products, poultry and poultry products, livestock, including breeding, grazing, and recreational equine use, fruits, vegetables, flowers, seeds, grasses, trees, freshwater fish and fish products, apiaries and apiary products, equine and other similar products, or any other product which incorporates the use of food, feed, fiber, or fur.

(5) "Forest practice" means any activity conducted on or directly pertaining to forestland, as that term is defined in RCW 76.09.020, and relating to growing, harvesting, or processing timber. The term "forest practices" includes, but is not limited to, road and trail construction, final and intermediate harvesting, precommercial thinning, reforestation, fertilization, prevention and suppression of diseases and insects, salvage of trees, brush control, and owning land where trees may passively grow until one of the preceding activities is deemed timely by the owner. [2009 c 200 § 3; 2007 c 331 § 3; 1992 c 52 § 4; 1991 c 317 § 2; 1979 c 122 § 3.]

Intent—2009 c 200: See note following RCW 7.48.305.

Findings—Intent—2007 c 331: See note following RCW 7.48.305.

7.48.315 Agricultural activities and forest practices —Recovering lawsuit costs—Farmers. (1) A farmer who prevails in any action, claim, or counterclaim alleging that agricultural activity on a farm constitutes a nuisance may recover the full costs and expenses determined by a court to have been reasonably incurred by the farmer as a result of the action, claim, or counterclaim.

(2) A farmer who prevails in any action, claim, or counterclaim (a) based on an allegation that agricultural activity on a farm is in violation of specified laws, rules, or ordinances, (b) where such activity is not found to be in violation of the specified laws, rules, or ordinances, and (c) actual damages are realized by the farm as a result of the action, claim, or counterclaim, may recover the full costs and expenses determined by a court to have been reasonably incurred by the farmer as a result of the action, claim, or counterclaim.

(3) The costs and expenses that may be recovered according to subsection (1) or (2) of this section include actual damages and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. For the purposes of this subsection, "actual damages" include lost revenue and the replacement value of crops or livestock damaged or unable to be harvested or sold as a result of the action, claim, or counterclaim.

(4) In addition to any sums recovered according to subsection (1) or (2) of this section, a farmer may recover exemplary damages if a court finds that the action, claim, or counterclaim was initiated maliciously and without probable cause.

(5) A farmer may not recover the costs and expenses authorized in this section from a state or local agency that investigates or pursues an enforcement action pursuant to an allegation as specified in subsection (2) of this section. [2005 c 511 § 1.]

7.48.320 Agricultural activities and forest practices—Recovering costs to investigate complaints—State and local agencies. A state or local agency required to investigate a complaint alleging agricultural activity on a farm is in violation of specified laws, rules, or ordinances and where such activity is not found to be in violation of such specified laws, rules, or ordinances may recover its full investigative costs and expenses if a court determines that the complaint was initiated maliciously and without probable cause. [2005 c 511 § 2.]

7.48.905 Severability—1979 c 122. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1979 c 122 § 4.]

Chapter 7.48A RCW
MORAL NUISANCES

Sections

Drug nuisances—Injunctions: Chapter 7.43 RCW.

7.48A.010 Definitions. The definitions set forth in this section shall apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Knowledge" or "knowledge of such nuisance" means having knowledge of the contents and character of the patently offensive sexual or violent conduct which appears in the lewd matter, or knowledge of the acts of lewdness or prostitution which occur on the premises, or knowledge that controlled substances identified in Article II of chapter 69.50 RCW and not authorized by that chapter, are manufactured, delivered or possessed, or where any such substance not obtained in a manner authorized by chapter 69.50 RCW is consumed by ingestion, inhalation, or injection or any other means.

(2) "Lewd matter" is synonymous with "obscene matter" and means any matter:

(a) Which the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find, when considered as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest; and

(b) Which explicitly depicts or describes patently offensive representations or descriptions of:

(i) Ultimate sexual acts, normal or perverted, actual or simulated; or

(ii) Masturbation, fellatio, cunnilingus, bestiality, excretory functions, or lewd exhibition of the genitals or genital area; or

(iii) Violent or destructive sexual acts, including but not limited to human or animal mutilation, dismemberment, rape or torture; and

(c) Which, when considered as a whole, and in the context in which it is used, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

(3) "Lewdness" shall have and include all those meanings which are assigned to it under the common law.

(4) "Live performance" means any play, show, skit, dance, or other exhibition performed or presented to or before an audience of one or more, in person or by electronic transmission, with or without consideration.

(5) "Matter" shall mean a live performance, a motion picture film, or a publication or any combination thereof.

(6) "Motion picture film" shall include any:

(a) Film or plate negative;

(b) Film or plate positive;

(c) Film designed to be projected on a screen for exhibition;

(d) Film, glass slides, or transparencies, either in negative or positive form, designed for exhibition by projection on a screen;

(e) Videotape or any other medium used to electronically reproduce images on a screen.

(7) "Person" means any individual, partnership, firm, association, corporation, or other legal entity.

(8) "Place" includes, but is not limited to, any building, structure, or places, or any separate part or portion thereof, whether permanent or not, or the ground itself.

(9) "Prurient" means that which incites lasciviousness or lust.

(10) "Publication" shall include any book, magazine, article, pamphlet, writing, printing, illustration, picture, sound recording, or coin-operated machine.

(11) "Sale" means a passing of title or right of possession from a seller to a buyer for valuable consideration, and shall include, but is not limited to, any lease or rental arrangement or other transaction wherein or whereby any valuable consideration is received for the use of, or transfer of possession of, lewd matter. [1990 c 152 § 4; 1988 c 141 § 2; 1982 c 184 § 1.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.48A.020 Moral nuisances—Declaration of. The following are declared to be moral nuisances:

(1) Any and every place in the state where lewd films are publicly exhibited as a regular course of business, or possessed for the purpose of such exhibition, or where lewd live performances are publicly exhibited as a regular course of business;

(2) Any and every lewd film which is publicly exhibited, or possessed for such purpose at a place which is a moral nuisance under this section;

(3) Any and every place of business in the state in which lewd publications constitute a principal part of the stock in trade;

(4) Every place which, as a regular course of business, is used for the purpose of lewdness or prostitution, and every such place in or upon which acts of lewdness or prostitution are conducted, permitted, carried on, continued, or exist;

(5) All houses, housing units, other buildings, or places of resort where controlled substances identified in Article II of chapter 69.50 RCW and not authorized by that chapter, are manufactured, delivered, or possessed, or where any such substance not obtained in a manner authorized by chapter 69.50 RCW is consumed by ingestion, inhalation, injection, or any other means. [1990 c 152 § 5; 1988 c 141 § 3; 1982 c 184 § 2.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.48A.030 Civil actions—Who may bring. Any of the following parties may bring a civil action in the superior court of any county where a moral nuisance is alleged to have been maintained:

(1) The prosecuting attorney for the county where the alleged moral nuisance is located;

(2) The city attorney for the city where the alleged moral nuisance is located; or

(3) The attorney general.

The rules of evidence, burden of proof, and all other rules of court shall be the court rules generally applicable to civil cases in this state: PROVIDED, That the standard of proof on the issue of obscenity shall be clear, cogent, and convincing evidence. [1982 c 184 § 3.]

7.48A.040 Maintenance of moral nuisance—Fine—Maximum. (1) No person shall with knowledge maintain a moral nuisance.

(2) Upon a determination that a defendant has with knowledge maintained a moral nuisance, the court shall impose a civil fine and judgment of an amount as the court shall determine to be appropriate. In imposing the civil fine, the court shall consider the wilfulness of the defendant's conduct and the profits made by the defendant attributable to the lewd matter, lewdness, or prostitution, whichever is applicable. In no event shall the civil fine exceed the greater of twenty-five thousand dollars or these profits. [1985 c 235 § 1; 1982 c 184 § 4.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.48A.050 Fines—Payment. All civil fines assessed under RCW 7.48A.040 shall be paid into the general treasury of the governmental unit commencing the civil action. [1985 c 235 § 2; 1982 c 184 § 5.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.48A.060 Exceptions to application of chapter. Nothing in this chapter applies to the circulation of any material by any recognized historical society or museum, any library of any college or university, or to any archive or library under the supervision and control of the state, county, municipality, or other political subdivision. [1982 c 184 § 6.]

7.48A.070 Findings. The legislature finds that actions against moral nuisances as declared in RCW 7.48A.020 (1) through (4) involve balancing the safeguards necessary to protect constitutionally protected speech and the community and law enforcement efforts to curb dissemination of obscene matters. The legislature finds that the difficulty in ascertaining and obtaining originals and copies of obscene matters for evidentiary purposes thwarts legitimate enforcement efforts. The legislature finds that the balancing of the concerns warrants specific discovery procedures applicable to actions against moral nuisances involving obscene matters. [1989 c 70 § 1.]

7.48A.080 Temporary injunction. After the plaintiff files a civil action under this chapter, the plaintiff may apply to the superior court in which the plaintiff filed the action for a temporary or preliminary injunction. The court shall grant a hearing within ten days after the plaintiff applies for a temporary injunction. [1989 c 70 § 2.]

7.48A.090 Restraining order—Service—Violation of order or injunction. After the plaintiff applies for a temporary or preliminary injunction, the court may, upon a showing of good cause, issue an ex parte restraining order restraining the defendant and all other persons from removing or in any manner interfering with the personal property and contents of the place where the nuisance is alleged to exist, until the court grants or denies the plaintiff's application for a temporary or preliminary injunction or until further order of the court. However, pending the court's decision on the injunction, the temporary restraining order shall not restrain the exhibition or sale of any film, publication or item of stock in trade. The order may require that at least one original of each film or publication shall be preserved pending the hearing on the injunction. The court may require an inventory and full accounting of all business transactions.

The officer serving the restraining order or preliminary injunction may serve the order by handing to and leaving a copy with any person in charge of the place or residing in the place, or by posting a copy in a conspicuous place at or upon one or more of the principal doors or entrances to the place, or by both delivery and posting. The officer serving the restraining order or injunction shall forthwith make and return to the court, an inventory of the personal property and contents situated in and used in conducting or maintaining the alleged nuisance.

Any violation of the temporary order or injunction is a contempt of court. Mutilation or removal of a posted order that is in force is a contempt of court if the posted order or injunction contains a notice to that effect. [1989 c 70 § 3.]

7.48A.100 When bond or security not required. A bond or security shall not be required of the city attorney, the prosecuting attorney, or the attorney general. [1989 c 70 § 4.]

7.48A.110 Hearing—Service of notice. A copy of the complaint, together with a notice of the time and place of the hearing on the application for a temporary injunction, shall be served upon the defendant at least three business days before the hearing. Service may also be made by posting the required documents in the same manner as is provided in RCW 7.48A.090. If the defendant requests a continuance of the hearing, all temporary restraining orders and injunctions shall be extended as a matter of course. [1989 c 70 § 5.]

7.48A.120 Production of discovery materials—Temporary injunction. If the court finds at the hearing for an injunction, that the accounting, inventory, personal property, and contents of the place alleged to be a nuisance provide evi-

dence of a moral nuisance as defined by RCW 7.48A.020 (1) through (4), the court may order the defendant to produce to the plaintiff a limited number of original films, film plates, publications, videotapes, any other obscene matter, and other discovery materials the court determines is necessary for evidentiary purposes to resolve the action on the merits.

The court may issue a temporary injunction enjoining the defendant and all other persons from removing or in any manner interfering with the court-ordered discovery. This discovery procedure supplements and does not replace any other discovery procedures and rules generally applicable to civil cases in this state. [1989 c 70 § 6.]

7.48A.130 Precedence of hearing on injunction. The hearing on the injunction shall have precedence over all other actions, except prior matters of the same character, criminal proceedings, election contests, hearings on temporary restraining orders and injunctions, and actions to forfeit vehicles used in violation of the uniform controlled substances act, chapter 69.50 RCW. [1989 c 70 § 7.]

7.48A.140 Violation of order or injunction—Penalties. An intentional violation of a restraining order, preliminary injunction, or injunction under this chapter is punishable as a contempt of court. [1989 c 70 § 8.]

Chapter 7.52 RCW
PARTITION

Sections

Real property and conveyances: Title 64 RCW.

Termination of condominium: RCW 64.34.268.

7.52.010 Persons entitled to bring action. When several persons hold and are in possession of real property as tenants in common, in which one or more of them have an estate of inheritance, or for life or years, an action may be maintained by one or more of such persons, for a partition thereof, according to the respective rights of the persons interested therein, and for sale of such property, or a part of it, if it appear that a partition cannot be made without great prejudice to the owners. [Code 1881 § 552; 1877 p 117 § 557; 1869 p 133 § 505; RRS § 838.]

7.52.020 Requisites of complaint. The interest of all persons in the property shall be set forth in the complaint specifically and particularly as far as known to the plaintiff, and if one or more of the parties, or the share or quantity of interest of any of the parties be unknown to the plaintiff, or be uncertain or contingent, or the ownership of the inheritance depend upon an executory devise, or the remainder be a contingent remainder, so that such parties cannot be named, that fact shall be set forth in the complaint. [Code 1881 § 553; 1877 p 117 § 558; 1869 p 133 § 506; RRS § 839.]

7.52.030 Lien creditors as parties defendant. The plaintiff may, at his or her option, make creditors having a lien upon the property or any portion thereof, other than by a judgment or decree, defendants in the suit. When the lien is upon an undivided interest or estate of any of the parties, such lien, if a partition be made, is thenceforth a lien only on the share assigned to such party; but such share shall be first charged with its just proportion of the costs of the partition, in preference to such lien. [2011 c 336 § 221; Code 1881 § 554; 1877 p 117 § 559; 1869 p 133 § 507; RRS § 840.]

7.52.040 Notice. The notice shall be directed by name to all the tenants in common, who are known, and in the same manner to all lien creditors who are made parties to the suit, and generally to all persons unknown, having or claiming an interest or estate in the property. [Code 1881 § 555; 1877 p 117 § 560; 1869 p 133 § 508; RRS § 841.]

7.52.050 Service by publication. If a party, having a share or interest in, or lien upon the property, be unknown, or either of the known parties reside out of the state or cannot be found therein, and such fact be made to appear by affidavit, the notice may be served by publication, as in ordinary cases. When service is made by publication, the notice must contain a brief description of the property which is the subject of the suit. [Code 1881 § 556; 1877 p 117 § 561; 1869 p 134 § 509; RRS § 842.]

Publication of legal notices: Chapter 65.16 RCW.

7.52.060 Answer—Contents. The defendant shall set forth in his or her answer, the nature, and extent of his or her interest in the property, and if he or she be a lien creditor, how such lien was created, the amount of the debt secured thereby and remaining due, and whether such debt is secured in any other way, and if so, the nature of such other security. [2011 c 336 § 222; Code 1881 § 557; 1877 p 118 § 562; 1869 p 134 § 510; RRS § 843.]

7.52.070 Trial—Proof must be taken. The rights of the several parties, plaintiffs as well as defendants, may be put in issue, tried and determined in such suit, and where a defendant fails to answer, or where a sale of the property is necessary, the title shall be ascertained by proof to the satisfaction of the court, before the decree for partition or sale is given. [Code 1881 § 558; 1877 p 118 § 563; 1869 p 134 § 511; RRS § 844.]

7.52.080 Order of sale or partition. If it be alleged in the complaint and established by evidence, or if it appear by the evidence without such allegation in the complaint, to the satisfaction of the court, that the property or any part of it, is so situated that partition cannot be made without great prejudice to the owners, the court may order a sale thereof, and for that purpose may appoint one or more referees. Otherwise, upon the requisite proofs being made, it shall decree a partition according to the respective rights of the parties as ascertained by the court, and appoint three referees, therefor, and shall designate the portion to remain undivided for the owners whose interests remain unknown or are not ascertained. [Code 1881 § 559; 1877 p 118 § 564; 1869 p 134 § 512; RRS § 845.]

7.52.090 Partition, how made. In making the partition, the referees shall divide the property, and allot the several portions thereof to the respective parties, quality and quantity relatively considered, according to the respective rights of the parties as determined by the court, designating the several portions by proper landmarks, and may employ a surveyor with the necessary assistants to aid them therein. The referees shall make a report of their proceedings, specifying therein the manner of executing their trust, describing the property divided and the shares allotted to each party, with a particular description of each share. [Code 1881 § 560; 1877 p 118 § 565; 1869 p 134 § 513; RRS § 846.]

7.52.100 Report of referees, confirmation—Effect. The court may confirm or set aside the report in whole or in part, and if necessary, appoint new referees. Upon the report being confirmed a decree shall be entered that such partition be effectual forever, which decree shall be binding and conclusive:

(1) On all parties named therein, and their legal representatives who have at the time any interest in the property divided, or any part thereof as owners in fee, or as tenants for life or for years, or as entitled to the reversion, remainder or inheritance of such property or any part thereof, after the termination of a particular estate therein, or who by any contingency may be entitled to a beneficial interest in the property, or who have an interest in any undivided share thereof, as tenants for years or for life.

(2) On all persons interested in the property to whom notice shall have been given by publication.

(3) On all other persons claiming from or through such parties or persons or either of them. [Code 1881 § 561; 1877 p 118 § 566; 1869 p 135 § 514; RRS § 847.]

7.52.110 Decree does not affect tenant. Such decree and partition shall not affect any tenants for years or for life, of the whole of the property which is the subject of partition, nor shall such decree and partition preclude any persons, except such as are specified in RCW 7.52.100, from claiming title to the property in question, or from controverting the title of the parties between whom the partition shall have been made. [Code 1881 § 562; 1877 p 119 § 567; 1869 p 135 § 515; RRS § 848.]

7.52.120 Costs. The expenses of the referees, including those of a surveyor and his or her assistants, when employed, shall be ascertained and allowed by the court, and the amount thereof, together with the fees allowed by law to the referees, shall be paid by the plaintiff and may be allowed as costs. [2011 c 336 § 223; Code 1881 § 563; 1877 p 119 § 568; 1869 p 135 § 516; RRS § 849.]

7.52.130 Sale of property. If the referees report to the court that the property, of which partition shall have been decreed, or any separate portion thereof is so situated that a partition thereof cannot be made without great prejudice to the owners, and the court is satisfied that such report is correct, it may thereupon by an order direct the referees to sell the property or separate portion thereof. [Code 1881 § 564; 1877 p 119 § 569; 1869 p 135 § 517; RRS § 850.]

7.52.140 Estate for life or years to be set off. When a part of the property only is ordered to be sold, if there be an estate for life or years in an undivided share of the property, the whole of such estate may be set off in any part of the property not ordered sold. [Code 1881 § 565; 1877 p 119 § 570; 1869 p 136 § 518; RRS § 851.]

7.52.150 Lien creditors to be brought in. Before making an order of sale, if lien creditors, other than those by judgment or decree, have not been made parties, the court, on motion of either party, shall order the plaintiff to file a supplemental complaint, making such creditors defendants. [Code 1881 § 566; 1877 p 119 § 571; 1869 p 136 § 519; RRS § 852.]

7.52.160 Clerk's certificate of unsatisfied judgment liens. If an order of sale be made before the distribution of the proceeds thereof, the plaintiff shall produce to the court the certificate of the clerk of the county where the property is situated, showing the liens remaining unsatisfied, if any, by judgment or decree upon the property or any portion thereof, and unless he or she do so the court shall order a referee to ascertain them. [2011 c 336 § 224; 1957 c 51 § 13; Code 1881 § 567; 1877 p 119 § 570; 1869 p 136 § 520; RRS § 853.]

7.52.170 Ascertainment of liens—Priority. If it appear by such certificate or reference, in case the certificate is not produced, that any such liens exist, the court shall

appoint a referee to ascertain what amount remains due thereon or secured thereby respectively, and the order of priority in which they are entitled to be paid out of the property. [Code 1881 § 568; 1877 p 119 § 571; 1869 p 136 § 521; RRS § 854.]

7.52.180 Notice to lienholders. The plaintiff must cause a notice to be served at least twenty days before the time for appearance on each person having such lien by judgment or decree, to appear before the referee at a specified time and place to make proof by his or her own affidavit or otherwise, of the true amount due or to become due, contingently or absolutely on his or her judgment or decree. [2011 c 336 § 225; Code 1881 § 569; 1877 p 120 § 572; 1869 p 136 § 522; RRS § 855.]

7.52.190 Proceedings and report of referee. The referee shall receive the evidence and report the names of the creditors whose liens are established, the amounts due thereon, or secured thereby, and their priority respectively, and whether contingent or absolute. He or she shall attach to his or her report the proof of service of the notices and the evidence before him or her. [2011 c 336 § 226; Code 1881 § 570; 1877 p 120 § 573; 1869 p 136 § 523; RRS § 856.]

7.52.200 Exceptions to report—Service of notice on absentee. The report of the referee may be excepted to by either party to the suit, or to the proceedings before the referee, in like manner and with like effect as in ordinary cases. If a lien creditor be absent from the state, or his or her residence therein be unknown, and that fact appear by affidavit, the court or judge thereof may by order direct that service of the notice may be made upon his or her agent or attorney of record, or by publication thereof, for such time and in such manner as the order may prescribe. [2011 c 336 § 227; Code 1881 § 571; 1877 p 120 § 574; 1869 p 137 § 524; RRS § 857.]

7.52.210 Order of confirmation is conclusive. If the report of the referee be confirmed, the order of confirmation is binding and conclusive upon all parties to the suit, and upon the lien creditors who have been duly served with the notice to appear before the referee, as provided in RCW 7.52.180. [Code 1881 § 572; 1877 p 120 § 575; 1869 p 137 § 525; RRS § 858.]

7.52.220 Distribution of proceeds of sale. The proceeds of the sale of the encumbered property shall be distributed by the decree of the court, as follows:

(1) To pay its just proportion of the general costs of the suit.

(2) To pay the costs of the reference.

(3) To satisfy the several liens in their order of priority, by payment of the sums due, and to become due, according to the decree.

(4) The residue among the owners of the property sold, according to their respective shares. [Code 1881 § 573; 1877 p 120 § 576; 1869 p 137 § 526; RRS § 859.]

7.52.230 Other securities to be first exhausted. Whenever any party to the suit, who holds a lien upon the property or any part thereof, has other securities for the payment of the amount of such lien, the court may in its discretion, order such sureties to be exhausted before a distribution of the proceeds of sale, or may order a just deduction to be made from the amount of the lien on the property on account thereof. [Code 1881 § 574; 1877 p 121 § 577; 1869 p 137 § 527; RRS § 860.]

7.52.240 Lien proceedings not to delay sale. The proceedings to ascertain the amount of the liens, and to determine their priority as above provided, or those hereinafter authorized to determine the rights of parties to funds paid into court, shall not delay the sale, nor affect any other party, whose rights are not involved in such proceedings. [Code 1881 § 575; 1877 p 121 § 578; 1869 p 137 § 528; RRS § 861.]

7.52.250 Distribution at direction of court. The proceeds of sale, and the securities taken by the referees, or any part thereof, shall be distributed by them to the persons entitled thereto, whenever the court so directs. But if no such direction be given, all such proceeds and securities shall be paid into court, or deposited as directed by the court. [Code 1881 § 576; 1877 p 121 § 579; 1869 p 138 § 529; RRS § 862.]

7.52.260 Continuance of suit to determine claims. When the proceeds of sale of any shares or parcel belonging to persons who are parties to the suit and who are known, are paid into court, the suit may be continued as between such parties, for the determination of their respective claims thereto, which shall be ascertained and adjudged by the court. Further testimony may be taken in court, or by a referee at the discretion of the court, and the court may, if necessary, require such parties to present the facts or law in controversy, by pleadings as in an original suit. [Code 1881 § 577; 1877 p 121 § 580; 1869 p 138 § 530; RRS § 863.]

7.52.270 Sales to be by public auction. All sales of real property made by the referees shall be made by public auction, to the highest bidder, in the manner required for the sale of real property on execution. The notice shall state the terms of sale, and if the property, or any part of it is to be sold, subject to a prior estate, charge or lien, that shall be stated in the notice. [Code 1881 § 578; 1877 p 121 § 581; 1869 p 138 § 531; RRS § 864.]

7.52.280 Terms of sale to be directed by court. The court shall, in the order of sale, direct the terms of credit which may be allowed for the purchase money of any portion of the premises, of which it may direct a sale on credit; and for that portion of which the purchase money is required by the provisions hereinafter contained, to be invested for the benefit of unknown owners, infants or parties out of the state. [Code 1881 § 579; 1877 p 121 § 583; 1869 p 138 § 532; RRS § 865.]

7.52.290 Referee may take security. The referees may take separate mortgages, and other securities for the whole, or convenient portions of the purchase money, of such parts of the property as are directed by the court to be sold on credit, in the name of the clerk of the court, and his or her successors in office; and for the shares of any known owner of full age,

in the name of such owner. [2011 c 336 § 228; Code 1881 § 580; 1877 p 121 § 584; 1869 p 138 § 533; RRS § 866.]

7.52.300 Estate of tenant for life or years may be sold. When the estate of any tenant for life or years, in any undivided part of the property in question, shall have been admitted by the parties, or ascertained by the court to be existing at the time of the order of sale, and the person entitled to such estate shall have been made a party to the suit, such estate may be first set off out of any part of the property, and a sale made of such parcel, subject to the prior unsold estate of such tenant therein; but if in the judgment of the court, a due regard to the interest of all the parties require that such estate be also sold, the sale may be so ordered. [Code 1881 § 581; 1877 p 122 § 585; 1869 p 138 § 534; RRS § 867.]

7.52.310 Tenant for life or years may receive sum in gross—Consent. Any person entitled to an estate for life or years in any undivided part of the property, whose estate shall have been sold, shall be entitled to receive such sum in gross as may be deemed a reasonable satisfaction for such estate, and which the person so entitled shall consent to accept instead thereof, by an instrument duly acknowledged and filed with the clerk. [Code 1881 § 582; 1877 p 122 § 586; 1869 p 139 § 535; RRS § 868.]

7.52.320 Court to determine sum if consent not given. If such consent be not given, as provided in RCW 7.52.310, before the report of sale, the court shall ascertain and determine what proportion of the proceeds of the sale, after deducting expenses, will be a just and reasonable sum to be invested for the benefit of the person entitled to such estate for life, or years, and shall order the same to be deposited in court for that purpose. [Code 1881 § 583; 1877 p 122 § 587; 1869 p 139 § 536; RRS § 869.]

7.52.330 Protection of unknown tenant. If the persons entitled to such estate, for life or years, be unknown, the court shall provide for the protection of their rights in the same manner, as far as may be, as if they were known and had appeared. [Code 1881 § 584; 1877 p 122 § 589; 1869 p 139 § 538; RRS § 870.]

7.52.340 Contingent or vested estates. In all cases of sales in partition, when it appears that any person has a vested or contingent future right or estate therein, the court shall ascertain and settle the proportionate value of such contingent or vested right or estate, and shall direct such proportion of the proceeds of sale to be invested, secured or paid over in such manner as to protect the rights and interests of the parties. [1957 c 51 § 14; Code 1881 § 585; RRS § 871. Cf. Laws 1881 § 586; 1877 p 122 § 590; 1869 p 140 § 539.]

7.52.350 Terms of sale must be made known. In all cases of sales of property the terms shall be made known at the time, and if the premises consist of distinct farms or lots, they shall be sold separately or otherwise, if the court so directs. [Code 1881 § 586; 1877 p 122 § 591; 1869 p 140 § 540; RRS § 872.]

7.52.360 Referees or guardians not to be interested in purchase. Neither of the referees, nor any person for the benefit of either of them, shall be interested in any purchase, nor shall the guardian of an infant be an interested party in the purchase of any real property being the subject of the suit, except for the benefit of the infant. All sales contrary to the provisions of this section shall be void. [Code 1881 § 587; 1877 p 122 § 592; 1869 p 140 § 541; RRS § 873.]

7.52.370 Referees' report of sale—Contents. After completing the sale, the referees shall report the same to the court, with a description of the different parcels of land sold to each purchaser, the name of the purchaser, the price paid or secured, the terms and conditions of the sale, and the securities, if any, taken. The report shall be filed with the clerk. [Code 1881 § 588; 1877 p 122 § 593; 1869 p 140 § 542; RRS § 874.]

7.52.380 Exceptions—Confirmation. The report of sale may be excepted to in writing by any party entitled to a share of the proceeds. If the sale be confirmed, the order of confirmation shall direct the referees to execute conveyances and take securities pursuant to such sale. [Code 1881 § 589; 1877 p 123 § 594; 1869 p 140 § 543; RRS § 875.]

7.52.390 Purchase by interested party. When a party entitled to a share of the property, or an encumbrancer entitled to have his or her lien paid out of the sale, becomes a purchaser, the referees may take his or her receipt for so much of the proceeds of the sale as belong to him or her. [2011 c 336 § 229; Code 1881 § 590; 1877 p 123 § 595; 1869 p 140 § 544; RRS § 876.]

7.52.400 Investment of proceeds of unknown owner. When there are proceeds of sale belonging to an unknown owner, or to a person without the state who has no legal representative within it, or when there are proceeds arising from the sale of an estate subject to the prior estate of a tenant for life or years, which are paid into the court or otherwise deposited by order of the court, the same shall be invested in securities on interest for the benefit of the persons entitled thereto. [Code 1881 § 591; 1877 p 123 § 596; 1869 p 140 § 545; RRS § 877.]

7.52.410 Investment in name of clerk. When the security for the proceeds of sale is taken, or when an investment of any such proceeds is made, it shall be done, except as herein otherwise provided, in the name of the clerk of the court and his or her successors in office, who shall hold the same for the use and benefit of the parties interested, subject to the order of the court. [2011 c 336 § 230; Code 1881 § 592; 1877 p 123 § 597; 1869 p 141 § 546; RRS § 878.]

7.52.420 Securities to parties entitled to share when proportions determined. When security is taken by the referees on a sale, and the parties interested in such security by an instrument in writing under their hands, delivered to the referees, agree upon the share and proportions to which they are respectively entitled, or when shares and proportions have been previously adjudged by the court, such securities shall be taken in the names of and payable to the parties respec-

tively entitled thereto, and shall be delivered to such parties upon their receipt therefor. Such agreement and receipt shall be returned and filed with the clerk. [Code 1881 § 593; 1877 p 123 § 598; 1869 p 141 § 547; RRS § 879.]

7.52.430 Duties of clerk in making investments. The clerk in whose name a security is taken, or by whom an investment is made, and his or her successors in office, shall receive the interest and principal as it becomes due, and apply and invest the same as the court may direct, and shall file in his or her office all securities taken and keep an account in a book provided and kept for that purpose in the clerk's office, free for inspection by all persons, of investments and moneys received by him or her thereon, and the disposition thereof. [2011 c 336 § 231; Code 1881 § 594; 1877 p 123 § 599; 1869 p 141 § 548; RRS § 880.]

7.52.440 Unequal partition—Compensation adjudged. When it appears that partition cannot be made equal between the parties according to their respective rights, without prejudice to the rights and interests of some of them, the court may adjudge compensation to be made by one party to another on account of the inequality of partition; but such compensation shall not be required to be made to others by owners unknown, nor by infants, unless in case of an infant it appear that he or she has personal property sufficient for that purpose, and that his or her interest will be promoted thereby. [2011 c 336 § 232; Code 1881 § 595; 1877 p 124 § 600; 1869 p 141 § 549; RRS § 881.]

7.52.450 Infant's share of proceeds to guardian. When the share of an infant is sold, the proceeds of the sale may be paid by the referees making the sale, to his or her general guardian, or the special guardian appointed for him or her in the suit, upon giving the security required by law, or directed by order of the court. [2011 c 336 § 233; Code 1881 § 596; 1877 p 124 § 601; 1869 p 142 § 550; RRS § 882.]

7.52.460 Guardian or limited guardian of incompetent or disabled person may receive proceeds—Bond. The guardian or limited guardian who may be entitled to the custody and management of the estate of an incompetent or disabled person adjudged incapable of conducting his or her own affairs, whose interest in real property shall have been sold, may receive in behalf of such person his or her share of the proceeds of such real property from the referees, on executing a bond with sufficient sureties, approved by the judge of the court, conditioned that he or she faithfully discharge the trust reposed in him or her, and will render a true and just account to the person entitled, or to his or her legal representative. [2011 c 336 § 234; 1977 ex.s. c 80 § 9; Code 1881 § 597; 1877 p 124 § 602; 1869 p 142 § 551; RRS § 883.]

Purpose—Intent—Severability—1977 ex.s. c 80: See notes following RCW 4.16.190.

7.52.470 Guardian or limited guardian may consent to partition. The general guardian of an infant, and the guardian or limited guardian entitled to the custody and management of the estate of an incompetent or disabled person adjudged incapable of conducting his or her own affairs, who is interested in real estate held in common or in any other manner, so as to authorize his or her being made a party to an action for the partition thereof, may consent to a partition without suit and agree upon the share to be set off to such infant or other person entitled, and may execute a release in his or her behalf to the owners of the shares or parts to which they may respectively be entitled, and upon an order of the court. [2011 c 336 § 235; 1977 ex.s. c 80 § 10; Code 1881 § 598; 1877 p 124 § 603; 1869 p 142 § 552; RRS § 884.]

Purpose—Intent—Severability—1977 ex.s. c 80: See notes following RCW 4.16.190.

7.52.480 Apportionment of costs. The cost of partition, including fees of referees and other disbursements including reasonable attorney fees to be fixed by the court and in case the land is ordered sold, costs of an abstract of title, shall be paid by the parties respectively entitled to share in the lands divided, in proportion to their respective interests therein, and may be included and specified in the decree. In that case there shall be a lien on the several shares, and the decree may be enforced by execution against the parties separately. When, however, a litigation arises between some of the parties only, the court may require the expense of such litigation to be paid by the parties thereto, or any of them. [1923 c 9 § 1; Code 1881 § 599; 1877 p 124 § 604; 1869 p 142 § 553; RRS § 885.]

Chapter 7.56 RCW
QUO WARRANTO

Sections

7.56.010 Against whom information may be filed. An information may be filed against any person or corporation in the following cases:

(1) When any person shall usurp, intrude upon, or unlawfully hold or exercise any public office or franchise within the state, or any office in any corporation created by the authority of the state.

(2) When any public officer shall have done or suffered any act, which, by the provisions of law, shall work a forfeiture of his or her office.

(3) When several persons claim to be entitled to the same office or franchise, one information may be filed against any or all such persons in order to try their respective rights to the office or franchise.

(4) When any association or number of persons shall act within this state as a corporation, without being legally incorporated.

(5) Or where any corporation do, or omit acts which amount to a surrender or a forfeiture of their rights and privi-

leges as a corporation, or where they exercise powers not conferred by law. [2011 c 336 § 236; Code 1881 § 702; 1877 p 143 § 706; 1854 p 216 § 468; RRS § 1034.]

7.56.020 Who may file. The information may be filed by the prosecuting attorney in the superior court of the proper county, upon his or her own relation, whenever he or she shall deem it his or her duty to do so, or shall be directed by the court or other competent authority, or by any other person on his or her own relation, whenever he or she claims an interest in the office, franchise, or corporation which is the subject of the information. [2011 c 336 § 237; Code 1881 § 703; 1877 p 143 § 707; 1854 p 216 § 469; RRS § 1035.]

7.56.030 Contents of information. The information shall consist of a plain statement of the facts which constitute the grounds of the proceedings, addressed to the court. [Code 1881 § 704; 1877 p 143 § 708; 1854 p 216 § 470; RRS § 1036.]

7.56.040 Information for usurping office—Requisites—Damages. Whenever an information shall be filed against a person for usurping an office, by the prosecuting attorney, he or she shall also set forth therein the name of the person rightfully entitled to the office, with an averment of his or her right thereto; and when filed by any other person he or she shall show his or her interest in the matter, and he or she may claim the damages he or she has sustained. [2011 c 336 § 238; Code 1881 § 705; 1877 p 143 § 709; 1854 p 216 § 471; RRS § 1037.]

7.56.050 Notice—Pleadings—Proceedings. Whenever an information is filed, a notice signed by the relator shall be served and returned, as in other actions. The defendant shall appear and answer, or suffer default, and subsequent proceeding be had as in other cases. [Code 1881 § 706; 1877 p 144 § 710; 1854 p 217 § 472; RRS § 1038.]

7.56.060 Judgment. In every case wherein the right to an office is contested, judgment shall be rendered upon the rights of the parties, and for the damages the relator may show himself or herself entitled to, if any, at the time of the judgment. [2011 c 336 § 239; Code 1881 § 707; 1877 p 144 § 711; 1854 p 217 § 473; RRS § 1039.]

7.56.070 Judgment for relator—Ouster of defendant. If judgment be rendered in favor of the relator, he or she shall proceed to exercise the functions of the office, after he or she has been qualified as required by law, and the court shall order the defendant to deliver over all books and papers in his or her custody or within his or her power, belonging to the office from which he or she has been ousted. [2011 c 336 § 240; Code 1881 § 708; 1877 p 144 § 712; 1854 p 217 § 474; RRS § 1040.]

7.56.080 Delivery of books and papers—Enforcement of order. If the defendant shall refuse or neglect to deliver over the books and papers pursuant to the order, the court or judge thereof shall enforce the order by attachment and imprisonment. [Code 1881 § 709; 1877 p 144 § 713; 1854 p 217 § 475; RRS § 1041.]

7.56.090 Action for damages—Limitation. When judgment is rendered in favor of the plaintiff, he or she may, if he or she has not claimed his or her damages in the information, have his or her action for the damages at any time within one year after the judgment. [2011 c 336 § 241; Code 1881 § 710; 1877 p 144 § 714; 1854 p 217 § 476; RRS § 1042.]

7.56.100 Judgment of ouster or forfeiture. Whenever any defendant shall be found guilty of any usurpation of or intrusion into, or unlawfully exercising any office or franchise within this state, or any office in any corporation created by the authority of this state, or when any public officer thus charged shall be found guilty of having done or suffered any act which by the provisions of the law shall work a forfeiture of his or her office, or when any association or number of persons shall be found guilty of having acted as a corporation without having been legally incorporated, the court shall give judgment of ouster against the defendant or defendants, and exclude him, her, or them from the office, franchise, or corporate rights, and in case of corporations that the same shall be dissolved, and the court shall adjudge costs in favor of the plaintiff. [2011 c 336 § 242; Code 1881 § 711; 1877 p 144 § 715; 1854 p 217 § 478; RRS § 1043.]

7.56.110 Judgment against corporation—Costs—Receivership. If judgment be rendered against any corporation or against any persons claiming to be a corporation, the court may cause the costs to be collected by executions against the persons claiming to be a corporation or by attachment against the directors or other officers of the corporation, and shall restrain the corporation, take an account, and make a distribution thereof among the creditors. The prosecuting attorney shall immediately institute proceedings for that purpose. [2004 c 165 § 38; Code 1881 § 712; 1877 p 144 § 716; 1854 p 217 § 479; RRS § 1044.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.56.120 Action to recover forfeited property. Whenever any property shall be forfeited to the state for its use, the legal title shall be deemed to be in the state from the time of the forfeiture, and an information may be filed by the prosecuting attorney in the superior court for the recovery of the property, alleging the ground on which the recovery is claimed, and like proceedings and judgment shall be had as in civil action for the recovery of the property. [Code 1881 § 713; 1877 p 145 § 717; 1854 p 218 § 480; RRS § 1045.]

Escheats: Chapter 11.08 RCW.

Uniform unclaimed property act: Chapter 63.29 RCW.

7.56.130 Costs. When an information is filed by the prosecuting attorney, he or she shall not be liable for the costs, but when it is filed upon the relation of a private person such person shall be liable for costs unless the same are adjudged against the defendant. [2011 c 336 § 243; Code 1881 § 714; 1877 p 145 § 718; 1854 p 218 § 481; RRS § 1046.]

7.56.140 Information to annul patent, certificate, or deed. An information may be prosecuted for the purpose of

annulling or vacating any letters patent, certificate, or deed, granted by the proper authorities of this state, when there is reason to believe that the same were obtained by fraud or through mistake or ignorance of a material fact, or when the patentee or those claiming under him or her have done or omitted an act in violation of the terms on which the letters, deeds or certificates were granted, or have by any other means forfeited the interests acquired under the same. [2011 c 336 § 244; Code 1881 § 715; 1877 p 145 § 719; 1854 p 218 § 482; RRS § 1047.]

7.56.150 Proceedings to annul. In such cases, the information may be filed by the prosecuting attorney upon his or her relation, or by any private person upon his or her relation showing his or her interest in the subject matter; and the subsequent proceedings, judgment of the court and awarding of costs, shall conform to the above provisions, and such letters patent, deed, or certificate shall be annulled or sustained, according to the right of the case. [2011 c 336 § 245; Code 1881 § 716; 1877 p 145 § 720; 1854 p 218 § 483; RRS § 1048.]

Chapter 7.60 RCW
RECEIVERS

Sections

Rules of court: *Cf. CR 66, 43(e)(2).*

7.60.005 Definitions. The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context requires otherwise.

(1) "Court" means the superior court of this state in which the receivership is pending.

(2) "Entity" means a person other than a natural person.

(3) "Estate" means the entirety of the property with respect to which a receiver's appointment applies, but does not include trust fund taxes or property of an individual person exempt from execution under the laws of this state. Estate property includes any nonexempt interest in property that is partially exempt, including fee title to property subject to a homestead exemption under chapter 6.13 RCW.

(4) "Executory contract" means a contract where the obligation of both the person over whose property the receiver is appointed and the other party to the contract are so far unperformed that the failure of either party to the contract to complete performance would constitute a material breach of the contract, thereby excusing the other party's performance of the contract.

(5) "Insolvent" or "insolvency" means a financial condition of a person such that the sum of the person's debts and other obligations is greater than all of that person's property, at a fair valuation, exclusive of (a) property transferred, concealed, or removed with intent to hinder, delay, or defraud any creditors of the person, and (b) any property exempt from execution under any statutes of this state.

(6) "Lien" means a charge against or interest in property to secure payment of a debt or the performance of an obligation.

(7) "Notice and a hearing" or any similar phrase means notice and opportunity for a hearing.

(8) "Person" means an individual, corporation, limited liability company, general partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, association, governmental entity, or other entity, of any kind or nature.

(9) "Property" includes all right, title, and interests, both legal and equitable, and including any community property interest, in or with respect to any property of a person with respect to which a receiver is appointed, regardless of the manner by which the property has been or is acquired. "Property" includes any proceeds, products, offspring, rents, or profits of or from property in the estate. "Property" does not include any power that a person may exercise solely for the benefit of another person or trust fund taxes.

(10) "Receiver" means a person appointed by the court as the court's agent, and subject to the court's direction, to take possession of, manage, or dispose of property of a person.

(11) "Receivership" means the case in which the receiver is appointed. "General receivership" means a receivership in which a general receiver is appointed. "Custodial receivership" means a receivership in which a custodial receiver is appointed.

(12) "Security interest" means a lien created by an agreement.

(13) "State agent" and "state agency" means any office, department, division, bureau, board, commission, or other agency of the state of Washington or of any subdivision thereof, or any individual acting in an official capacity on behalf of any state agent or state agency.

(14) "Utility" means a person providing any service regulated by the utilities and transportation commission. [2004 c 165 § 2.]

Purpose—2004 c 165: "The purpose of this act is to create more comprehensive, streamlined, and cost-effective procedures applicable to proceedings in which property of a person is administered by the courts of this

state for the benefit of creditors and other persons having an interest therein." [2004 c 165 § 1.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.60.015 Types of receivers. A receiver must be either a general receiver or a custodial receiver. A receiver must be a general receiver if the receiver is appointed to take possession and control of all or substantially all of a person's property with authority to liquidate that property and, in the case of a business over which the receiver is appointed, wind up affairs. A receiver must be a custodial receiver if the receiver is appointed to take charge of limited or specific property of a person or is not given authority to liquidate property. The court shall specify in the order appointing a receiver whether the receiver is appointed as a general receiver or as a custodial receiver. When the sole basis for the appointment is the pendency of an action to foreclose upon a lien against real property, or the giving of a notice of a trustee's sale under RCW 61.24.040 or a notice of forfeiture under RCW 61.30.040, the court shall appoint the receiver as a custodial receiver. The court by order may convert either a general receivership or a custodial receivership into the other. [2004 c 165 § 3.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.60.025 Appointment of receiver. (1) A receiver may be appointed by the superior court of this state in the following instances, but except in any case in which a receiver's appointment is expressly required by statute, or any case in which a receiver's appointment is sought by a state agent whose authority to seek the appointment of a receiver is expressly conferred by statute, or any case in which a receiver's appointment with respect to real property is sought under (b)(ii) of this subsection, a receiver shall be appointed only if the court additionally determines that the appointment of a receiver is reasonably necessary and that other available remedies either are not available or are inadequate:

(a) On application of any party, when the party is determined to have a probable right to or interest in property that is a subject of the action and in the possession of an adverse party, or when the property or its revenue-producing potential is in danger of being lost or materially injured or impaired. A receiver may be appointed under this subsection (1)(a) whether or not the application for appointment of a receiver is combined with, or is ancillary to, an action seeking a money judgment or other relief;

(b) Provisionally, after commencement of any judicial action or nonjudicial proceeding to foreclose upon any lien against or for forfeiture of any interest in real or personal property, on application of any person, when the interest in the property that is the subject of such an action or proceeding of the person seeking the receiver's appointment is determined to be probable and either:

(i) The property or its revenue-producing potential is in danger of being lost or materially injured or impaired; or

(ii) The appointment of a receiver with respect to the real or personal property that is the subject of the action or proceeding is provided for by agreement or is reasonably necessary to effectuate or enforce an assignment of rents or other revenues from the property. For purposes of this subsection (1)(b), a judicial action is commenced as provided in superior court civil rule 3(a), a nonjudicial proceeding is commenced under chapter 61.24 RCW upon the service of notice of default described in RCW 61.24.030(8), and a proceeding for forfeiture is commenced under chapter 61.30 RCW upon the recording of the notice of intent to forfeit described in RCW 61.30.060;

(c) After judgment, in order to give effect to the judgment;

(d) To dispose of property according to provisions of a judgment dealing with its disposition;

(e) To the extent that property is not exempt from execution, at the instance of a judgment creditor either before or after the issuance of any execution, to preserve or protect it, or prevent its transfer;

(f) If and to the extent that property is subject to execution to satisfy a judgment, to preserve the property during the pendency of an appeal, or when an execution has been returned unsatisfied, or when an order requiring a judgment debtor to appear for proceedings supplemental to judgment has been issued and the judgment debtor fails to submit to examination as ordered;

(g) Upon an attachment of real or personal property when the property attached is of a perishable nature or is otherwise in danger of waste, impairment, or destruction, or where the abandoned property's owner has absconded with, secreted, or abandoned the property, and it is necessary to collect, conserve, manage, control, or protect it, or to dispose of it promptly, or when the court determines that the nature of the property or the exigency of the case otherwise provides cause for the appointment of a receiver;

(h) In an action by a transferor of real or personal property to avoid or rescind the transfer on the basis of fraud, or in an action to subject property or a fund to the payment of a debt;

(i) In an action against any person who is not an individual if the object of the action is the dissolution of that person, or if that person has been dissolved, or if that person is insolvent or is not generally paying the person's debts as those debts become due unless they are the subject of bona fide dispute, or if that person is in imminent danger of insolvency;

(j) In accordance with RCW 7.08.030 (4) and (6), in cases in which a general assignment for the benefit of creditors has been made;

(k) In quo warranto proceedings under chapter 7.56 RCW;

(l) As provided under RCW 11.64.022;

(m) In an action by the department of licensing under RCW 18.35.220(3) with respect to persons engaged in the business of dispensing of hearing aids, RCW 18.85.430 in the case of persons engaged in the business of a real estate broker, associate real estate broker, or real estate salesperson, or RCW 19.105.470 with respect to persons engaged in the business of camping resorts;

(n) In an action under RCW 18.44.470 or 18.44.490 in the case of persons engaged in the business of escrow agents;

(o) Upon a petition with respect to a nursing home in accordance with and subject to receivership provisions under chapter 18.51 RCW;

(p) In connection with a proceeding for relief with respect to a voidable transfer as to a present or future creditor

under RCW 19.40.041 or a present creditor under RCW 19.40.051;

(q) Under RCW 19.100.210(1), in an action by the attorney general or director of financial institutions to restrain any actual or threatened violation of the franchise investment protection act;

(r) In an action by the attorney general or by a prosecuting attorney under RCW 19.110.160 with respect to a seller of business opportunities;

(s) In an action by the director of financial institutions under RCW 21.20.390 in cases involving actual or threatened violations of the securities act of Washington or under RCW 21.30.120 in cases involving actual or threatened violations of chapter 21.30 RCW with respect to certain businesses and transactions involving commodities;

(t) In an action for or relating to dissolution of a business corporation under RCW 23B.14.065, 23B.14.300, 23B.14.310, or 23B.14.320, for dissolution of a nonprofit corporation under RCW 24.03A.936, for dissolution of a mutual corporation under RCW 24.06.305, or in any other action for the dissolution or winding up of any other entity provided for by Title 23, 23B, 24, or 25 RCW;

(u) In any action in which the dissolution of any public or private entity is sought, in any action involving any dispute with respect to the ownership or governance of such an entity, or upon the application of a person having an interest in such an entity when the appointment is reasonably necessary to protect the property of the entity or its business or other interests;

(v) Under RCW 25.05.215, in aid of a charging order with respect to a partner's interest in a partnership;

(w) Under and subject to RCW 30A.44.100, 30A.44.270, and 30A.56.030, in the case of a state commercial bank, RCW 30B.44B.100, in the case of a state trust company, RCW 32.24.070, 32.24.073, 32.24.080, and 32.24.090, in the case of a state savings bank;

(x) Under and subject to RCW 31.12.637 and 31.12.671 through 31.12.724, in the case of credit unions;

(y) Upon the application of the director of financial institutions under RCW 31.35.090 in actions to enforce chapter 31.35 RCW applicable to agricultural lenders, under RCW 31.40.120 in actions to enforce chapter 31.40 RCW applicable to entities engaged in federally guaranteed small business loans, under RCW 31.45.160 in actions to enforce chapter 31.45 RCW applicable to persons licensed as check cashers or check sellers, or under RCW 19.230.230 in actions to enforce chapter 19.230 RCW applicable to persons licensed under the uniform money services act;

(z) Under RCW 35.82.090 or 35.82.180, with respect to a housing project;

(aa) Under RCW 39.84.160 or 43.180.360, in proceedings to enforce rights under any revenue bonds issued for the purpose of financing industrial development facilities or bonds of the Washington state housing finance commission, or any financing document securing any such bonds;

(bb) Under and subject to RCW 43.70.195, in an action by the secretary of health or by a local health officer with respect to a public water system;

(cc) As contemplated by RCW 61.24.030, with respect to real property that is the subject of nonjudicial foreclosure proceedings under chapter 61.24 RCW;

(dd) As contemplated by RCW 61.30.030(3), with respect to real property that is the subject of judicial or nonjudicial forfeiture proceedings under chapter 61.30 RCW;

(ee) Under RCW 64.32.200(2), in an action or proceeding commenced under chapter 61.12 or 61.24 RCW to foreclose upon a lien for common expenses against a dwelling unit subject to the horizontal property regimes act, chapter 64.32 RCW. For purposes of this subsection (1)(ee), a judicial action is commenced as provided in superior court civil rule 3(a) and a nonjudicial proceeding is commenced under chapter 61.24 RCW upon the service of notice of default described in RCW 61.24.030(8);

(ff) Under RCW 64.34.364(10), in an action or proceeding commenced under chapter 61.12 or 61.24 RCW by a unit owners' association to foreclose a lien for nonpayment of delinquent assessments against condominium units. For purposes of this subsection (1)(ff), a judicial action is commenced as provided in superior court civil rule (3)(a) and a nonjudicial proceeding is commenced under chapter 61.24 RCW upon the service of notice of default described in RCW 61.24.030(8);

(gg) Upon application of the attorney general under RCW 64.36.220(3), in aid of any writ or order restraining or enjoining violations of chapter 64.36 RCW applicable to timeshares;

(hh) Under RCW 70A.210.070(3), in aid of the enforcement of payment or performance of municipal bonds issued with respect to facilities used to abate, control, or prevent pollution;

(ii) Upon the application of the department of social and health services under RCW 74.42.580, in cases involving nursing homes;

(jj) Upon the application of the utilities and transportation commission under RCW 80.28.040, with respect to a water company or wastewater company that has failed to comply with an order of such commission within the time deadline specified therein;

(kk) Under RCW 87.56.065, in connection with the dissolution of an irrigation district;

(ll) Upon application of the attorney general or the department of licensing, in any proceeding that either of them are authorized by statute to bring to enforce Title 18 or 19 RCW; the securities act of Washington, chapter 21.20 RCW; the Washington commodities act, chapter 21.30 RCW; the land development act, chapter 58.19 RCW; or under chapter 64.36 RCW relating to the regulation of timeshares;

(mm) Upon application of the director of financial institutions in any proceeding that the director of financial institutions is authorized to bring to enforce chapters 31.35, 31.40, and 31.45 RCW; or

(nn) In such other cases as may be provided for by law, or when, in the discretion of the court, it may be necessary to secure ample justice to the parties.

(2) The superior courts of this state shall appoint as receiver of property located in this state a person who has been appointed by a federal or state court located elsewhere as receiver with respect to the property specifically or with respect to the owner's property generally, upon the application of the person or of any party to that foreign proceeding, and following the appointment shall give effect to orders, judgments, and decrees of the foreign court affecting the

property in this state held by the receiver, unless the court determines that to do so would be manifestly unjust or inequitable. The venue of such a proceeding may be any county in which the person resides or maintains any office, or any county in which any property over which the receiver is to be appointed is located at the time the proceeding is commenced.

(3) At least seven days' notice of any application for the appointment of a receiver must be given to the owner of property to be subject thereto and to all other parties in the action, and to other parties in interest as the court may require. If any execution by a judgment creditor under Title 6 RCW or any application by a judgment creditor for the appointment of a receiver, with respect to property over which the receiver's appointment is sought, is pending in any other action at the time the application is made, then notice of the application for the receiver's appointment also must be given to the judgment creditor in the other action. The court may shorten or expand the period for notice of an application for the appointment of a receiver upon good cause shown.

(4) The order appointing a receiver in all cases must reasonably describe the property over which the receiver is to take charge, by category, individual items, or both if the receiver is to take charge of less than all of the owner's property. If the order appointing a receiver does not expressly limit the receiver's authority to designated property or categories of property of the owner, the receiver is a general receiver with the authority to take charge over all of the owner's property, wherever located.

(5) The court may condition the appointment of a receiver upon the giving of security by the person seeking the receiver's appointment, in such amount as the court may specify, for the payment of costs and damages incurred or suffered by any person should it later be determined that the appointment of the receiver was wrongfully obtained. [2021 c 176 § 5201; 2021 c 65 § 6; 2019 c 389 § 1. Prior: 2011 c 214 § 27; 2011 c 34 § 1; 2010 c 212 § 4; 2006 c 52 § 1; 2004 c 165 § 4.]

Reviser's note: This section was amended by 2021 c 65 § 6 and by 2021 c 176 § 5201, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

Effective date—2021 c 176: See note following RCW 24.03A.005.

Explanatory statement—2021 c 65: See note following RCW 53.54.030.

Findings—Purpose—Limitation of chapter—Effective date—2011 c 214: See notes following RCW 80.04.010.

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.60.035 Eligibility to serve as receiver. Except as provided in this chapter or otherwise by statute, any person, whether or not a resident of this state, may serve as a receiver, with the exception that a person may not be appointed as a receiver, and shall be replaced as receiver if already appointed, if it should appear to the court that the person:

(1) Has been convicted of a felony or other crime involving moral turpitude or is controlled by a person who has been convicted of a felony or other crime involving moral turpitude;

(2) Is a party to the action, or is a parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, sibling, partner, director, officer, agent, attorney, employee, secured or unsecured creditor or lienor of, or holder of any equity interest in, or controls or is controlled by, the person whose property is to be held by the receiver, or who is the agent or attorney of any disqualified person;

(3) Has an interest materially adverse to the interest of persons to be affected by the receivership generally; or

(4) Is the sheriff of any county. [2004 c 165 § 5.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.60.045 Receiver's bond. Except as otherwise provided for by statute or court rule, before entering upon duties of receiver, a receiver shall execute a bond with one or more sureties approved by the court, in the amount the court specifies, conditioned that the receiver will faithfully discharge the duties of receiver in accordance with orders of the court and state law. Unless otherwise ordered by the court, the receiver's bond runs in favor of all persons having an interest in the receivership proceeding or property held by the receiver and in favor of state agencies. The receiver's bond must provide substantially as follows:

[Case Caption]

RECEIVER'S BOND

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

KNOW ALL BY THESE PRESENTS, that . . . . . ., as Principal, and . . . . . ., as Surety, are held and firmly bound in the amount of . . . . . Dollars ($ . . . . . .) for the faithful performance by Principal of the Principal's duties as receiver with respect to property of . . . . . in accordance with order(s) of such court previously or hereafter entered in the above-captioned proceeding and state law. If the Principal faithfully discharges the duties of receiver in accordance with such orders, this obligation shall be void, but otherwise it will remain in full force and effect.

Dated this . . . day of . . . . . ., ...

. . . . . .
[Signature of Receiver]

. . . . . .
[Signature of Surety]

The court, in lieu of a bond, may approve the posting of alternative security, such as a letter of credit or a deposit of funds with the clerk of the court, to be held by the clerk to secure the receiver's faithful performance of the receiver's duties in accordance with orders of the court and state law until the court authorizes the release or return of the deposited sums. No part of the property over which the receiver is appointed may be used in making the deposit; however, any interest that may accrue on a deposit ordered by the court shall be remitted to the receiver upon the receiver's discharge. A claim against the bond shall be made within one year from the date the receiver is discharged. Claims by state agencies against the bond shall have priority. [2004 c 165 § 6.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.60.055 Powers of the court. (1) Except as otherwise provided for by this chapter, the court in all cases has exclusive authority over the receiver, and the exclusive possession and right of control with respect to all real property and all tangible and intangible personal property with respect to which the receiver is appointed, wherever located, and the exclusive jurisdiction to determine all controversies relating to the collection, preservation, application, and distribution of all the property, and all claims against the receiver arising out of the exercise of the receiver's powers or the performance of the receiver's duties. However, the court does not have exclusive jurisdiction over actions in which a state agency is a party and in which a statute expressly vests jurisdiction or venue elsewhere.

(2) For good cause shown, the court has the power to shorten or expand the time frames specified in this chapter. [2011 c 34 § 2; 2004 c 165 § 7.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.60.060 Powers and duties of receiver generally. (1) A receiver has the following powers and authority in addition to those specifically conferred by this chapter or otherwise by statute, court rule, or court order:

(a) The power to incur or pay expenses incidental to the receiver's preservation and use of the property with respect to which the appointment applies, and otherwise in the performance of the receiver's duties, including the power to pay obligations incurred prior to the receiver's appointment if and to the extent that payment is determined by the receiver to be prudent in order to preserve the value of property in the receiver's possession and the funds used for this purpose are not subject to any lien or right of setoff in favor of a creditor who has not consented to the payment and whose interest is not otherwise adequately protected;

(b) If the appointment applies to all or substantially all of the property of an operating business or any revenue-producing property of any person, to do all things which the owner of the business or property might do in the ordinary course of the operation of the business as a going concern or use of the property including, but not limited to, the purchase and sale of goods or services in the ordinary course of such business, and the incurring and payment of expenses of the business or property in the ordinary course;

(c) The power to assert any rights, claims, or choses in action of the person over whose property the receiver is appointed relating thereto, if and to the extent that the claims are themselves property within the scope of the appointment or relate to any property, to maintain in the receiver's name or in the name of such a person any action to enforce any right, claim, or chose in action, and to intervene in actions in which the person over whose property the receiver is appointed is a party for the purpose of exercising the powers under this subsection (1)(c);

(d) The power to intervene in any action in which a claim is asserted against the person over whose property the receiver is appointed relating thereto, for the purpose of prosecuting or defending the claim and requesting the transfer of venue of the action to the court. However, the court shall not transfer actions in which both a state agency is a party and as to which a statute expressly vests jurisdiction or venue elsewhere. This power is exercisable with court approval in the case of a liquidating receiver, and with or without court approval in the case of a general receiver;

(e) The power to assert rights, claims, or choses in action of the receiver arising out of transactions in which the receiver is a participant;

(f) The power to pursue in the name of the receiver any claim under chapter 19.40 RCW assertable by any creditor of the person over whose property the receiver is appointed, if pursuit of the claim is determined by the receiver to be appropriate;

(g) The power to seek and obtain advice or instruction from the court with respect to any course of action with respect to which the receiver is uncertain in the exercise of the receiver's powers or the discharge of the receiver's duties;

(h) The power to obtain appraisals with respect to property in the hands of the receiver;

(i) The power by subpoena to compel any person to submit to an examination under oath, in the manner of a deposition in a civil case, with respect to estate property or any other matter that may affect the administration of the receivership; and

(j) Other powers as may be conferred upon the receiver by the court or otherwise by statute or rule.

(2) A receiver has the following duties in addition to those specifically conferred by this chapter or otherwise by statute or court rule:

(a) The duty to notify all federal and state taxing and applicable regulatory agencies of the receiver's appointment in accordance with any applicable laws imposing this duty, including but not limited to 26 U.S.C. Sec. 6036 and RCW 51.14.073, 51.16.160, and 82.32.240, or any successor statutes;

(b) The duty to comply with state law;

(c) If the receiver is appointed with respect to any real property, the duty to file with the auditor of the county in which the real property is located, or the registrar of lands in accordance with *RCW 65.12.600 in the case of registered lands, a certified copy of the order of appointment, together with a legal description of the real property if one is not included in that order; and

(d) Other duties as the receiver may be directed to perform by the court or as may be provided for by statute or rule.

(3) The various powers and duties of a receiver provided for by this chapter may be expanded, modified, or limited by order of the court for good cause shown. [2004 c 165 § 8.]

***Reviser's note:** Chapter 65.12 RCW was repealed in its entirety by 2022 c 66 § 1.

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.60.070 Turnover of property. Upon demand by a receiver appointed under this chapter, any person shall turn over any property over which the receiver has been appointed that is within the possession or control of that person unless otherwise ordered by the court for good cause shown. A receiver by motion may seek to compel turnover of estate property unless there exists a bona fide dispute with respect

to the existence or nature of the receiver's interest in the property, in which case turnover shall be sought by means of an action under RCW 7.60.160. In the absence of a bona fide dispute with respect to the receiver's right to possession of estate property, the failure to relinquish possession and control to the receiver shall be punishable as a contempt of the court. [2004 c 165 § 9.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.60.080 Duties of person over whose property the receiver is appointed. The person over whose property the receiver is appointed shall:

(1) Assist and cooperate fully with the receiver in the administration of the estate and the discharge of the receiver's duties, and comply with all orders of the court;

(2) Supply to the receiver information necessary to enable the receiver to complete any schedules that the receiver may be required to file under RCW 7.60.090, and otherwise assist the receiver in the completion of the schedules;

(3) Upon the receiver's appointment, deliver into the receiver's possession all of the property of the estate in the person's possession, custody, or control, including, but not limited to, all accounts, books, papers, records, and other documents; and

(4) Following the receiver's appointment, submit to examination by the receiver, or by any other person upon order of the court, under oath, concerning the acts, conduct, property, liabilities, and financial condition of that person or any matter relating to the receiver's administration of the estate.

When the person over whose property the receiver is appointed is an entity, each of the officers, directors, managers, members, partners, or other individuals exercising or having the power to exercise control over the affairs of the entity are subject to the requirements of this section. [2004 c 165 § 10.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.60.090 Schedules of property and liabilities—Inventory of property—Appraisals. (1) In the event of a general assignment of property for the benefit of creditors under chapter 7.08 RCW, the assignment shall have annexed as schedule A a true list of all of the person's known creditors, their mailing addresses, the amount and nature of their claims, and whether their claims are disputed; and as schedule B a true list of all property of the estate, including the estimated liquidation value and location of the property and, if real property, a legal description thereof, as of the date of the assignment.

(2) In all other cases, within thirty-five days after the date of appointment of a general receiver, the receiver shall file as schedule A a true list of all of the known creditors and applicable regulatory and taxing agencies of the person over whose assets the receiver is appointed, their mailing addresses, the amount and nature of their claims, and whether their claims are disputed; and as schedule B a true list of all property of the estate identifiable by the receiver, including the estimated liquidation value and location of the property and, if real property, a legal description thereof, as of the date of appointment of the receiver.

(3) The schedules must be in substantially the following forms:

SCHEDULE A—CREDITOR LIST

1. List all creditors having security interests or liens, showing:

Name	Address	Amount	Collateral	Whether or not disputed

2. List all wages, salaries, commissions, or contributions to an employee benefit plan owed, showing:

Name	Address	Amount	Whether or not disputed

3. List all consumer deposits owed, showing:

Name	Address	Amount	Whether or not disputed

4. List all taxes owed, showing:

Name	Address	Amount	Whether or not disputed

5. List all unsecured claims, showing:

Name	Address	Amount	Whether or not disputed

6. List all owners or shareholders, showing:

Name	Address	Percentage of Ownership

7. List all applicable regulatory agencies, showing:

Name	Address

SCHEDULE B—LIST OF PROPERTY

List each category of property and for each give approximate value obtainable for the asset on the date of assignment/appointment of the receiver, and address where asset is located.

I. Nonexempt Property

	Description and Location	Liquidation Value on Date of Assignment/ Appointment of Receiver
1. Legal Description and street address of real property, including leasehold interests:		
2. Fixtures:		
3. Cash and bank accounts:		
4. Inventory:		
5. Accounts receivable:		
6. Equipment:		
7. Prepaid expenses, including deposits, insurance, rents, and utilities:		
8. Other, including loans to third parties, claims, and choses in action:		

II. Exempt Property

	Description and Location	Liquidation Value on Date of Assignment/ Appointment of Receiver

I DECLARE under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the foregoing is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge. DATED this . . . day of . . . . . ., ..., at . . . . . ., state of . . . .

. . . . . .
[SIGNATURE]

(4) When schedules are filed by a person making a general assignment of property for the benefit of creditors under chapter 7.08 RCW, the schedules shall be duly verified upon oath by such person.

(5) The receiver shall obtain an appraisal or other independent valuation of the property in the receiver's possession if ordered by the court.

(6) The receiver shall file a complete inventory of the property in the receiver's possession if ordered by the court. [2011 c 34 § 3; 2004 c 165 § 11.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.60.100 Receiver's reports. A general receiver shall file with the court a monthly report of the receiver's operations and financial affairs unless otherwise ordered by the court. Except as otherwise ordered by the court, each report of a general receiver shall be due by the last day of the subsequent month and shall include the following:

(1) A balance sheet;

(2) A statement of income and expenses;

(3) A statement of cash receipts and disbursements;

(4) A statement of accrued accounts receivable of the receiver. The statement shall disclose amounts considered to be uncollectable;

(5) A statement of accounts payable of the receiver, including professional fees. The statement shall list the name of each creditor and the amounts owing and remaining unpaid over thirty days; and

(6) A tax disclosure statement, which shall list postfiling taxes due or tax deposits required, the name of the taxing agency, the amount due, the date due, and an explanation for any failure to make payments or deposits.

A custodial receiver shall file with the court all such reports the court may require. [2004 c 165 § 12.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.60.110 Automatic stay of certain proceedings. (1) Except as otherwise ordered by the court, the entry of an order appointing a general receiver or a custodial receiver with respect to all of a person's property shall operate as a stay, applicable to all persons, of:

(a) The commencement or continuation, including the issuance or employment of process, of a judicial, administrative, or other action or proceeding against the person over whose property the receiver is appointed that was or could have been commenced before the entry of the order of appointment, or to recover a claim against the person that arose before the entry of the order of appointment;

(b) The enforcement, against the person over whose property the receiver is appointed or any estate property, of a judgment obtained before the order of appointment;

(c) Any act to obtain possession of estate property from the receiver, or to interfere with, or exercise control over, estate property;

(d) Any act to create, perfect, or enforce any lien or claim against estate property except by exercise of a right of setoff, to the extent that the lien secures a claim against the person that arose before the entry of the order of appointment; or

(e) Any act to collect, assess, or recover a claim against the person that arose before the entry of the order of appointment.

(2) The stay shall automatically expire as to the acts specified in subsection (1)(a), (b), and (e) of this section sixty days after the entry of the order of appointment unless before the expiration of the sixty-day period the receiver, for good cause shown, obtains an order of the court extending the stay, after notice and a hearing. A person whose action or proceeding is stayed by motion to the court may seek relief from the

stay for good cause shown. Any judgment obtained against the person over whose property the receiver is appointed or estate property following the entry of the order of appointment is not a lien against estate property unless the receivership is terminated prior to a conveyance of the property against which the judgment would otherwise constitute a lien.

(3) The entry of an order appointing a receiver does not operate as a stay of:

(a) The continuation of a judicial action or nonjudicial proceeding of the type described in RCW 7.60.025(1) (b), (ee), or (ff), if the action or proceeding was initiated by the party seeking the receiver's appointment;

(b) The commencement or continuation of a criminal proceeding against the person over whose property the receiver is appointed;

(c) The commencement or continuation of an action or proceeding to establish paternity, or to establish or modify an order for alimony, maintenance, or support, or to collect alimony, maintenance, or support under any order of a court;

(d) Any act to perfect, or to maintain or continue the perfection of, an interest in estate property if the interest perfected would be effective against a creditor of the person over whose property the receiver is appointed holding at the time of the entry of the order of appointment either a perfected nonpurchase money security interest under chapter 62A.9A RCW against the property involved, or a lien by attachment, levy, or the like, whether or not such a creditor exists. If perfection of an interest would require seizure of the property involved or the commencement of an action, the perfection shall instead be accomplished by filing, and by serving upon the receiver, or receiver's counsel, if any, notice of the interest within the time fixed by law for seizure or commencement;

(e) The commencement or continuation of an action or proceeding by a governmental unit to enforce its police or regulatory power;

(f) The enforcement of a judgment, other than a money judgment, obtained in an action or proceeding by a governmental unit to enforce its police or regulatory power, or with respect to any licensure of the person over whose property the receiver is appointed;

(g) The exercise of a right of setoff, including but not limited to (i) any right of a commodity broker, forward contract merchant, stockbroker, financial institution, or securities clearing agency to set off a claim for a margin payment or settlement payment arising out of a commodity contract, forward contract, or securities contract against cash, securities, or other property held or due from the commodity broker, forward contract merchant, stockbroker, financial institution, or securities clearing agency to margin, guarantee, secure, or settle the commodity contract, forward contract, or securities contract, and (ii) any right of a swap participant to set off a claim for a payment due to the swap participant under or in connection with a swap agreement against any payment due from the swap participant under or in connection with the swap agreement or against cash, securities, or other property of the debtor held by or due from the swap participant to guarantee, secure, or settle the swap agreement; or

(h) The establishment by a governmental unit of any tax liability and any appeal thereof. [2011 c 34 § 4; 2004 c 165 § 13.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.60.120 Utility service. A utility providing service to estate property may not alter, refuse, or discontinue service to the property without first giving the receiver fifteen days' notice of any default or intention to alter, refuse, or discontinue service to estate property. This section does not prohibit the court, upon motion by the receiver, to prohibit the alteration or cessation of utility service if the receiver can furnish adequate assurance of payment, in the form of deposit or other security, for service to be provided after entry of the order appointing the receiver. [2004 c 165 § 14.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.60.130 Executory contracts and unexpired leases. (1) A general receiver may assume or reject any executory contract or unexpired lease of the person over whose property the receiver is appointed upon order of the court following notice to the other party to the contract or lease upon notice and a hearing. The court may condition assumption or rejection of any executory contract or unexpired lease on the terms and conditions the court believes are just and proper under the particular circumstances of the case. A general receiver's performance of an executory contract or unexpired lease prior to the court's authorization of its assumption or rejection shall not constitute an assumption of the contract or lease, or an agreement by the receiver to assume it, nor otherwise preclude the receiver thereafter from seeking the court's authority to reject it.

(2) Any obligation or liability incurred by a general receiver on account of the receiver's assumption of an executory contract or unexpired lease shall be treated as an expense of the receivership. A general receiver's rejection of an executory contract or unexpired lease shall be treated as a breach of the contract or lease occurring immediately prior to the receiver's appointment; and the receiver's right to possess or use property pursuant to any executory contract or lease shall terminate upon rejection of the contract or lease. The other party to an executory contract or unexpired lease that is rejected by a general receiver may take such steps as may be necessary under applicable law to terminate or cancel the contract or lease. The claim of a party to an executory contract or unexpired lease resulting from a general receiver's rejection of it shall be served upon the receiver in the manner provided for by RCW 7.60.210 within thirty days following the rejection.

(3) A general receiver's power under this section to assume an executory contract or unexpired lease shall not be affected by any provision in the contract or lease that would effect or permit a forfeiture, modification, or termination of it on account of either the receiver's appointment, the financial condition of the person over whose property the receiver is appointed, or an assignment for the benefit of creditors by that person.

(4) A general receiver may not assume an executory contract or unexpired lease of the person over whose property the receiver is appointed without the consent of the other party to the contract or lease if:

(a) Applicable law would excuse a party, other than the person over whose property the receiver is appointed, from accepting performance from or rendering performance to anyone other than the person even in the absence of any provisions in the contract or lease expressly restricting or prohibiting an assignment of the person's rights or the performance of the person's duties;

(b) The contract or lease is a contract to make a loan or extend credit or financial accommodations to or for the benefit of the person over whose property the receiver is appointed, or to issue a security of the person; or

(c) The executory contract or lease expires by its own terms, or under applicable law prior to the receiver's assumption thereof.

(5) A receiver may not assign an executory contract or unexpired lease without assuming it, absent the consent of the other parties to the contract or lease.

(6) If the receiver rejects an executory contract or unexpired lease for:

(a) The sale of real property under which the person over whose property the receiver is appointed is the seller and the purchaser is in possession of the real property;

(b) The sale of a real property timeshare interest under which the person over whose property the receiver is appointed is the seller;

(c) The license of intellectual property rights under which the person over whose property the receiver is appointed is the licensor; or

(d) The lease of real property in which the person over whose property the receiver is appointed is the lessor;

then the purchaser, licensee, or lessee may treat the rejection as a termination of the contract, license agreement, or lease, or alternatively, the purchaser, licensee, or lessee may remain in possession in which case the purchaser, licensee, or lessee shall continue to perform all obligations arising thereunder as and when they may fall due, but may offset against any payments any damages occurring on account of the rejection after it occurs. The purchaser of real property in such a case is entitled to receive from the receiver any deed or any other instrument of conveyance which the person over whose property the receiver is appointed is obligated to deliver under the executory contract when the purchaser becomes entitled to receive it, and the deed or instrument has the same force and effect as if given by the person. A purchaser, licensee, or lessee who elects to remain in possession under the terms of this subsection has no rights against the receiver on account of any damages arising from the receiver's rejection except as expressly provided for by this subsection. A purchaser of real property who elects to treat rejection of an executory contract as a termination has a lien against the interest in that real property of the person over whose property the receiver is appointed for the recovery of any portion of the purchase price that the purchaser has paid.

(7) Any contract with the state shall be deemed rejected if not assumed within sixty days of appointment of a general receiver unless the receiver and state agency agree to its assumption or as otherwise ordered by the court for good cause shown.

(8) Nothing in this chapter affects the enforceability of antiassignment prohibitions provided under contract or applicable law. [2011 c 34 § 5; 2004 c 165 § 15.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.60.140 Receivership financing. (1) If a receiver is authorized to operate the business of a person or manage a person's property, the receiver may obtain unsecured credit and incur unsecured debt in the ordinary course of business allowable under RCW 7.60.230(1)(a) as an administrative expense of the receiver without order of the court.

(2) The court, after notice and a hearing, may authorize a receiver to obtain credit or incur indebtedness other than in the ordinary course of business. The court may allow the receiver to mortgage, pledge, hypothecate, or otherwise encumber estate property as security for repayment of any indebtedness that the receiver may incur. [2004 c 165 § 16.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.60.150 Abandonment of property. The receiver, or any party in interest, upon order of the court following notice and a hearing, and upon the conditions or terms the court considers just and proper, may abandon any estate property that is burdensome to the receiver or is of inconsequential value or benefit. However, a receiver may not abandon property that is a hazard or potential hazard to the public in contravention of a state statute or rule that is reasonably designed to protect the public health or safety from identified hazards, including but not limited to chapters 70A.300 and 70A.305 RCW. Property that is abandoned no longer constitutes estate property. [2021 c 65 § 7; 2004 c 165 § 17.]

Explanatory statement—2021 c 65: See note following RCW 53.54.030.

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.60.160 Actions by and against the receiver or affecting property held by receiver. (1) The receiver has the right to sue and be sued in the receiver's capacity as such, without leave of court, in all cases necessary or proper for the conduct of the receivership. However, action seeking to dispossess the receiver of any estate property or otherwise to interfere with the receiver's management or control of any estate property may not be maintained or continued unless permitted by order of the court obtained upon notice and a hearing.

(2) Litigation by or against a receiver is adjunct to the receivership case. The clerk of the court shall assign a cause number that reflects the relationship of any litigation to the receivership case. All pleadings in adjunct litigation shall include the cause number of the receivership case as well as the adjunct litigation number assigned by the clerk of the court. All adjunct litigation shall be referred to the judge, if any, assigned to the receivership case.

(3) The receiver may be joined or substituted as a party in any suit or proceeding that was pending at the time of the receiver's appointment and in which the person over whose property the receiver is appointed is a party, upon application by the receiver to the court or agency before which the action is pending.

(4) Venue for adjunct litigation by or against the receiver shall lie in the court in which the receivership is pending, if the courts of this state have jurisdiction over the cause.

Actions in other courts in this state shall be transferred to the court upon the receiver's filing of a motion for change of venue, provided that the receiver files the motion within thirty days following service of original process upon the receiver. However, actions in other courts or forums in which a state agency is a party shall not be transferred on request of the receiver absent consent of the affected state agency or grounds provided under other applicable law.

(5) Action by or against a receiver does not abate by reason of death or resignation of the receiver, but continues against the successor receiver or against the entity in receivership, if a successor receiver is not appointed.

(6) Whenever the assets of any domestic or foreign corporation, that has been doing business in this state, has been placed in the hands of any general receiver and the receiver is in possession of its assets, service of all process upon the corporation may be made upon the receiver.

(7) A judgment against a general receiver is not a lien on the property or funds of the receivership, nor shall any execution issue thereon, but upon entry of the judgment in the court in which a general receivership is pending, or upon filing in a general receivership of a certified copy of the judgment from another jurisdiction, the judgment shall be treated as an allowed claim in the receivership. A judgment against a custodial receiver shall be treated and has the same effect as a judgment against the person over whose property the receiver is appointed, except that the judgment is not enforceable against estate property unless otherwise ordered by the court upon notice and a hearing. [2004 c 165 § 18.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.60.170 Personal liability of receiver. (1)(a) The receiver is personally liable to the person over whose property the receiver is appointed or its record or beneficial owners, or to the estate, for loss or diminution in value of or damage to estate property, only if (i) the loss or damage is caused by a failure on the part of the receiver to comply with an order of the court, or (ii) the loss or damage is caused by an act or omission for which members of a board of directors of a business corporation organized and existing under the laws of this state who vote to approve the act or omission are liable to the corporation in cases in which the liability of directors is limited to the maximum extent permitted by RCW 23B.08.320.

(b) A general receiver is personally liable to state agencies for failure to remit sales tax collected after appointment. A custodial receiver is personally liable to state agencies for failure to remit sales tax collected after appointment with regard to assets administered by the receiver.

(2) The receiver has no personal liability to a person other than the person over whose property the receiver is appointed or its record or beneficial owners for any loss or damage occasioned by the receiver's performance of the duties imposed by the appointment, or out of the receiver's authorized operation of any business of a person, except loss or damage occasioned by fraud on the part of the receiver, by acts intended by the receiver to cause loss or damage to the specific claimant, or by acts or omissions for which an officer of a business corporation organized and existing under the laws of this state are liable to the claimant under the same circumstances.

(3) Notwithstanding subsections (1)(a) and (2) of this section, a receiver has no personal liability to any person for acts or omissions of the receiver specifically contemplated by any order of the court.

(4) A person other than a successor receiver duly appointed by the court does not have a right of action against a receiver under this section to recover property or the value thereof for or on behalf of the estate. [2004 c 165 § 19.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.60.180 Employment and compensation of professionals. (1) The receiver, with the court's approval, may employ one or more attorneys, accountants, appraisers, auctioneers, or other professional persons that do not hold or represent an interest adverse to the estate to represent or assist the receiver in carrying out the receiver's duties.

(2) A person is not disqualified for employment under this section solely because of the person's employment by, representation of, or other relationship with a creditor or other party in interest, if the relationship is disclosed in the application for the person's employment and if the court determines that there is no actual conflict of interest or inappropriate appearance of a conflict.

(3) This section does not preclude the court from authorizing the receiver to act as attorney or accountant if the authorization is in the best interests of the estate.

(4) The receiver, and any professionals employed by the receiver, is permitted to file an itemized billing statement with the court indicating both the time spent, billing rates of all who perform work to be compensated, and a detailed list of expenses and serve copies on any person who has been joined as a party in the action, or any person requesting the same, advising that unless objections are filed with the court, the receiver may make the payments specified in the notice. If an objection is filed, the receiver or professional whose compensation is affected may request the court to hold a hearing on the objection on five days' notice to the persons who have filed objections. If the receiver is a custodial receiver appointed in aid of foreclosure, payment of fees and expenses may be allowed upon the stipulation of any creditor holding a security interest in the property for whose benefit the receiver is appointed. [2004 c 165 § 20.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.60.190 Participation of creditors and parties in interest in receivership proceeding—Effect of court orders on nonparties. (1) Creditors and parties in interest to whom written notice of the pendency of the receivership is given in accordance with RCW 7.60.210, and creditors or other persons submitting written claims in the receivership or otherwise appearing and participating in the receivership, are bound by the acts of the receiver with regard to management and disposition of estate property whether or not they are formally joined as parties.

(2) Any person having a claim against or interest in any estate property or in the receivership proceedings may appear in the receivership, either in person or by an attorney. Appearance must be made by filing a written notice of appearance, including the name and mailing address of the

party in interest, and the name and address of the person's attorney, if any, with the clerk, and by serving a copy of the notice upon the receiver and the receiver's attorney of record, if any. The receiver shall maintain a master mailing list of all persons joined as parties in the receivership and of all persons serving and filing notices of appearance in the receivership in accordance with this section. A creditor or other party in interest has a right to be heard with respect to all matters affecting the person, whether or not the person is joined as a party to the action.

(3) Any request for relief against a state agency shall be mailed to or otherwise served on the agency and on the office of the attorney general.

(4) Orders of the court with respect to the treatment of claims and disposition of estate property, including but not limited to orders providing for sales of property free and clear of liens, are effective as to any person having a claim against or interest in the receivership estate and who has actual knowledge of the receivership, whether or not the person receives written notice from the receiver and whether or not the person appears or participates in the receivership.

(5) The receiver shall give not less than ten days' written notice by mail of any examination by the receiver of the person with respect to whose property the receiver has been appointed and to persons who serve and file an appearance in the proceeding.

(6) Persons on the master mailing list are entitled to not less than thirty days' written notice of the hearing of any motion or other proceeding involving any proposed:

(a) Allowance or disallowance of any claim or claims;

(b) Abandonment, disposition, or distribution of estate property, other than an emergency disposition of property subject to eroding value or a disposition of property in the ordinary course of business;

(c) Compromise or settlement of a controversy that might affect the distribution to creditors from the estate;

(d) Compensation of the receiver or any professional employed by the receiver; or

(e) Application for termination of the receivership or discharge of the receiver. Notice of the application shall also be sent to state taxing and applicable regulatory agencies.

Any opposition to any motion to authorize any of the actions under (a) through (e) of this subsection must be filed and served upon the receiver and the receiver's attorney, if any, at least three days before the date of the proposed action. Persons on the master mailing list shall be served with all pleadings or in opposition to any motion. The court may require notice to be given to persons on the master mailing list of additional matters the court deems appropriate. The receiver shall make a copy of the current master mailing list available to any person on that list upon the person's request.

(7) All persons duly notified by the receiver of any hearing to approve or authorize an action or a proposed action by the receiver is bound by any order of the court with respect to the action, whether or not the persons have appeared or objected to the action or proposed action or have been joined formally as parties to the particular action.

(8) Whenever notice is not specifically required to be given under this chapter, the court may consider motions and grant or deny relief without notice or hearing, if it appears that no person joined as a party or who has appeared in the receivership would be prejudiced or harmed by the relief requested. [2011 c 34 § 6; 2004 c 165 § 21.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.60.200 Notice to creditors and other parties in interest. (1) A general receiver shall give notice of the receivership by publication in a newspaper of general circulation published in the county or counties in which estate property is known to be located once a week for three consecutive weeks, the first notice to be published within thirty days after the date of appointment of the receiver; and by mailing notice to all known creditors and other known parties in interest within thirty days after the date of appointment of the receiver. The notice of the receivership shall include the date of appointment of the receiver; the name of the court and the case number; the last day on which claims may be filed with the court and mailed to or served upon the receiver; and the name and address of the debtor, the receiver, and the receiver's attorney, if any. For purposes of this section, all intangible property of a person is deemed to be located in the county in which an individual owner thereof resides, or in which any entity owning the property maintains its principal administrative offices.

(2) The notice of the receivership shall be in substantially the following form:

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT, IN AND FOR
_____ COUNTY, WASHINGTON

[Case Name]	)	Case No.
	)	
	)	NOTICE OF RECEIVERSHIP
	)	
	)	
_____	)	

TO CREDITORS AND OTHER PARTIES IN INTEREST:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a receiver was appointed for _____, whose last known address is _____, on _____, ___.

YOU ARE HEREBY FURTHER NOTIFIED that in order to receive any dividend in this proceeding you must file proof of claim with the court within 30 days after the date of this notice. If you are a state agency, you must

file proof of claim with the receiver within 180 days after the date of this notice. A copy of your claim must also be either mailed to or served upon the receiver.

_____
RECEIVER

Attorney for receiver (if any): _____
Address: _____

[2011 c 34 § 7; 2004 c 165 § 22.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.60.210 Submission of claims in general receiverships. (1) All claims, whether contingent, liquidated, unliquidated, or disputed, other than claims of creditors with security interests in or other liens against property of the estate, arising prior to the receiver's appointment, must be served in accordance with this chapter, and any claim not so filed is barred from participating in any distribution to creditors in any general receivership.

(2) Claims must be served by delivering the claim to the general receiver within thirty days from the date notice is given by mail under this section, unless the court reduces or extends the period for cause shown, except that a claim arising from the rejection of an executory contract or an unexpired lease of the person over whose property the receiver is appointed may be filed within thirty days after the rejection. Claims need not be filed. Claims must be served by state agencies on the general receiver within one hundred eighty days from the date notice is given by mail under this section.

(3) Claims must be in written form entitled "Proof of Claim," setting forth the name and address of the creditor and the nature and amount of the claim, and executed by the creditor or the creditor's authorized agent. When a claim, or an interest in estate property of securing the claim, is based on a writing, the original or a copy of the writing must be included as a part of the proof of claim, together with evidence of perfection of any security interest or other lien asserted by the claimant.

(4) A claim, executed and served in accordance with this section, constitutes prima facie evidence of the validity and amount of the claim. [2004 c 165 § 23.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.60.220 Objection to and allowance of claims. (1) At any time prior to the entry of an order approving the general receiver's final report, the general receiver or any party in interest may file with the court an objection to a claim, which objection must be in writing and must set forth the grounds for the objection. A copy of the objection, together with notice of hearing, must be mailed to the creditor at least thirty days prior to the hearing. Claims properly served upon the general receiver and not disallowed by the court are entitled to share in distributions from the estate in accordance with the priorities provided for by this chapter or otherwise by law.

(2) Upon the request of a creditor, the general receiver, or any party in interest objecting to the creditor's claim, or upon order of the court, an objection is subject to mediation prior to adjudication of the objection, under the rules or orders adopted or issued with respect to mediations. However, state claims are not subject to mediation absent agreement of the state.

(3) Upon motion of the general receiver or other party in interest, the following claims may be estimated for purpose of allowance under this section under the rules or orders applicable to the estimation of claims under this subsection:

(a) Any contingent or unliquidated claim, the fixing or liquidation of which, as the case may be, would unduly delay the administration of the case; or

(b) Any right to payment arising from a right to an equitable remedy for breach of performance.

Claims subject to this subsection shall be allowed in the estimated amount thereof. [2004 c 165 § 24.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.60.230 Priorities. (1) Allowed claims in a general receivership shall receive distribution under this chapter in the order of priority under (a) through (h) of this subsection and, with the exception of (a) and (c) of this subsection, on a pro rata basis.

(a) Creditors with liens on property of the estate, which liens are duly perfected under applicable law, shall receive the proceeds from the disposition of their collateral. However, the receiver may recover from property securing an allowed secured claim the reasonable, necessary expenses of preserving, protecting, or disposing of the property to the extent of any benefit to the creditors. If and to the extent that the proceeds are less than the amount of a creditor's allowed claim or a creditor's lien is avoided on any basis, the creditor is an unsecured claim under (h) of this subsection. Secured claims shall be paid from the proceeds in accordance with their respective priorities under otherwise applicable law.

(b) Actual, necessary costs and expenses incurred during the administration of the estate, other than those expenses allowable under (a) of this subsection, including allowed fees and reimbursement of reasonable charges and expenses of the receiver and professional persons employed by the receiver under RCW 7.60.180. Notwithstanding (a) of this subsection, expenses incurred during the administration of the estate have priority over the secured claim of any creditor obtaining or consenting to the appointment of the receiver.

(c) Creditors with liens on property of the estate, which liens have not been duly perfected under applicable law, shall receive the proceeds from the disposition of their collateral if and to the extent that unsecured claims are made subject to those liens under applicable law.

(d) Claims for wages, salaries, or commissions, including vacation, severance, and sick leave pay, or contributions to an employee benefit plan, earned by the claimant within one hundred eighty days of the date of appointment of the receiver or the cessation of the estate's business, whichever

occurs first, but only to the extent of ten thousand nine hundred fifty dollars.

(e) Allowed unsecured claims, to the extent of two thousand four hundred twenty-five dollars for each individual, arising from the deposit with the person over whose property the receiver is appointed before the date of appointment of the receiver of money in connection with the purchase, lease, or rental of property or the purchase of services for personal, family, or household use by individuals that were not delivered or provided.

(f) Claims for a support debt as defined in RCW 74.20A.020(10), but not to the extent that the debt (i) is assigned to another entity, voluntarily, by operation of law, or otherwise; or (ii) includes a liability designated as a support obligation unless that liability is actually in the nature of a support obligation.

(g) Unsecured claims of governmental units for taxes which accrued prior to the date of appointment of the receiver.

(h) Other unsecured claims.

(2) If all of the classes under subsection (1) of this section have been paid in full, any residue shall be paid to the person over whose property the receiver is appointed. [2011 c 34 § 8; 2004 c 165 § 25.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.60.240 Secured claims against after-acquired property. Except as otherwise provided for by statute, property acquired by the estate or by the person over whose property the receiver is appointed after the date of appointment of the receiver is subject to an allowed secured claim to the same extent as would be the case in the absence of a receivership. [2004 c 165 § 26.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.60.250 Interest on claims. To the extent that funds are available in the estate for distribution to creditors in a general receivership, the holder of an allowed noncontingent, liquidated claim is entitled to receive interest at the legal rate or other applicable rate from the date of appointment of the receiver or the date on which the claim became a noncontingent, liquidated claim. If there are sufficient funds in the estate to fully pay all interest owing to all members of the class, then interest shall be paid proportionately to each member of the class. [2004 c 165 § 27.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.60.260 Receiver's disposition of property—Sales free and clear. (1) The receiver, with the court's approval after notice and a hearing, may use, sell, or lease estate property other than in the ordinary course of business. Except in the case of a leasehold estate with a remaining term of less than two years or a vendor's interest in a real estate contract, estate property consisting of real property may not be sold by a custodial receiver other than in the ordinary course of business.

(2) The court may order that a general receiver's sale of estate property either (a) under subsection (1) of this section, or (b) consisting of real property which the debtor intended to sell in its ordinary course of business be effected free and clear of liens and of all rights of redemption, whether or not the sale will generate proceeds sufficient to fully satisfy all claims secured by the property, unless either:

(i) The property is real property used principally in the production of crops, livestock, or aquaculture, or the property is a homestead under RCW 6.13.010(1), and the owner of the property has not consented to the sale following the appointment of the receiver; or

(ii) The owner of the property or a creditor with an interest in the property serves and files a timely opposition to the receiver's sale, and the court determines that the amount likely to be realized by the objecting person from the receiver's sale is less than the person would realize within a reasonable time in the absence of the receiver's sale.

Upon any sale free and clear of liens authorized by this section, all security interests and other liens encumbering the property conveyed transfer and attach to the proceeds of the sale, net of reasonable expenses incurred in the disposition of the property, in the same order, priority, and validity as the liens had with respect to the property immediately before the conveyance. The court may authorize the receiver at the time of sale to satisfy, in whole or in part, any allowed claim secured by the property out of the proceeds of its sale if the interest of any other creditor having a lien against the proceeds of the sale would not thereby be impaired.

(3) At a public sale of property under subsection (1) of this section, a creditor with an allowed claim secured by a lien against the property to be sold may bid at the sale of the property. A secured creditor who purchases the property from a receiver may offset against the purchase price its allowed secured claim against the property, provided that the secured creditor tenders cash sufficient to satisfy in full all secured claims payable out of the proceeds of sale having priority over the secured creditor's secured claim. If the lien or the claim it secures is the subject of a bona fide dispute, the court may order the holder of the claim to provide the receiver with adequate security to assure full payment of the purchase price in the event the lien, the claim, or any part thereof is determined to be invalid or unenforceable.

(4) If estate property includes an interest as a co-owner of property, the receiver shall have the rights and powers of a co-owner afforded by applicable state or federal law, including but not limited to any rights of partition.

(5) The reversal or modification on appeal of an authorization to sell or lease estate property under this section does not affect the validity of a sale or lease under that authorization to an entity that purchased or leased the property in good faith, whether or not the entity knew of the pendency of the appeal, unless the authorization and sale or lease were stayed pending the appeal. [2011 c 34 § 9; 2004 c 165 § 28.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.60.270 Ancillary receiverships. (1) A receiver appointed in any action pending in the courts of this state, without first seeking approval of the court, may apply to any court outside of this state for appointment as receiver with respect to any property or business of the person over whose property the receiver is appointed constituting estate property

which is located in any other jurisdiction, if the appointment is necessary to the receiver's possession, control, management, or disposition of property in accordance with orders of the court.

(2) A receiver appointed by a court of another state, or by a federal court in any district outside of this state, or any other person having an interest in that proceeding, may obtain appointment by a superior court of this state of that same receiver with respect to any property or business of the person over whose property the receiver is appointed constituting property of the foreign receivership that is located in this jurisdiction, if the person is eligible under RCW 7.60.035 to serve as receiver, and if the appointment is necessary to the receiver's possession, control, or disposition of the property in accordance with orders of the court in the foreign proceeding. The superior court upon the receiver's request shall enter the orders, not offensive to the laws and public policy of this state, necessary to effectuate orders entered by the court in the foreign receivership proceeding. A receiver appointed in an ancillary receivership in this state is required to comply with this chapter requiring notice to creditors or other parties in interest only as may be required by the superior court in the ancillary receivership. [2004 c 165 § 29.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.60.280 Resignation or removal of receiver. (1) The court shall remove or replace the receiver on application of the person over whose property the receiver is appointed, the receiver, or any creditor, or on the court's own motion, if the receiver fails to execute and file the bond required by RCW 7.60.045, or if the receiver resigns or refuses or fails to serve for any reason, or for other good cause.

(2) Upon removal, resignation, or death of the receiver, the court shall appoint a successor receiver if the court determines that further administration of the estate is required. Upon executing and filing a bond under RCW 7.60.045, the successor receiver shall immediately take possession of the estate and assume the duties of receiver.

(3) Whenever the court is satisfied that the receiver so removed or replaced has fully accounted for and turned over to the successor receiver appointed by the court all of the property of the estate and has filed a report of all receipts and disbursements during the person's tenure as receiver, the court shall enter an order discharging that person from all further duties and responsibilities as receiver after notice and a hearing. [2004 c 165 § 30.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.60.290 Termination of receivership. (1) Upon distribution or disposition of all property of the estate, or the completion of the receiver's duties with respect to estate property, the receiver shall move the court to be discharged upon notice and a hearing.

(2) The receiver's final report and accounting setting forth all receipts and disbursements of the estate shall be annexed to the petition for discharge and filed with the court.

(3) Upon approval of the final report, the court shall discharge the receiver.

(4) The receiver's discharge releases the receiver from any further duties and responsibilities as receiver under this chapter.

(5) Upon motion of any party in interest, or upon the court's own motion, the court has the power to discharge the receiver and terminate the court's administration of the property over which the receiver was appointed. If the court determines that the appointment of the receiver was wrongfully procured or procured in bad faith, the court may assess against the person who procured the receiver's appointment (a) all of the receiver's fees and other costs of the receivership and (b) any other sanctions the court determines to be appropriate. [2004 c 165 § 31.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

7.60.300 Applicability. This chapter applies to receivers and receiverships otherwise provided for by the laws of this state except as otherwise expressly provided for by statute or as necessary to give effect to the laws of this state. This chapter does not apply to any proceeding authorized by or commenced under Title 48 RCW. [2004 c 165 § 32.]

Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165: See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

Chapter 7.64 RCW
REPLEVIN

Sections

7.64.010 Plaintiff may claim and obtain immediate delivery. The plaintiff in an action to recover the possession of personal property may claim and obtain the immediate delivery of such property, after a hearing, as provided in this chapter.

The remedies provided under this chapter are in addition to any other remedy available to the plaintiff, including a secured creditor's right of self-help repossession. [1990 c 227 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 132 § 1; Code 1881 § 142; 1877 p 30 § 142; 1869 p 35 § 140; 1854 p 150 § 100; RRS § 707.]

7.64.020 Application for delivery—Order to show cause—Petition—Hearing. (1) At the time of filing the complaint or any time thereafter, the plaintiff may apply to the judge or court commissioner to issue an order directing the defendant to appear and show cause why an order putting the plaintiff in immediate possession of the personal property should not be issued.

(2) In support of the application, the plaintiff, or someone on the plaintiff's behalf, shall make an affidavit, or a declaration as permitted under chapter 5.50 RCW, showing:

(a) That the plaintiff is the owner of the property or is lawfully entitled to the possession of the property by virtue of a special property interest, including a security interest, specifically describing the property and interest;

(b) That the property is wrongfully detained by defendant;

(c) That the property has not been taken for a tax, assessment, or fine pursuant to a statute and has not been seized under an execution or attachment against the property of the plaintiff, or if so seized, that it is by law exempt from such seizure; and

(d) The approximate value of the property.

(3) The order to show cause shall state the date, time, and place of the hearing and contain a notice to the defendant that failure to promptly turn over possession of the property to the plaintiff or the sheriff, if an order awarding possession is issued under RCW 7.64.035(1), may subject the defendant to being held in contempt of court.

(4) A certified copy of the order to show cause, with a copy of the plaintiff's affidavit or declaration attached, shall be served upon the defendant no later than five days before the hearing date. [2019 c 232 § 7; 2004 c 74 § 1; 1990 c 227 § 2; 1979 ex.s. c 132 § 2; Code 1881 § 143; 1877 p 30 § 143; 1869 p 35 § 141; 1854 p 150 § 101; RRS § 708.]

7.64.035 Order awarding possession of property to plaintiff—Bond by plaintiff—Final judgment. (1) At the hearing on the order to show cause, the judge or court commissioner may issue an order awarding possession of the property to the plaintiff and directing the sheriff to put the plaintiff in possession of the property:

(a)(i) If the plaintiff establishes the right to obtain possession of the property pending final disposition, or (ii) if the defendant, after being served with the order to show cause, fails to appear at the hearing; and

(b) If the plaintiff executes to the defendant and files in the court a bond in such sum as the court may order, with sufficient surety to be approved by the clerk, conditioned that the plaintiff will prosecute the action without delay and that if the order is wrongfully sued out, the plaintiff will pay all costs that may be adjudged to the defendant and all damages, court costs, reasonable attorneys' fees, and costs of recovery that the defendant may incur by reason of the order having been issued. However, the court may waive the bond if the plaintiff has properly served the defendant in accordance with RCW 7.64.020(4) and the defendant either fails to attend the hearing on the order to show cause or appears at the hearing on the order to show cause but does not object to entry of the order awarding possession. If the court waives the bond, the court shall establish the amount of bond that would have been required and that amount shall be considered the amount filed by the plaintiff for the purpose of determining the value of the redelivery bond under RCW 7.64.050(3).

(2) An order awarding possession shall: (a) State that a show cause hearing was held; (b) describe the property and its location; (c) direct the sheriff to take possession of the property and put the plaintiff in possession as provided in this chapter; (d) contain a notice to the defendant that failure to turn over possession of the property to the sheriff may subject the defendant to being held in contempt of court upon application to the court by the plaintiff without further notice; (e) if deemed necessary, direct the sheriff to break and enter a building or enclosure to obtain possession of the property if it is concealed in the building or enclosure; and (f) be signed by the judge or commissioner.

(3) If at the time of the hearing more than twenty days have elapsed since service of the summons and complaint and the defendant does not raise an issue of fact prior to or at the hearing that requires a trial on the issue of possession or damages, the judge or court commissioner may also, in addition to entering an order awarding possession, enter a final judgment awarding plaintiff possession of the property or its value if possession cannot be obtained, damages, court costs, reasonable attorneys' fees, and costs of recovery.

(4) When any of the property is located in a county other than the county in which the action was commenced, the sheriff directed to take possession of the property by the order awarding possession, or the sheriff of the county where the property is found, may execute the order awarding possession and take possession of the property in any county of the state where the property is found. For the purpose of following the property, duplicate orders awarding possession may be issued, if necessary, and served as the original. [2004 c 74 § 2; 1990 c 227 § 3; 1979 ex.s. c 132 § 5.]

7.64.045 Plaintiff's duties upon issuance of order awarding possession of property. After issuance of the order awarding possession, the plaintiff shall deliver a copy of the bond, unless waived by the court under RCW 7.64.035(1)(b), and a certified copy of the order awarding possession to the sheriff of the county where the property is located and shall provide the sheriff with all available information as to the location and identity of the defendant and the property claimed. If the property is returned to the plaintiff by the defendant or if the plaintiff otherwise obtains possession of the property, the plaintiff shall notify the sheriff of this fact as soon as possible. [2004 c 74 § 3; 1990 c 227 § 4; 1979 ex.s. c 132 § 6.]

7.64.047 Sheriff to take possession of property. (1) After receiving an order awarding possession, the sheriff shall take possession of the property. If the property or any part of it is concealed in a building or enclosure, the sheriff shall publicly demand delivery of the property. If the property is not delivered and if the order awarding possession so directs, the sheriff shall cause the building or enclosure to be broken open and take possession of the property.

(2) At the time of taking possession of the property, the sheriff shall serve copies of the bond and the order awarding possession on the defendant or, if someone other than the defendant is in possession of the property, shall serve the copies on that person. If the copies of the bond and the order are not served on the defendant at the time of taking possession, the sheriff shall, within a reasonable time after taking possession, give notice to the defendant either by serving copies of the bond and order on the defendant in the same manner as a summons in a civil action or by causing the copies to be mailed to the defendant by both regular mail and certified mail, return receipt requested.

(3) As soon as possible after taking possession of the property and after receiving lawful fees for taking possession

and necessary expenses for keeping the property, the sheriff shall release the property to the plaintiff, unless before the release the defendant has, as provided in RCW 7.64.050, given a redelivery bond to the sheriff or filed a redelivery bond with the court and notified the sheriff of that fact. [1990 c 227 § 5.]

7.64.050 Redelivery bond. (1) At the hearing on the order to show cause or at any time before the sheriff takes possession of the property, the defendant may post a redelivery bond and retain possession of the property pending final judgment in the action for possession. At any time after the sheriff takes possession and before release of the property to the plaintiff as provided in RCW 7.64.047, the defendant may require the sheriff to return the property by posting a redelivery bond.

(2) A redelivery bond may be given to the sheriff or filed with the court. If the bond is filed with the court after a certified copy of the order awarding possession has been issued to the sheriff, the defendant shall give notice of the filing to the sheriff.

(3) The redelivery bond shall be executed by one or more sufficient sureties to the effect that they are bound in an amount equal to the value of the bond filed by the plaintiff, conditioned that the defendant will deliver the property to the plaintiff if judgment is entered for the plaintiff in the action for possession and will pay any sum recovered by the plaintiff in that action.

(4) The defendant's sureties, upon a notice to the plaintiff or the plaintiff's attorney, of not less than two, nor more than six days, shall justify as provided by law; upon such justification, the sheriff shall release the property to the defendant. The sheriff shall be responsible for the defendant's sureties until they justify, or until justification is completed or expressly waived, and may retain the property until that time; but if they, or others in their place, fail to justify at the time and place appointed, the sheriff shall release the property to the plaintiff. [1990 c 227 § 6; 1979 ex.s. c 132 § 3; Code 1881 § 146; 1877 p 31 § 146; 1869 p 36 § 144; 1854 p 151 § 104; RRS § 711.]

7.64.070 Qualification and justification of sureties. The qualification of sureties and their justification shall be as prescribed by law. [1957 c 51 § 17; Code 1881 § 148; 1877 p 31 § 148; 1869 p 37 § 146; 1854 p 151 § 106; RRS § 713.]

Corporate surety—Insurance: Chapter 48.28 RCW.

7.64.100 Claim by third party. If the property taken by the sheriff is claimed by any person other than the defendant or the defendant's agent, the claimant may assert the claim by intervening in the plaintiff's action for possession. [1990 c 227 § 7; 1979 ex.s. c 132 § 4; Code 1881 § 151; 1877 p 32 § 151; 1869 p 37 § 149; 1854 p 151 § 109; RRS § 716.]

7.64.110 Return of proceedings by sheriff. The sheriff shall file a return of proceedings with the clerk of the court in which the action is pending within twenty days after taking possession of the property. [1990 c 227 § 8; 1891 c 34 § 1; Code 1881 § 152; 1877 p 32 § 152; 1869 p 38 § 150; 1854 p 152 § 110; RRS § 717.]

7.64.115 Execution of final judgment. To the extent the final judgment entered at a show cause hearing or at any other time is not satisfied by proceedings under an order awarding possession issued at the show cause hearing, the judgment shall be executed in the same manner as any other judgment. [1990 c 227 § 9.]

Chapter 7.68 RCW
VICTIMS OF CRIMES—COMPENSATION, ASSISTANCE

Sections

Domestic violence, official response: Chapter 10.99 RCW.

Victims of sexual assault, programs and plans in aid of: Chapter 70.125 RCW.

7.68.015 Program to be operated within conditions and limitations. The department of labor and industries shall operate the crime victims' compensation program within the appropriations and the conditions and limitations on the appropriations provided for this program. [1989 1st ex.s. c 5 § 1.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.68.020 Definitions. The following words and phrases as used in this chapter have the meanings set forth in this section unless the context otherwise requires.

(1) "Accredited school" means a school or course of instruction which is:

(a) Approved by the state superintendent of public instruction, the state board of education, or the state board for community and technical colleges; or

(b) Regulated or licensed as to course content by any agency of the state or under any occupational licensing act of the state, or recognized by the apprenticeship council under an agreement registered with the apprenticeship council pursuant to chapter 49.04 RCW.

(2) "Average monthly wage" means the average annual wage as determined under RCW 50.04.355 as now or hereafter amended divided by twelve.

(3) "Beneficiary" means a husband, wife, registered domestic partner, or child of a victim in whom shall vest a right to receive payment under this chapter, except that a husband or wife of an injured victim, living separate and apart in a state of abandonment, regardless of the party responsible therefor, for more than one year at the time of the injury or subsequently, shall not be a beneficiary. A spouse who has lived separate and apart from the other spouse for the period of two years and who has not, during that time, received or attempted by process of law to collect funds for maintenance, shall be deemed living in a state of abandonment.

(4) "Child" means every natural born child, posthumous child, stepchild, child legally adopted prior to the injury, child born after the injury where conception occurred prior to the injury, and dependent child in the legal custody and control of the victim, all while under the age of eighteen years, or under the age of twenty-three years while permanently enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited school, and over the age of eighteen years if the child is a dependent as a result of a disability.

(5) "Consumer price index" means the consumer price index compiled by the bureau of labor statistics, United States department of labor for the state of Washington. If the bureau of labor statistics develops more than one consumer price index for areas within the state, the index covering the greatest number of people, covering areas exclusively within the boundaries of the state, and including all items must be used.

(6) "Criminal act" means an act committed or attempted in this state which is: (a) Punishable as a federal offense that is comparable to a felony or gross misdemeanor in this state; (b) punishable as a felony or gross misdemeanor under the laws of this state; (c) an act committed outside the state of Washington against a resident of the state of Washington which would be compensable had it occurred inside this state and the crime occurred in a state which does not have a crime victims' compensation program, for which the victim is eligible as set forth in the Washington compensation law; or (d) trafficking as defined in RCW 9A.40.100. A "criminal act" does not include the following:

(i) The operation of a motor vehicle, motorcycle, train, boat, or aircraft in violation of law unless:

(A) The injury or death was intentionally inflicted;

(B) The operation thereof was part of the commission of another nonvehicular criminal act as defined in this section;

(C) The death or injury was the result of the operation of a motor vehicle after July 24, 1983, and one of the following applies:

(I) A preponderance of the evidence establishes that the death was the result of vehicular homicide under RCW 46.61.520;

(II) The victim submits a copy of a certificate of probable cause filed by the prosecutor stating that a vehicular assault under RCW 46.61.522 occurred;

(III) Charges have been filed against the defendant for vehicular assault under RCW 46.61.522;

(IV) A conviction of vehicular assault under RCW 46.61.522 has been obtained; or

(V) In cases where a probable criminal defendant has died in perpetration of vehicular assault or, in cases where the perpetrator of the vehicular assault is unascertainable because he or she left the scene of the accident in violation of RCW 46.52.020 or, because of physical or mental infirmity or disability the perpetrator is incapable of standing trial for vehic-

ular assault, the department may, by a preponderance of the evidence, establish that a vehicular assault had been committed and authorize benefits;

(D) The injury or death was caused by a driver in violation of RCW 46.61.502; or

(E) The injury or death was caused by a driver in violation of RCW 46.61.655(7)(a), failure to secure a load in the first degree;

(ii) Neither an acquittal in a criminal prosecution nor the absence of any such prosecution is admissible in any claim or proceeding under this chapter as evidence of the noncriminal character of the acts giving rise to such claim or proceeding, except as provided for in (d)(i)(C) of this subsection;

(iii) Evidence of a criminal conviction arising from acts which are the basis for a claim or proceeding under this chapter is admissible in such claim or proceeding for the limited purpose of proving the criminal character of the acts; and

(iv) Acts which, but for the insanity or mental irresponsibility of the perpetrator, would constitute criminal conduct are deemed to be criminal conduct within the meaning of this chapter.

(7) "Department" means the department of labor and industries.

(8) "Financial support for lost wages" means a partial replacement of lost wages due to a temporary or permanent total disability.

(9) "Gainfully employed" means engaging on a regular and continuous basis in a lawful activity from which a person derives a livelihood.

(10) "Injury" means a sudden and tangible happening, of a traumatic nature, producing an immediate or prompt result, and occurring from without, and such physical conditions as result therefrom.

(11) "Invalid" means one who is physically or mentally incapacitated from earning wages.

(12) "Permanent total disability" means loss of both legs, or arms, or one leg and one arm, total loss of eyesight, paralysis, or other condition permanently incapacitating the victim from performing any work at any gainful occupation.

(13) "Private insurance" means any source of recompense provided by contract available as a result of the claimed injury or death at the time of such injury or death, or which becomes available any time thereafter.

(14) "Public insurance" means any source of recompense provided by statute, state or federal, available as a result of the claimed injury or death at the time of such injury or death, or which becomes available any time thereafter.

(15) "Temporary total disability" means any condition that temporarily incapacitates a victim from performing any type of gainful employment as certified by the victim's attending physician.

(16) "Victim" means a person who suffers bodily injury or death as a proximate result of a criminal act of another person, the victim's own good faith and reasonable effort to prevent a criminal act, or his or her good faith effort to apprehend a person reasonably suspected of engaging in a criminal act. For the purposes of receiving benefits pursuant to this chapter, "victim" is interchangeable with "employee" or "worker" as defined in chapter 51.08 RCW as now or hereafter amended. [2020 c 274 § 1; 2017 c 235 § 1; 2011 c 346 § 101; 2006 c 268 § 1; 2002 c 10 § 3; 2001 c 136 § 1; 1997 c 249 § 1; 1990 c 73 § 1; 1987 c 281 § 6; 1985 c 443 § 11; 1983 c 239 § 4; 1980 c 156 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 302 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 176 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 122 § 2.]

Intent—2011 c 346: "It is the intent of the legislature that eligible victims of crime who suffer bodily injury or death as a result of violent crime receive benefits under the crime victims' compensation program. To ensure benefits are provided, within funds available, to the largest number of eligible victims, it is imperative to streamline and provide flexibility in the administration of the program. Therefore, the legislature intends to simplify the administration of the benefits and services provided to victims of crime by separating the administration of the benefits and services provided to crime victims from the workers' compensation program under Title 51 RCW. These changes are intended to clarify that the limited funding available to help victims of crimes will be managed to help the largest number of crime victims as possible." [2011 c 346 § 1.]

***Reviser's note:** Sections 402 and 503 of this act were vetoed by the governor.

Findings—Purpose—2002 c 10: "(1) The legislature finds that:

(a) The trafficking in persons is a modern form of slavery, and it is the largest manifestation of slavery today;

(b) At least seven hundred thousand persons annually, primarily women and children, are trafficked within or across international borders;

(c) Approximately fifty thousand women and children are trafficked into the United States each year;

(d) Trafficking in persons is not limited to the sex industry, and includes forced labor with significant violations of labor, public health, and human rights standards worldwide;

(e) Traffickers primarily target women and girls, who are disproportionately affected by poverty, the lack of access to education, chronic unemployment, discrimination, and the lack of economic opportunities in countries of origin; and

(f) There are not adequate services and facilities to meet the needs of trafficking victims regarding health care, housing, education, and legal assistance, which safely reintegrate trafficking victims into their home countries.

(2) The legislature declares that the purpose of this act is to provide a coordinated, humane response for victims of human trafficking through a review of existing programs and clarification of existing options for such victims." [2002 c 10 § 1.]

Legislative intent—"Public or private insurance"—1980 c 156: "Sections 2 through 4 of this 1980 act are required to clarify the legislative intent concerning the phrase "public or private insurance" as used in section 13, chapter 122, Laws of 1973 1st ex. sess. and RCW 7.68.130 which was the subject of Wagner v. Labor & Indus., 92 Wn.2d 463 (1979). It has continuously been the legislative intent to include as "public insurance" both state and federal statutory social welfare and insurance schemes which make available to victims or their beneficiaries recompense as a result of the claimed injury or death, such as but not limited to old age and survivors insurance, medicare, medicaid, benefits under the veterans' benefits act, longshore and harbor workers act, industrial insurance act, law enforcement officers' and firefighters' retirement system act, Washington public employees' retirement system act, teachers' retirement system act, and firemen's relief and pension act. "Private insurance" continuously has been intended to include sources of recompense available by contract, such as but not limited to policies insuring a victim's life or disability." [1980 c 156 § 1.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.68.030 Duties of the director—General provisions—Testimony by medical providers. (1) It shall be the duty of the director to establish and administer a program of benefits to innocent victims of criminal acts within the terms and limitations of this chapter. The director may apply for and, subject to appropriation, expend federal funds under Public Law 98-473 and any other federal program providing financial assistance to state crime victim compensation programs. The federal funds shall be deposited in the state general fund and may be expended only for purposes authorized by applicable federal law.

(2) The director shall:

(a) Establish and adopt rules governing the administration of this chapter in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW;

(b) Regulate the proof of accident and extent thereof, the proof of death, and the proof of relationship and the extent of dependency;

(c) Supervise the medical, surgical, and hospital treatment to the intent that it may be in all cases efficient and up to the recognized standard of modern surgery;

(d) Issue proper receipts for moneys received and certificates for benefits accrued or accruing;

(e) Designate a medical director who is licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW;

(f) Supervise the providing of prompt and efficient care and treatment, including care provided by physician assistants governed by the provisions of chapter 18.71A RCW, acting under a supervising physician, including chiropractic care, and including care provided by licensed advanced registered nurse practitioners, to victims at the least cost consistent with promptness and efficiency, without discrimination or favoritism, and with as great uniformity as the various and diverse surrounding circumstances and locations of industries will permit and to that end shall, from time to time, establish and adopt and supervise the administration of printed forms, electronic communications, rules, regulations, and practices for the furnishing of such care and treatment. The medical coverage decisions of the department do not constitute a "rule" as used in RCW 34.05.010(16), nor are such decisions subject to the rule-making provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW except that criteria for establishing medical coverage decisions shall be adopted by rule. The department may recommend to a victim particular health care services and providers where specialized treatment is indicated or where cost-effective payment levels or rates are obtained by the department, and the department may enter into contracts for goods and services including, but not limited to, durable medical equipment so long as statewide access to quality service is maintained for injured victims;

(g) In consultation with interested persons, establish and, in his or her discretion, periodically change as may be necessary, and make available a fee schedule of the maximum charges to be made by any physician, surgeon, chiropractor, hospital, druggist, licensed advanced registered nurse practitioner, and physician assistants as defined in chapter 18.71A RCW, acting under a supervising physician or other agency or person rendering services to victims. The department shall coordinate with other state purchasers of health care services to establish as much consistency and uniformity in billing and coding practices as possible, taking into account the unique requirements and differences between programs. No service covered under this title, including services provided to victims, whether aliens or other victims, who are not residing in the United States at the time of receiving the services, shall be charged or paid at a rate or rates exceeding those specified in such fee schedule, and no contract providing for greater fees shall be valid as to the excess. The establishment of such a schedule, exclusive of conversion factors, does not constitute "agency action" as used in RCW 34.05.010(3), nor does such a fee schedule constitute a "rule" as used in RCW 34.05.010(16). Payments for providers' services under the fee schedule established pursuant to this subsection (2) may not be less than payments provided for comparable services under the workers' compensation program under Title 51 RCW, provided:

(i) If the department, using caseload estimates, projects a deficit in funding for the program by July 15th for the following fiscal year, the director shall notify the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature and request funding sufficient to continue payments to not less than payments provided for comparable services under the workers' compensation program. If sufficient funding is not provided to continue payments to not less than payments provided for comparable services under the workers' compensation program, the director shall reduce the payments under the fee schedule for the following fiscal year based on caseload estimates and available funding, except payments may not be reduced to less than seventy percent of payments for comparable services under the workers' compensation program;

(ii) If an unforeseeable catastrophic event results in insufficient funding to continue payments to not less than payments provided for comparable services under the workers' compensation program, the director shall reduce the payments under the fee schedule to not less than seventy percent of payments provided for comparable services under the workers' compensation program, provided that the reduction may not be more than necessary to fund benefits under the program; and

(iii) Once sufficient funding is provided or otherwise available, the director shall increase the payments under the fee schedule to not less than payments provided for comparable services under the workers' compensation program;

(h) Make a record of the commencement of every disability and the termination thereof and, when bills are rendered for the care and treatment of injured victims, shall approve and pay those which conform to the adopted rules, regulations, established fee schedules, and practices of the director and may reject any bill or item thereof incurred in violation of the principles laid down in this section or the rules, regulations, or the established fee schedules and rules and regulations adopted under it.

(3) The director and his or her authorized assistants:

(a) Have power to issue subpoenas to enforce the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production and examination of books, papers, photographs, tapes, and records before the department in connection with any claim made to the department or any billing submitted to the department. The superior court has the power to enforce any such subpoena by proper proceedings;

(b)(i) May apply for and obtain a superior court order approving and authorizing a subpoena in advance of its issuance. The application may be made in the county where the subpoenaed person resides or is found, or the county where the subpoenaed records or documents are located, or in Thurston county. The application must (A) state that an order is sought pursuant to this subsection; (B) adequately specify the records, documents, or testimony; and (C) declare under oath that an investigation is being conducted for a lawfully authorized purpose related to an investigation within the department's authority and that the subpoenaed documents or testimony are reasonably related to an investigation within the department's authority.

(ii) Where the application under this subsection (3)(b) is made to the satisfaction of the court, the court must issue an order approving the subpoena. An order under this subsection

constitutes authority of law for the agency to subpoena the records or testimony.

(iii) The director and his or her authorized assistants may seek approval and a court may issue an order under this subsection without prior notice to any person, including the person to whom the subpoena is directed and the person who is the subject of an investigation.

(4) In all hearings, actions, or proceedings before the department, any physician or licensed advanced registered nurse practitioner having theretofore examined or treated the claimant may be required to testify fully regarding such examination or treatment, and shall not be exempt from so testifying by reason of the relation of the physician or licensed advanced registered nurse practitioner to the patient. [2020 c 80 § 12; 2017 c 235 § 2; 2011 c 346 § 206; 2009 c 479 § 7; 1989 1st ex.s. c 5 § 2; 1985 c 443 § 12; 1973 1st ex.s. c 122 § 3.]

Effective date—2021 c 143; 2021 c 4; 2020 c 80 §§ 12-57 and 59: "Sections 12 through 57 and 59 of this act take effect July 1, 2022." [2021 c 143 § 5; 2021 c 4 § 6; 2020 c 80 § 62.]

Intent—2020 c 80: See note following RCW 18.71A.010.

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.68.031 Sending notices, orders, payments to claimants. On all claims under this chapter, claimants' written or electronic notices, orders, or payments must be forwarded directly to the claimant until such time as there has been entered an order on the claim appealable to the board of industrial insurance appeals. Claimants' written or electronic notices, orders, or payments may be forwarded to the claimant in care of a representative before an order has been entered if the claimant sets forth in writing the name and address of the representative to whom the claimant desires this information to be forwarded. [2017 c 235 § 3; 2013 c 125 § 1; 2011 c 346 § 201.]

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

7.68.032 Transmission of amounts payable. The department may, at any time, on receipt of written or electronic authorization, transmit amounts payable to a claimant or to the account of such person in a bank or other financial institution regulated by state or federal authority. [2011 c 346 § 202.]

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

7.68.033 Protection of payments—Payment after death—Time limitations for filing—Confinement in institution. (1) Except as provided in RCW 43.20B.720, 72.09.111, 74.20A.260, and 51.32.380, no money paid or payable under this chapter shall, before the issuance and delivery of the payment, or disbursement of electronic funds or electronic payment, be assigned, charged, or taken in execution, attached, garnished, or pass or be paid to any other person by operation of law, any form of voluntary assignment, or power of attorney. Any such assignment or charge is void unless the transfer is to a financial institution at the request of a victim or other beneficiary and made in accordance with RCW 7.68.034.

(2)(a) If any victim suffers an injury and dies from it before he or she receives payment of any monthly installment covering financial support for lost wages for any period of time before his or her death, the amount of the monthly payment shall be paid to the surviving spouse or the child or children if there is no surviving spouse. If there is no surviving spouse and no child or children, the amount of the monthly payment shall be paid by the department and distributed consistent with the terms of the decedent's will or, if the decedent dies intestate, consistent with the terms of RCW 11.04.015.

(b) Any application for compensation under this subsection (2) shall be filed with the department within one year of the date of death. The department may satisfy its responsibilities under this subsection (2) by sending any payment due in the name of the decedent and to the last known address of the decedent.

(3) Any victim or beneficiary receiving benefits under this chapter who is subsequently confined in, or who subsequently becomes eligible for benefits under this chapter while confined in, any institution under conviction and sentence shall have all payments of the compensation canceled during the period of confinement. After discharge from the institution, payment of benefits due afterward shall be paid if the victim or beneficiary would, except for the provisions of this subsection (3), otherwise be eligible for them. [2013 c 125 § 2; 2011 c 346 § 203.]

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

7.68.034 Direct deposit or electronic payment of benefits. Any victim or other recipient of benefits under this chapter may elect to have any payments due paid by debit card or other electronic means or transferred to such person's account in a financial institution for either: (1) Credit to the recipient's account in such financial institution; or (2) immediate transfer therefrom to the recipient's account in any other financial institution. A single payment may be drawn in favor of such financial institution, for the total amount due the recipients involved, and written directions provided to such financial institution of the amount to be credited to the account of a recipient or to be transferred to an account in another financial institution for such recipient. The issuance and delivery by the disbursing officer of a payment in accordance with the procedure set forth in this section and proper endorsement thereof by the financial institution shall have the same legal effect as payment directly to the recipient.

For the purposes of this section, "financial institution" shall have the meaning given in RCW 41.04.240 as now or hereafter amended. [2013 c 125 § 3; 2011 c 346 § 204.]

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

7.68.035 Penalty assessments in addition to fine or bail forfeiture—Distribution—Establishment of crime victim and witness programs in county—Contribution required from cities and towns. (1)(a) When any person is found guilty in any superior court of having committed a crime, except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, there shall be imposed by the court upon such convicted per-

son a penalty assessment. The assessment shall be in addition to any other penalty or fine imposed by law and shall be five hundred dollars for each case or cause of action that includes one or more convictions of a felony or gross misdemeanor and two hundred fifty dollars for any case or cause of action that includes convictions of only one or more misdemeanors.

(b) When any juvenile is adjudicated of an offense that is a most serious offense as defined in RCW 9.94A.030, or a sex offense under chapter 9A.44 RCW, there shall be imposed upon the juvenile offender a penalty assessment. The assessment shall be in addition to any other penalty or fine imposed by law and shall be one hundred dollars for each case or cause of action.

(c) When any juvenile is adjudicated of an offense which has a victim, and which is not a most serious offense as defined in RCW 9.94A.030 or a sex offense under chapter 9A.44 RCW, the court shall order up to seven hours of community restitution, unless the court finds that such an order is not practicable for the offender. This community restitution must be imposed consecutively to any other community restitution the court imposes for the offense.

(2) The assessment imposed by subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to motor vehicle crimes defined in Title 46 RCW except those defined in the following sections: RCW 46.61.520, 46.61.522, 46.61.024, 46.52.090, 46.70.140, 46.61.502, 46.61.504, 46.52.101, 46.20.410, 46.52.020, 46.10.495, 46.09.480, 46.61.5249, 46.61.525, 46.61.685, 46.61.530, 46.61.500, 46.61.015, 46.52.010, 46.44.180, 46.10.490(2), and 46.09.470(2).

(3) When any person accused of having committed a crime posts bail in superior court pursuant to the provisions of chapter 10.19 RCW and such bail is forfeited, there shall be deducted from the proceeds of such forfeited bail a penalty assessment, in addition to any other penalty or fine imposed by law, equal to the assessment which would be applicable under subsection (1) of this section if the person had been convicted of the crime.

(4) Such penalty assessments shall be paid by the clerk of the superior court to the county treasurer. Each county shall deposit one hundred percent of the money it receives per case or cause of action under subsection (1) of this section, not less than one and seventy-five one-hundredths percent of the remaining money it retains under RCW 10.82.070 and the money it retains under chapter 3.62 RCW, and all money it receives under subsection (7) of this section into a fund maintained exclusively for the support of comprehensive programs to encourage and facilitate testimony by the victims of crimes and witnesses to crimes. A program shall be considered "comprehensive" only after approval of the department upon application by the county prosecuting attorney. The department shall approve as comprehensive only programs which:

(a) Provide comprehensive services to victims and witnesses of all types of crime with particular emphasis on serious crimes against persons and property. It is the intent of the legislature to make funds available only to programs which do not restrict services to victims or witnesses of a particular type or types of crime and that such funds supplement, not supplant, existing local funding levels;

(b) Are administered by the county prosecuting attorney either directly through the prosecuting attorney's office or by contract between the county and agencies providing services to victims of crime;

(c) Make a reasonable effort to inform the known victim or his or her surviving dependents of the existence of this chapter and the procedure for making application for benefits;

(d) Assist victims in the restitution and adjudication process; and

(e) Assist victims of violent crimes in the preparation and presentation of their claims to the department of labor and industries under this chapter.

Before a program in any county west of the Cascade mountains is submitted to the department for approval, it shall be submitted for review and comment to each city within the county with a population of more than one hundred fifty thousand. The department will consider if the county's proposed comprehensive plan meets the needs of crime victims in cases adjudicated in municipal, district or superior courts and of crime victims located within the city and county.

(5) Upon submission to the department of a letter of intent to adopt a comprehensive program, the prosecuting attorney shall retain the money deposited by the county under subsection (4) of this section until such time as the county prosecuting attorney has obtained approval of a program from the department. Approval of the comprehensive plan by the department must be obtained within one year of the date of the letter of intent to adopt a comprehensive program. The county prosecuting attorney shall not make any expenditures from the money deposited under subsection (4) of this section until approval of a comprehensive plan by the department. If a county prosecuting attorney has failed to obtain approval of a program from the department under subsection (4) of this section or failed to obtain approval of a comprehensive program within one year after submission of a letter of intent under this section, the county treasurer shall monthly transmit one hundred percent of the money deposited by the county under subsection (4) of this section to the state treasurer for deposit in the state general fund.

(6) County prosecuting attorneys are responsible to make every reasonable effort to insure that the penalty assessments of this chapter are imposed and collected.

(7) Every city and town shall transmit monthly one and seventy-five one-hundredths percent of all money, other than money received for parking infractions, retained under RCW 3.50.100 and 35.20.220 to the county treasurer for deposit as provided in subsection (4) of this section. [2018 c 269 § 19; 2015 c 265 § 8; 2011 c 336 § 246; 2011 c 171 § 3; 2009 c 479 § 8; 2000 c 71 § 3; 1999 c 86 § 1; 1997 c 66 § 9; 1996 c 122 § 2; 1991 c 293 § 1; 1989 c 252 § 29; 1987 c 281 § 1; 1985 c 443 § 13; 1984 c 258 § 311; 1983 c 239 § 1; 1982 1st ex.s. c 8 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 302 § 10.]

Construction—2018 c 269: See note following RCW 10.82.090.

Finding—Intent—2015 c 265: See note following RCW 13.50.010.

Intent—Effective date—2011 c 171: See notes following RCW 4.24.210.

Findings—Intent—1996 c 122: "The legislature finds that current funding for county victim-witness advocacy programs is inadequate. Also, the state crime victims compensation program should be enhanced to provide for increased benefits to families of victims who are killed as a result of a criminal act. It is the intent of the legislature to provide increased financial support for the county and state crime victim and witness programs by

requiring offenders to pay increased penalty assessments upon conviction of a gross misdemeanor or felony crime. The increased financial support is intended to allow county victim/witness programs to more fully assist victims and witnesses through the criminal justice processes. On the state level, the increased funds will allow the remedial intent of the crime victims compensation program to be more fully served. Specifically, the increased funds from offender penalty assessments will allow more appropriate compensation for families of victims who are killed as a result of a criminal act, including reasonable burial benefits." [1996 c 122 § 1.]

Purpose—Prospective application—Effective dates—Severability—1989 c 252: See notes following RCW 9.94A.030.

Intent—1984 c 258: See note following RCW 3.34.130.

Intent—Reports—1982 1st ex.s. c 8: "The intent of the legislature is that the victim of crime program will be self-funded. Toward that end, the department of labor and industries shall not pay benefits beyond the resources of the account. The department of labor and industries and the administrator for the courts shall cooperatively prepare a report on the collection of penalty assessments and the level of expenditures, and recommend adjustments to the revenue collection mechanism to the legislature before January 1, 1983. It is further the intent of the legislature that the percentage of funds devoted to comprehensive programs for victim assistance, as provided in RCW 7.68.035, be reexamined to ensure that it does not unreasonably conflict with the higher priority of compensating victims. To that end, the county prosecuting attorneys shall report to the legislature no later than January 1, 1984, either individually or as a group, on their experience and costs associated with such programs, describing the nature and extent of the victim assistance provided." [1982 1st ex.s. c 8 § 10.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.68.045 Crime victims' compensation account—Created. The crime victims' compensation account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. Expenditures from the account may be used only for the crime victims' compensation program under this chapter. Only the director of the department or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures. [2010 c 122 § 3.]

7.68.050 Right of action for damages—Election—Effect of election or recovery—Lien of state. (1) No right of action at law for damages incurred as a consequence of a criminal act shall be lost as a consequence of being entitled to benefits under the provisions of this chapter. The victim or his or her beneficiary may elect to seek damages from the person or persons liable for the claimed injury or death, and such victim or beneficiary is entitled to the full compensation and benefits provided by this chapter regardless of any election or recovery made pursuant to this section.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the rights, privileges, responsibilities, duties, limitations, and procedures contained in subsections (3) through (25) of this section apply.

(3)(a) If a third person is or may become liable to pay damages on account of a victim's injury for which benefits and compensation are provided under this chapter, the injured victim or beneficiary may elect to seek damages from the third person.

(b) In every action brought under this section, the plaintiff shall give notice to the department when the action is filed. The department may file a notice of statutory interest in recovery. When such notice has been filed by the department, the parties shall thereafter serve copies of all notices, motions, pleadings, and other process on the department. The department may then intervene as a party in the action to protect its statutory interest in recovery.

(c) For the purposes of this subsection, "injury" includes any physical or mental condition, disease, ailment, or loss, including death, for which compensation and benefits are paid or payable under this chapter.

(d) For the purposes of this chapter, "recovery" includes all damages and insurance benefits, including life insurance, paid in connection with the victim's injuries or death.

(4) An election not to proceed against the third person operates as an assignment of the cause of action to the department, which may prosecute or compromise the action in its discretion in the name of the victim, beneficiary, or legal representative.

(5) If an injury to a victim results in the victim's death, the department to which the cause of action has been assigned may petition a court for the appointment of a special personal representative for the limited purpose of maintaining an action under this chapter and chapter 4.20 RCW.

(6) If a beneficiary is a minor child, an election not to proceed against a third person on such beneficiary's cause of action may be exercised by the beneficiary's legal custodian or guardian.

(7) Any recovery made by the department shall be distributed as follows:

(a) The department shall be paid the expenses incurred in making the recovery including reasonable costs of legal services;

(b) The victim or beneficiary shall be paid twenty-five percent of the balance of the recovery made, which shall not be subject to subsection (8) of this section, except that in the event of a compromise and settlement by the parties, the victim or beneficiary may agree to a sum less than twenty-five percent;

(c) The department shall be paid the amount paid to or on behalf of the victim or beneficiary by the department; and

(d) The victim or beneficiary shall be paid any remaining balance.

(8) Thereafter no payment shall be made to or on behalf of a victim or beneficiary by the department for such injury until any further amount payable shall equal any such remaining balance. Thereafter, such benefits shall be paid by the department to or on behalf of the victim or beneficiary as though no recovery had been made from a third person.

(9) If the victim or beneficiary elects to seek damages from the third person, any recovery made shall be distributed as follows:

(a) The costs and reasonable attorneys' fees shall be paid proportionately by the victim or beneficiary and the department. The department may require court approval of costs and attorneys' fees or may petition a court for determination of the reasonableness of costs and attorneys' fees;

(b) The victim or beneficiary shall be paid twenty-five percent of the balance of the award, except that in the event of a compromise and settlement by the parties, the victim or beneficiary may agree to a sum less than twenty-five percent;

(c) The department shall be paid the balance of the recovery made, but only to the extent necessary to reimburse the department for the amount paid;

(i) The department shall bear its proportionate share of the costs and reasonable attorneys' fees incurred by the victim or beneficiary to the extent of the benefits paid under this title. The department's proportionate share shall not exceed

one hundred percent of the costs and reasonable attorneys' fees;

(ii) The department's proportionate share of the costs and reasonable attorneys' fees shall be determined by dividing the gross recovery amount into the benefits paid amount and multiplying this percentage times the costs and reasonable attorneys' fees incurred by the victim or beneficiary;

(iii) The department's reimbursement share shall be determined by subtracting their proportionate share of the costs and reasonable attorneys' fees from the benefits paid amount;

(d) Any remaining balance shall be paid to the victim or beneficiary; and

(e) Thereafter no payment shall be made to or on behalf of a victim or beneficiary by the department for such injury until the amount of any further amount payable shall equal any such remaining balance minus the department's proportionate share of the costs and reasonable attorneys' fees in regards to the remaining balance. This proportionate share shall be determined by dividing the gross recovery amount into the remaining balance amount and multiplying this percentage times the costs and reasonable attorneys' fees incurred by the victim or beneficiary. Thereafter, such benefits shall be paid by the department to or on behalf of the victim or beneficiary as though no recovery had been made from a third person.

(10) The recovery made shall be subject to a lien by the department for its share under this section. Notwithstanding RCW 48.18.410, a recovery made from life insurance shall be subject to a lien by the department.

(11) The department has sole discretion to compromise the amount of its lien. In deciding whether or to what extent to compromise its lien, the department shall consider at least the following:

(a) The likelihood of collection of the award or settlement as may be affected by insurance coverage, solvency, or other factors relating to the third person;

(b) Factual and legal issues of liability as between the victim or beneficiary and the third person. Such issues include but are not limited to possible contributory negligence and novel theories of liability; and

(c) Problems of proof faced in obtaining the award or settlement.

(12) It shall be the duty of the person to whom any recovery is paid before distribution under this section to advise the department of the fact and amount of such recovery, the costs and reasonable attorneys' fees associated with the recovery, and to distribute the recovery in compliance with this section.

(13) The distribution of any recovery made by award or settlement of the third party action shall be confirmed by department order, served by electronic, registered or certified mail, and shall be subject to chapter 51.52 RCW. In the event the order of distribution becomes final under chapter 51.52 RCW, the director or the director's designee may file with the clerk of any county within the state a warrant in the amount of the sum representing the unpaid lien plus interest accruing from the date the order became final. The clerk of the county in which the warrant is filed shall immediately designate a superior court cause number for such warrant and the clerk shall cause to be entered in the judgment docket under the superior court cause number assigned to the warrant, the name of such victim or beneficiary mentioned in the warrant, the amount of the unpaid lien plus interest accrued and the date when the warrant was filed. The amount of such warrant as docketed shall become a lien upon the title to and interest in all real and personal property of the victim or beneficiary against whom the warrant is issued, the same as a judgment in a civil case docketed in the office of such clerk. The sheriff shall then proceed in the same manner and with like effect as prescribed by law with respect to execution or other process issued against rights or property upon judgment in the superior court. Such warrant so docketed shall be sufficient to support the issuance of writs of garnishment in favor of the department in the manner provided by law in the case of judgment, wholly or partially unsatisfied. The clerk of the court shall be entitled to a filing fee under RCW 36.18.012(10), which shall be added to the amount of the warrant. A copy of such warrant shall be mailed to the victim or beneficiary within three days of filing with the clerk.

(14) The director, or the director's designee, may issue to any person, firm, corporation, municipal corporation, political subdivision of the state, public corporation, or agency of the state, a notice and order to withhold and deliver property of any kind if he or she has reason to believe that there is in the possession of such person, firm, corporation, municipal corporation, political subdivision of the state, public corporation, or agency of the state, property which is due, owing, or belonging to any victim or beneficiary upon whom a warrant has been served by the department for payments due to the crime victims' compensation program. The notice and order to withhold and deliver shall be served by the sheriff of the county or by the sheriff's deputy; by certified mail, return receipt requested; or by any authorized representatives of the director. Any person, firm, corporation, municipal corporation, political subdivision of the state, public corporation, or agency of the state upon whom service has been made shall answer the notice within twenty days exclusive of the day of service, under oath and in writing, and shall make true answers to the matters inquired of in the notice and order to withhold and deliver. In the event there is in the possession of the party named and served with such notice and order, any property which may be subject to the claim of the department, such property shall be delivered forthwith to the director or the director's authorized representative upon demand. If the party served and named in the notice and order fails to answer the notice and order within the time prescribed in this section, the court may, after the time to answer such order has expired, render judgment by default against the party named in the notice for the full amount claimed by the director in the notice together with costs. In the event that a notice to withhold and deliver is served upon an employer and the property found to be subject thereto is wages, the employer may assert in the answer to all exemptions provided for by chapter 6.27 RCW to which the wage earner may be entitled.

(15) The department may require the victim or beneficiary to exercise the right of election under this chapter by serving a written demand by electronic mail, registered mail, certified mail, or personal service on the victim or beneficiary.

(16) Unless an election is made within sixty days of the receipt of the demand, and unless an action is instituted or settled within the time granted by the department, the victim

or beneficiary is deemed to have assigned the action to the department. The department shall allow the victim or beneficiary at least ninety days from the election to institute or settle the action. When a beneficiary is a minor child the demand shall be served upon the legal custodian or guardian of such beneficiary.

(17) If an action which has been filed is not diligently prosecuted, the department may petition the court in which the action is pending for an order assigning the cause of action to the department. Upon a sufficient showing of a lack of diligent prosecution the court in its discretion may issue the order.

(18) If the department has taken an assignment of the third party cause of action under subsection (16) of this section, the victim or beneficiary may, at the discretion of the department, exercise a right of reelection and assume the cause of action subject to reimbursement of litigation expenses incurred by the department.

(19) If the victim or beneficiary elects to seek damages from the third person, notice of the election must be given to the department. The notice shall be by registered mail, certified mail, or personal service. If an action is filed by the victim or beneficiary, a copy of the complaint must be sent by registered mail to the department.

(20) A return showing service of the notice on the department shall be filed with the court but shall not be part of the record except as necessary to give notice to the defendant of the lien imposed by subsection (10) of this section.

(21) Any compromise or settlement of the third party cause of action by the victim or beneficiary which results in less than the entitlement under this title is void unless made with the written approval of the department. For the purposes of this chapter, "entitlement" means benefits and compensation paid and estimated by the department to be paid in the future.

(22) If a compromise or settlement is void because of subsection (21) of this section, the department may petition the court in which the action was filed for an order assigning the cause of action to the department. If an action has not been filed, the department may proceed as provided in chapter 7.24 RCW.

(23) The fact that the victim or beneficiary is entitled to compensation under this title shall not be pleaded or admissible in evidence in any third-party action under this chapter. Any challenge of the right to bring such action shall be made by supplemental pleadings only and shall be decided by the court as a matter of law.

(24) Actions against third persons that are assigned by the claimant to the department, voluntarily or by operation of law in accordance with this chapter, may be prosecuted by special assistant attorneys general.

(25) The attorney general shall select special assistant attorneys general from a list compiled by the department and the Washington state bar association. The attorney general, in conjunction with the department and the Washington state bar association, shall adopt rules and regulations outlining the criteria and the procedure by which private attorneys may have their names placed on the list of attorneys available for appointment as special assistant attorneys general to litigate third-party actions under subsection (24) of this section.

(26) The 1980 amendments to this section apply only to injuries which occur on or after April 1, 1980. [2011 c 346 § 704; 2011 c 336 § 247; 1998 c 91 § 1; 1980 c 156 § 3; 1977 ex.s. c 302 § 3; 1973 1st ex.s. c 122 § 5.]

Reviser's note: This section was amended by 2011 c 336 § 247 and by 2011 c 346 § 704, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

Legislative intent—"Public or private insurance"—1980 c 156: See note following RCW 7.68.020.

7.68.060 Applications for benefits—Accrual of rights. (1) Except for applications received pursuant to subsection (6) of this section, no compensation of any kind shall be available under this chapter if:

(a) An application for benefits is not received by the department within three years after the date the criminal act was reported to a local police department or sheriff's office or the date the rights of beneficiaries accrued, unless the director has determined that "good cause" exists to expand the time permitted to receive the application. "Good cause" shall be determined by the department on a case-by-case basis and may extend the period of time in which an application can be received for up to five years after the date the criminal act was reported to a local police department or sheriff's office or the date the rights of beneficiaries accrued; or

(b) The criminal act is not reported by the victim or someone on his or her behalf to a local police department or sheriff's office within twelve months of its occurrence or, if it could not reasonably have been reported within that period, within twelve months of the time when a report could reasonably have been made. In making determinations as to reasonable time limits, the department shall give greatest weight to the needs of the victims.

(2) No person or spouse, child, or dependent of such person is eligible for benefits under this chapter when the injury for which benefits are sought was:

(a) The result of consent, provocation, or incitement by the victim, unless an injury resulting from a criminal act caused the death of the victim;

(b) Sustained while the crime victim was engaged in the attempt to commit, or the commission of, a felony; or

(c) Sustained while the victim was confined in any county or city jail, federal jail or prison or in any other federal institution, or any state correctional institution maintained and operated by the department of social and health services or the department of corrections, prior to release from lawful custody; or confined or living in any other institution maintained and operated by the department of social and health services or the department of corrections.

(3) No person or spouse, child, or dependent of such person is eligible for benefits under this chapter where the person making a claim for such benefits has refused to give reasonable cooperation to state or local law enforcement agencies in their efforts to apprehend and convict the perpetrator of the criminal act which gave rise to the claim.

(4) A victim is not eligible for benefits under this chapter if the victim:

(a) Has been convicted of a felony offense within five years preceding the criminal act for which the victim is

applying where the felony offense is a violent offense under RCW 9.94A.030 or a crime against persons under RCW 9.94A.411, or is convicted of such a felony offense after the criminal act for which the victim is applying; and

(b) Has not completely satisfied all legal financial obligations owed.

(5) Because victims of childhood criminal acts may repress conscious memory of such criminal acts far beyond the age of eighteen, the rights of adult victims of childhood criminal acts shall accrue at the time the victim discovers or reasonably should have discovered the elements of the crime. In making determinations as to reasonable time limits, the department shall give greatest weight to the needs of the victim.

(6)(a) Benefits under this chapter are available to any victim of a person against whom the state initiates proceedings under chapter 71.09 RCW. The right created under this subsection shall accrue when the victim is notified of proceedings under chapter 71.09 RCW or the victim is interviewed, deposed, or testifies as a witness in connection with the proceedings. An application for benefits under this subsection must be received by the department within two years after the date the victim's right accrued unless the director determines that good cause exists to expand the time to receive the application. The director shall determine "good cause" on a case-by-case basis and may extend the period of time in which an application can be received for up to five years after the date the right of the victim accrued. Benefits under this subsection shall be limited to compensation for costs or losses incurred on or after the date the victim's right accrues for a claim allowed under this subsection.

(b) A person identified as the "minor" in the charge of commercial sexual abuse of a minor under RCW 9.68A.100, promoting commercial sexual abuse of a minor under RCW 9.68A.101, or promoting travel for commercial sexual abuse of a minor under RCW 9.68A.102 is considered a victim of a criminal act for the purpose of the right to benefits under this chapter even if the person is also charged with prostitution under RCW 9A.88.030. [2020 c 308 § 1; 2011 c 346 § 301; 2001 c 153 § 1; 1996 c 122 § 4; 1990 c 3 § 501; 1986 c 98 § 1; 1985 c 443 § 14; 1977 ex.s. c 302 § 4; 1975 1st ex.s. c 176 § 2; 1973 1st ex.s. c 122 § 6.]

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

Findings—Intent—1996 c 122: See note following RCW 7.68.035.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.68.061 Who not entitled to compensation. If injury or death results to a victim from the deliberate intention of the victim himself or herself to produce such injury or death, or while the victim is engaged in the attempt to commit, or the commission of, a felony, neither the victim nor the widow, widower, child, or dependent of the victim shall receive any payment under this chapter.

If injury or death results to a victim from the deliberate intention of a beneficiary of that victim to produce the injury or death, or if injury or death results to a victim as a consequence of a beneficiary of that victim engaging in the attempt to commit, or the commission of, a felony, the beneficiary shall not receive any payment under this chapter.

If injury or death results to a minor victim from the deliberate intention of a legal guardian or custodian of the minor victim to produce the injury or death, or if injury or death results to a minor victim as a consequence of a legal guardian or custodian of the minor victim engaging in an attempt to commit, or the commission of, a felony, the legal guardian or custodian shall not receive any payment under this chapter.

An invalid child, while being supported and cared for in a state institution, shall not receive compensation under this chapter.

No payment shall be made to or for a natural child of a deceased victim and, at the same time, as the stepchild of a deceased victim. [2020 c 308 § 2; 2011 c 346 § 305.]

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

7.68.062 Application for compensation—Treating provider shall provide assistance. (1)(a) Where a victim is eligible for compensation under this chapter he or she shall file with the department his or her application for such, together with the certificate of the treating provider who attended him or her. An application for compensation form developed by the department shall include a notice specifying the victim's right to receive health services from a treating provider utilizing his or her private or public insurance or if no insurance, of the victim's choice under RCW 7.68.095.

(b) The treating provider who attended the injured victim shall inform the injured victim of his or her rights under this chapter and lend all necessary assistance in making this application for compensation and such proof of other matters as required by the rules of the department without charge to the victim.

(2) If the application required by this section is filed on behalf of the victim by the treating provider who attended the victim, the treating provider may transmit the application to the department electronically. [2017 c 235 § 4; 2011 c 346 § 302.]

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

7.68.063 Beneficiaries' application for compensation. Where death results from injury the parties eligible for compensation under this chapter, or someone in their behalf, shall make application for the same to the department, which application must be accompanied with proof of death and proof of relationship showing the parties to be eligible for compensation under this chapter, certificates of attending physician or licensed advanced registered nurse practitioner, if any, and such proof as required by the rules of the department. [2011 c 346 § 303.]

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

7.68.064 Application for change in compensation. If change of circumstances warrants an increase or rearrangement of compensation, like application shall be made therefor. Where the application has been granted, compensation and other benefits if in order shall be allowed for periods of time up to sixty days prior to the receipt of such application. [2011 c 346 § 304.]

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

7.68.066 Medical examinations required by department—Medical bureau—Disputes. (1) The department may require that the victim present himself or herself for a special medical examination by a physician or physicians selected by the department, and the department may require that the victim present himself or herself for a personal interview. The costs of the examination or interview, including payment of any reasonable travel expenses, shall be paid by the department as part of the victim's total claim under RCW 7.68.070(1).

(2) The director may establish a medical bureau within the department to perform medical examinations under this section.

(3) Where a dispute arises from the handling of any claim before the condition of the injured victim becomes fixed, the victim may request the department to resolve the dispute or the director may initiate an inquiry on his or her own motion. In these cases, the department shall proceed as provided in this section and an order shall issue in accordance with RCW 51.52.050. [2011 c 346 § 205.]

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

7.68.070 Benefits—Right to and amount—Limitations. The eligibility for benefits under this chapter and the amount thereof will be governed insofar as is applicable by the provisions contained in this chapter.

(1) Each victim injured as a result of a criminal act, including criminal acts committed between July 1, 1981, and January 1, 1983, or the victim's family or beneficiary in case of death of the victim, are eligible for benefits in accordance with this chapter, subject to the limitations under RCW 7.68.015. Except for medical benefits authorized under RCW 7.68.080, no more than forty thousand dollars shall be granted as a result of a single injury or death.

(a) Benefits payable for temporary total disability that results in financial support for lost wages shall not exceed fifteen thousand dollars.

(b) Benefits payable for a permanent total disability or fatality that results in financial support for lost wages shall not exceed forty thousand dollars. After at least twelve monthly payments have been paid, the department shall have the sole discretion to make a final lump sum payment of the balance remaining.

(2) If the victim was not gainfully employed at the time of the criminal act, no financial support for lost wages will be paid to the victim or any beneficiaries, unless the victim was gainfully employed for a total of at least twelve weeks in the six months preceding the date of the criminal act.

(3) No victim or beneficiary shall receive compensation for or during the day on which the injury was received.

(4) If a victim's employer continues to pay the victim's wages that he or she was earning at the time of the crime, the victim shall not receive any financial support for lost wages.

(5) When the director determines that a temporary total disability results in a loss of wages, the victim shall receive monthly subject to subsection (1) of this section, during the period of disability, sixty percent of the victim's monthly wage but no more than one hundred percent of the state's average monthly wage as defined in RCW 7.68.020. The minimum monthly payment shall be no less than five hundred dollars. Monthly wages shall be based upon employer wage statements, employment security records, or documents reported to and certified by the internal revenue service. Monthly wages must be determined using the actual documented monthly wage or averaging the total wages earned for up to twelve successive calendar months preceding the injury. In cases where the victim's wages and hours are fixed, they shall be determined by multiplying the daily wage the victim was receiving at the time of the injury:

(a) By five, if the victim was normally employed one day a week;

(b) By nine, if the victim was normally employed two days a week;

(c) By thirteen, if the victim was normally employed three days a week;

(d) By eighteen, if the victim was normally employed four days a week;

(e) By twenty-two, if the victim was normally employed five days a week;

(f) By twenty-six, if the victim was normally employed six days a week; or

(g) By thirty, if the victim was normally employed seven days a week.

(6) When the director determines that a permanent total disability or death results in a loss of wages, the victim or eligible spouse shall receive the monthly payments established in this subsection, not to exceed forty thousand dollars or the limits established in this chapter.

(7)(a) The legal guardian or custodian of a minor victim shall receive up to thirty days of the legal guardian's or custodian's lost wages if the director determines that the legal guardian or custodian has lost wages due to any one or more of the following:

(i) The time where the legal guardian or custodian of a minor victim accompanies the minor victim to medical or counseling services related to the crime; or

(ii) The time where the legal guardian or custodian of a minor victim accompanies the minor victim to criminal justice proceedings related to the crime.

(b) Wages under this subsection shall be based on employer wage statements, employment security records, or documents reported to and certified by the internal revenue service.

(8) If the director determines that the victim is voluntarily retired and is no longer attached to the workforce, benefits shall not be paid under this section.

(9) In the case of death, if there is no eligible spouse, benefits shall be paid to the child or children of the deceased victim. If there is no spouse or children, no payments shall be made under this section. If the spouse remarries before this benefit is paid in full benefits shall be paid to the victim's child or children and the spouse shall not receive further payment. If there is no child or children no further payments will be made.

(10) The benefits for disposition of remains or burial expenses shall not exceed six thousand one hundred seventy dollars per claim. Beginning July 1, 2020, the department shall adjust the amount in this subsection (10) for inflation

every three years based upon changes in the consumer price index during that time period. To receive reimbursement for expenses related to the disposition of remains or burial, the department must receive an itemized statement from a provider of services within twenty-four months of the date of the claim allowance. If there is a delay in the recovery of remains or the release of remains for disposition or burial, an itemized statement from a provider of services must be received within twenty-four months of the date of the release of the remains or of the date of the claim allowance, whichever is later.

(11) Any person who is responsible for the victim's injuries, or who would otherwise be unjustly enriched as a result of the victim's injuries, shall not be a beneficiary under this chapter.

(12) Crime victims' compensation is not available to pay for services covered under chapter 74.09 RCW or Title XIX of the federal social security act.

(13) A victim whose crime occurred in another state who qualifies for benefits under RCW 7.68.060(6) may receive appropriate mental health counseling to address distress arising from participation in the civil commitment proceedings. Fees for counseling shall be determined by the department in accordance with RCW 51.04.030, subject to the limitations of RCW 7.68.080.

(14) If the provisions of this title relative to compensation for injuries to or death of victims become invalid because of any adjudication, or are repealed, the period intervening between the occurrence of an injury or death, not previously compensated for under this title by lump payment or completed monthly payments, and such repeal or the rendition of the final adjudication of invalidity shall not be computed as a part of the time limited by law for the commencement of any action relating to such injury or death.

(15) The benefits established in RCW 51.32.080 for permanent partial disability will not be provided to any crime victim or for any claim submitted on or after July 1, 2011. [2020 c 308 § 3; 2017 c 235 § 5; 2011 c 346 § 401. Prior: 2010 c 289 § 6; (2010 c 122 § 1 expired July 1, 2015); 2009 c 38 § 1; 2002 c 54 § 1; 1996 c 122 § 5; 1993 sp.s. c 24 § 912; 1992 c 203 § 1; 1990 c 3 § 502; 1989 1st ex.s. c 5 § 5; 1989 c 12 § 2; 1987 c 281 § 8; 1985 c 443 § 15; 1983 c 239 § 2; 1982 1st ex.s. c 8 § 2; 1981 1st ex.s. c 6 § 26; 1977 ex.s. c 302 § 5; 1975 1st ex.s. c 176 § 3; 1973 1st ex.s. c 122 § 7.]

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

Findings—Intent—1996 c 122: See note following RCW 7.68.035.

Effective dates—Intent—Reports—1982 1st ex.s. c 8: See notes following RCW 7.68.035.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.68.071 Determination of permanent total disability. (1) Benefits for permanent total disability shall be determined under the director's supervision, only after the injured victim's condition becomes fixed.

(2) All determinations of permanent total disabilities shall be made by the department. The victim may make a request or the inquiry may be initiated by the director. Determinations shall be required in every instance where permanent total disability is likely to be present.

(3) A request for determination of permanent total disability shall be examined by the department, and the department shall issue an order in accordance with RCW 51.52.050. [2011 c 346 § 403.]

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

7.68.072 Aggravation, diminution, or termination of disability. (1) If aggravation, diminution, or termination of disability takes place, the director may, upon the application of the beneficiary, made within seven years from the date the first closing order becomes final, or at any time upon his or her own motion, readjust the rate of compensation in accordance with the rules in this section provided for the same, or in a proper case terminate the payment. The director may, upon application of the victim made at any time, provide proper and necessary medical and surgical services as authorized under RCW 7.68.095.

(2) "Closing order" as used in this section means an order based on factors which include medical recommendation, advice, examination, or the maximum benefit has been met. [2011 c 346 § 404.]

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

7.68.073 Reduction in disability compensation—Recovery of overpayments—Notice—Waiver—Application—Adjustments due to federal reductions. (1) For persons receiving compensation for temporary total disability pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, such compensation shall be reduced by an amount equal to the benefits payable under the federal old-age, survivors, and disability insurance act as now or hereafter amended not to exceed the amount of the reduction established pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Sec. 424a. However, such reduction shall not apply when the combined compensation provided pursuant to this chapter and the federal old-age, survivors, and disability insurance act is less than the total benefits to which the federal reduction would apply, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 424a. Where any person described in this section refuses to authorize the release of information concerning the amount of benefits payable under said federal act the department's estimate of said amount shall be deemed to be correct unless and until the actual amount is established and no adjustment shall be made for any period of time covered by any such refusal.

(2) Any reduction under subsection (1) of this section shall be effective the month following the month in which the department is notified by the federal social security administration that the person is receiving disability benefits under the federal old-age, survivors, and disability insurance act. In the event of an overpayment of benefits, the department may not recover more than the overpayments for the six months immediately preceding the date on which the department notifies the victim that an overpayment has occurred. Upon determining that there has been an overpayment, the department shall immediately notify the person who received the overpayment that he or she shall be required to make repayment pursuant to this section and RCW 7.68.126.

(3) Recovery of any overpayment must be taken from future temporary or permanent total disability benefits or permanent partial disability benefits provided by this chapter. In the case of temporary or permanent total disability benefits, the recovery shall not exceed twenty-five percent of the

monthly amount due from the department or one-sixth of the total overpayment, whichever is the lesser.

(4) No reduction may be made unless the victim receives notice of the reduction prior to the month in which the reduction is made.

(5) In no event shall the reduction reduce total benefits to less than the greater amount the victim may be eligible under this chapter or the federal old-age, survivors, and disability insurance act.

(6) The director, pursuant to rules adopted in accordance with the procedures provided in the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW, may exercise his or her discretion to waive, in whole or in part, the amount of any overpayment where the recovery would be against equity and good conscience.

(7) Subsection (1) of this section applies to:

(a) Victims under the age of sixty-two whose effective entitlement to total disability compensation begins before January 2, 1983;

(b) Victims under the age of sixty-five whose effective entitlement to total disability compensation begins after January 1, 1983; and

(c) Victims who will become sixty-five years of age on or after June 10, 2004.

(8)(a) If the federal social security administration makes a retroactive reduction in the federal social security disability benefit entitlement of a victim for periods of temporary total, temporary partial, or total permanent disability for which the department also reduced the victim's benefit amounts under this section, the department shall make adjustments in the calculation of benefits and pay the additional benefits to the victim as appropriate. However, the department shall not make changes in the calculation or pay additional benefits unless the victim submits a written request, along with documentation satisfactory to the director of an overpayment assessment by the social security administration, to the department.

(b) Additional benefits paid under this subsection:

(i) Are paid without interest and without regard to whether the victim's claim under this chapter is closed; and

(ii) Do not affect the status or the date of the claim's closure.

(c) This subsection does not apply to requests on claims for which a determination on the request has been made and is not subject to further appeal. [2011 c 346 § 405.]

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

7.68.074 Compensation for loss of or damage to clothing or footwear. Victims otherwise eligible for compensation under this chapter may also claim compensation for loss of or damage to the victim's personal clothing or footwear incurred in the course of emergency medical treatment for injuries. [2011 c 346 § 406.]

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

7.68.075 Marital status—Payment for or on account of children. Under this chapter, the marital status of all victims shall be deemed to be fixed as of the date of the criminal act. All references to the child or children living or conceived of the victim in this chapter shall be deemed to refer to such child or children as of the date of the criminal act unless the context clearly indicates the contrary.

Payments for or on account of any such child or children shall cease when such child is no longer a "child" or on the death of any such child whichever occurs first.

Payments to the victim or surviving spouse for or on account of any such child or children shall be made only when the victim or surviving spouse has legal custody of any such child or children. Where the victim or surviving spouse does not have such legal custody any payments for or on account of any such child or children shall be made to the person having legal custody of such child or children and the amount of payments shall be subtracted from the payments which would have been due the victim or surviving spouse had legal custody not been transferred to another person. It shall be the duty of any person or persons receiving payments because of legal custody of any child to immediately notify the department of any change in such legal custody. [2011 c 346 § 207; 1977 ex.s. c 302 § 6; 1975 1st ex.s. c 176 § 9.]

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

7.68.076 Proof of contribution made by deceased victim. A beneficiary shall at all times furnish the department with proof satisfactory to the director of the nature, amount, and extent of the contribution made by the deceased victim. [2011 c 346 § 407.]

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

7.68.077 Nonresident alien beneficiary. Except as otherwise provided by treaty or this chapter, whenever compensation is payable to a beneficiary who is an alien not residing in the United States, the department shall pay the compensation to which a resident beneficiary is eligible under this chapter. But if a nonresident alien beneficiary is a citizen of a government having a compensation law which excludes citizens of the United States, either resident or nonresident, from partaking of the benefit of such law in as favorable a degree as herein extended to nonresident aliens, he or she shall receive no compensation. No payment shall be made to any beneficiary residing in any country with which the United States does not maintain diplomatic relations when such payment is due. [2011 c 346 § 306.]

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

7.68.080 Reimbursement of costs for transportation, medical services, counseling—Medical examinations—Regulatory inspection program. (1) When the injury to any victim is so serious as to require the victim's being taken from the place of injury to a place of treatment, reasonable transportation costs to the nearest place of proper treatment shall be reimbursed by the department as part of the victim's total claim under RCW 7.68.070(1).

(2) In the case of alleged rape or molestation of a child, the reasonable costs of a colposcopy examination shall be reimbursed by the department. Costs for a colposcopy examination given under this subsection shall not be included as part of the victim's total claim under RCW 7.68.070(1).

(3) The director shall adopt rules for fees and charges for hospital, clinic, medical, and other health care services, including fees and costs for durable medical equipment, eyeglasses, hearing aids, and other medically necessary devices for crime victims under this chapter. The director shall set these service levels and fees at a level no lower than those established for comparable services under the workers' compensation program under Title 51 RCW, except the director shall comply with the requirements of RCW 7.68.030(2)(g)(i) through (iii) when setting service levels and fees, including reducing levels and fees when required. In establishing fees for medical and other health care services, the director shall consider the director's duty to purchase health care in a prudent, cost-effective manner. The director shall establish rules adopted in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW. Nothing in this chapter may be construed to require the payment of interest on any billing, fee, or charge.

(4) Whenever the director deems it necessary in order to resolve any medical issue, a victim shall submit to examination by a physician or physicians selected by the director, with the rendition of a report to the person ordering the examination. The department shall provide the physician performing an examination with all relevant medical records from the victim's claim file. The director, in his or her discretion, may charge the cost of such examination or examinations to the crime victims' compensation fund. If the examination is paid for by the victim, then the cost of said examination shall be reimbursed to the victim for reasonable costs connected with the examination as part of the victim's total claim under RCW 7.68.070(1).

(5) Victims of sexual assault are eligible to receive appropriate counseling. Fees for such counseling shall be determined by the department. Counseling services may include, if determined appropriate by the department, counseling of members of the victim's immediate family, other than the perpetrator of the assault.

(6) Immediate family members of a homicide victim may receive appropriate counseling to assist in dealing with the immediate, near-term consequences of the related effects of the homicide. Up to twelve counseling sessions may be received after the crime victim's claim has been allowed. Fees for counseling shall be determined by the department in accordance with and subject to this section. Payment of counseling benefits under this section may not be provided to the perpetrator of the homicide. The benefits under this subsection may be provided only with respect to homicides committed on or after July 1, 1992.

(7) Pursuant to *RCW 7.68.070(12), a victim of a sex offense that occurred outside of Washington may be eligible to receive mental health counseling related to participation in proceedings to civilly commit a perpetrator.

(8) The crime victims' compensation program shall consider payment of benefits solely for the effects of the criminal act.

(9) The legislature finds and declares it to be in the public interest of the state of Washington that a proper regulatory and inspection program be instituted in connection with the provision of any services provided to crime victims pursuant to this chapter. In order to effectively accomplish such purpose and to assure that the victim receives such services as are paid for by the state of Washington, the acceptance by the victim of such services, and the request by a provider of services for reimbursement for providing such services, shall authorize the director of the department or the director's authorized representative to inspect and audit all records in connection with the provision of such services. In the conduct of such audits or investigations, the director or the director's authorized representatives may:

(a) Examine all records, or portions thereof, including patient records, for which services were rendered by a health care provider and reimbursed by the department, notwithstanding the provisions of any other statute which may make or purport to make such records privileged or confidential, except that no original patient records shall be removed from the premises of the health care provider, and that the disclosure of any records or information obtained under authority of this section by the department is prohibited and constitutes a violation of RCW 42.52.050, unless such disclosure is directly connected to the official duties of the department. The disclosure of patient information as required under this section shall not subject any physician, licensed advanced registered nurse practitioner, or other health care provider to any liability for breach of any confidential relationships between the provider and the patient. The director or the director's authorized representative shall destroy all copies of patient medical records in their possession upon completion of the audit, investigation, or proceedings;

(b) Approve or deny applications to participate as a provider of services furnished to crime victims pursuant to this title;

(c) Terminate or suspend eligibility to participate as a provider of services furnished to victims pursuant to this title; and

(d) Pursue collection of unpaid overpayments and/or penalties plus interest accrued from health care providers pursuant to RCW 51.32.240(6).

(10) When contracting for health care services and equipment, the department, upon request of a contractor, shall keep confidential financial and valuable trade information, which shall be exempt from public inspection and copying under chapter 42.56 RCW. [2017 c 235 § 6. Prior: 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 69; 2011 c 346 § 501; 1990 c 3 § 503; 1989 1st ex.s. c 5 § 6; 1986 c 98 § 2; 1983 c 239 § 3; 1981 1st ex.s. c 6 § 27; 1975 1st ex.s. c 176 § 4; 1973 1st ex.s. c 122 § 8.]

***Reviser's note:** RCW 7.68.070 was amended by 2020 c 308 § 3, changing subsection (12) to subsection (13).

Effective date—Findings—Intent—Report—Agency transfer—References to head of health care authority—Draft legislation—2011 1st sp.s. c 15: See notes following RCW 74.09.010.

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.68.085 Cap on medical benefits—Alternative programs. The director of labor and industries shall institute a cap on medical benefits of one hundred fifty thousand dollars per injury or death.

For the purposes of this section, an individual will not be required to use his or her assets other than funds recovered as a result of a civil action or criminal restitution, for medical expenses or pain and suffering, in order to qualify for an alternative source of payment.

The director shall, in cooperation with the department of social and health services, establish by October 1, 1989, a process to aid crime victims in identifying and applying for appropriate alternative benefit programs, if any, administered by the department of social and health services. [2011 c 346 § 502; (2010 c 122 § 2 expired July 1, 2015); 2009 c 479 § 9; 1990 c 3 § 504; 1989 1st ex.s. c 5 § 3.]

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.68.090 Establishment of funds. The director shall establish such fund or funds, separate from existing funds, necessary to administer this chapter, and payment to these funds shall be from legislative appropriation, statutory provision, reimbursement and subrogation as provided in this chapter, and from any contributions or grants specifically so directed. [1995 c 234 § 3; 1973 1st ex.s. c 122 § 9.]

Finding—1995 c 234: See note following RCW 72.09.095.

7.68.092 Health care professionals to maintain proper credentials and educational standards—Standards for treatment. Health care professionals providing treatment or services to crime victims shall maintain all proper credentials and educational standards as required by law, and be registered with the department of health. The crime victims' compensation program does not pay for experimental or controversial treatment. Treatment shall be evidence-based and curative. [2011 c 346 § 504.]

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

7.68.093 Medical examinations—Department to monitor quality and objectivity. The department shall examine the credentials of persons conducting special medical examinations and shall monitor the quality and objectivity of examinations and reports. The department shall adopt rules to ensure that examinations are performed only by qualified persons meeting department standards. [2011 c 346 § 505.]

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

7.68.094 Medical examinations—Refusal to submit—Travel expenses—Compensation for time lost. (1) Any victim eligible to receive any benefits or claiming such under this title shall, if requested by the department submit himself or herself for medical examination, at a time and from time to time, at a place reasonably convenient for the victim as may be provided by the rules of the department. An injured victim, whether an alien or other injured victim, who is not residing in the United States at the time that a medical examination is requested may be required to submit to an examination at any location in the United States determined by the department.

(2) If the victim refuses to submit to medical examination, or obstructs the same, or, if any injured victim shall persist in unsanitary or injurious practices which tend to imperil or retard his or her recovery, or shall refuse to submit to such medical or surgical treatment as is reasonably essential to his or her recovery does not cooperate in reasonable efforts at such rehabilitation, the department may suspend any further action on any claim of such victim so long as such refusal, obstruction, noncooperation, or practice continues and thus, the department may reduce, suspend, or deny any compensation for such period. The department may not suspend any further action on any claim of a victim or reduce, suspend, or deny any compensation if a victim has good cause for refusing to submit to or to obstruct any examination, evaluation, treatment, or practice requested by the department or required under this section.

(3) If the victim necessarily incurs traveling expenses in attending the examination pursuant to the request of the department, such traveling expenses shall be repaid to him or her upon proper voucher and audit.

(4) If the medical examination required by this section causes the victim to be absent from his or her work without pay, the victim shall be paid compensation in an amount equal to his or her usual wages for the time lost from work while attending the medical examination when the victim is insured by the department. [2011 c 346 § 506.]

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

7.68.095 Extent and duration of treatment. Upon the occurrence of any injury to a victim eligible for compensation under the provisions of this chapter, he or she shall receive proper and necessary medical and surgical services using his or her private or public insurance or if no insurance, using a provider of his or her own choice. In all accepted claims, treatment shall be limited in point of duration as follows:

(1) No treatment shall be provided once the victim has received the maximum compensation under this chapter.

(2) In case of temporary disability, treatment shall not extend beyond the time when monthly allowances to him or her shall cease. After any injured victim has returned to his or her work, his or her medical and surgical treatment may be continued if, and so long as, such continuation is determined by the director to be necessary to his or her recovery, and as long as the victim has not received the maximum compensation under this chapter. [2011 c 346 § 507.]

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

7.68.096 Medical providers—Failure to report or comply as required. Any medical provider who fails, neglects, or refuses to file a report with the director, as required by this chapter, within five days of the date of treatment, showing the condition of the injured victim at the time of treatment, a description of the treatment given, and an estimate of the probable duration of the injury, or who fails or refuses to render all necessary assistance to the injured victim, as required by this chapter, shall be subject to a civil penalty determined by the director but not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars. The amount shall be paid into the crime victims' compensation account. [2011 c 346 § 508.]

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

7.68.101 Duties of attending physician or licensed advanced registered nurse practitioner—Medical information. Physicians or licensed advanced registered nurse

practitioners examining or attending injured victims under this chapter shall comply with rules and regulations adopted by the director, and shall make such reports as may be requested by the department upon the condition or treatment of any such victim, or upon any other matters concerning such victims in their care. Except under RCW 49.17.210 and 49.17.250, all medical information in the possession or control of any person and relevant to the particular injury in the opinion of the department pertaining to any victim whose injury is the basis of a claim under this chapter shall be made available at any stage of the proceedings to the claimant's representative and the department upon request, and no person shall incur any legal liability by reason of releasing such information. [2011 c 346 § 307.]

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

7.68.110 Appeals. The provisions contained in chapter 51.52 RCW relating to appeals shall govern appeals under this chapter: PROVIDED, That no provision contained in chapter 51.52 RCW concerning employers as parties to any settlement, appeal, or other action shall apply to this chapter: PROVIDED FURTHER, That appeals taken from a decision of the board of industrial insurance appeals under this chapter shall be governed by the provisions relating to judicial review of administrative decisions contained in RCW 34.05.510 through 34.05.598, and the department shall have the same right of review from a decision of the board of industrial insurance appeals as does the claimant: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the time in which to file a protest or appeal from any order, decision, or award under this chapter shall be ninety days from the date the order, decision, or award is communicated to the parties. [1997 c 102 § 1; 1989 c 175 § 40; 1977 ex.s. c 302 § 7; 1975 1st ex.s. c 176 § 5; 1973 1st ex.s. c 122 § 11.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.68.111 Payment of compensation after appeal—Enforcement of order—Penalty. (1)(a) If the victim or beneficiary in a claim prevails in an appeal by any party to the board of industrial insurance appeals or the court, the department shall comply with the board of industrial insurance appeals or court's order with respect to the payment of compensation within the later of the following time periods:

(i) Sixty days after the compensation order has become final and is not subject to review or appeal; or

(ii) If the order has become final and is not subject to review or appeal and the department has, within the period specified in (a)(i) of this subsection, requested the filing by the victim or beneficiary of documents necessary to make payment of compensation, sixty days after all requested documents are filed with the department.

The department may extend the sixty-day time period for an additional thirty days for good cause.

(b) If the department fails to comply with (a) of this subsection, any person eligible for compensation under the order may institute proceedings for injunctive or other appropriate relief for enforcement of the order. These proceedings may be instituted in the superior court for the county in which the claimant resides, or, if the claimant is not then a resident of this state, in the superior court for Thurston county.

(2) In a proceeding under this section, the court shall enforce obedience to the order by proper means, enjoining compliance upon the person obligated to comply with the compensation order. The court may issue such writs and processes as are necessary to carry out its orders and may award a penalty of up to one thousand dollars to the person eligible for compensation under the order.

(3) A proceeding under this section does not preclude other methods of enforcement provided for in this chapter. [2017 c 235 § 7; 2011 c 346 § 601.]

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

7.68.120 Reimbursement—Restitution to victim—Notice—Fees—Order to withhold and deliver—Limitation. Any person who has committed a criminal act which resulted in injury compensated under this chapter may be required to make reimbursement to the department as provided in this section.

(1) Any payment of benefits to or on behalf of a victim under this chapter creates a debt due and owing to the department by any person found to have committed the criminal act in either a civil or criminal court proceeding in which he or she is a party. If there has been a superior or district court order, or an order of the indeterminate sentence review board or the department of social and health services, as provided in subsection (4) of this section, the debt shall be limited to the amount provided for in the order. A court order shall prevail over any other order. If, in a criminal proceeding, a person has been found to have committed the criminal act that results in the payment of benefits to a victim and the court in the criminal proceeding does not enter a restitution order, the department shall, within one year of imposition of the sentence, petition the court for entry of a restitution order.

(2)(a) The department may issue a notice of debt due and owing to the person found to have committed the criminal act, and shall serve the notice on the person in the manner prescribed for the service of a summons in a civil action or by certified mail. The department shall file the notice of debt due and owing along with proof of service with the superior court of the county where the criminal act took place. The person served the notice shall have thirty days from the date of service to respond to the notice by requesting a hearing in superior court.

(b) If a person served a notice of debt due and owing fails to respond within thirty days, the department may seek a default judgment. Upon entry of a judgment in an action brought pursuant to (a) of this subsection, the clerk shall enter the order in the execution docket. The filing fee shall be added to the amount of the debt indicated in the judgment. The judgment shall become a lien upon all real and personal property of the person named in the judgment as in other civil cases. The judgment shall be subject to execution, garnishment, or other procedures for collection of a judgment.

(3)(a) The director, or the director's designee, may issue to any person or organization an order to withhold and deliver property of any kind if there is reason to believe that the person or organization possesses property that is due, owing, or belonging to any person against whom a judgment for a debt due and owing has been entered under subsection (2) of this section. For purposes of this subsection, "person or organiza-

tion" includes any individual, firm, association, corporation, political subdivision of the state, or agency of the state.

(b) The order to withhold and deliver must be served in the manner prescribed for the service of a summons in a civil action or by certified mail, return receipt requested. Any person or organization upon whom service has been made shall answer the order within twenty days exclusive of the day of service, under oath and in writing, and shall make true answers to the matters inquired of therein.

(c) If there is in the possession of the person or organization served with the order any property that might be subject to the claim of the department, the person or organization must immediately withhold such property and deliver the property to the director or the director's authorized representative immediately upon demand.

(d) If the person or organization served the order fails to timely answer the order, the court may render judgment by default against the person or organization for the full amount claimed by the director in the order plus costs.

(e) If an order to withhold and deliver is served upon an employer and the property found to be subject to the notice is wages, the employer may assert in the answer all exemptions to which the wage earner might be entitled as provided by RCW 6.27.150.

(4) Upon being placed on work release pursuant to chapter 72.65 RCW, or upon release from custody of a state correctional facility on parole, any convicted person who owes a debt to the department as a consequence of a criminal act may have the schedule or amount of payments therefor set as a condition of work release or parole by the department of social and health services or indeterminate sentence review board respectively, subject to modification based on change of circumstances. Such action shall be binding on the department.

(5) Any requirement for payment due and owing the department by a convicted person under this chapter may be waived, modified downward or otherwise adjusted by the department in the interest of justice, the well-being of the victim, and the rehabilitation of the individual.

(6) The department shall not seek payment for a debt due and owing if such action would deprive the victim of the crime giving rise to the claim under this chapter of the benefit of any property to which the victim would be entitled under RCW 26.16.030. [1995 c 33 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 122 § 12.]

7.68.125 Erroneous or fraudulent payment—Erroneous failure to make payment—Repayment orders—Right to contest orders—Lien. (1)(a) Whenever any payment of benefits under this chapter is made because of clerical error, mistake of identity, innocent misrepresentation by or on behalf of the recipient thereof mistakenly acted upon, or any other circumstance of a similar nature, all not induced by willful misrepresentation, the recipient thereof shall repay it and recoupment may be made from any future payments due to the recipient on any claim with the crime victims' compensation program. The department must make claim for such repayment or recoupment within one year of the making of any such payment or it will be deemed any claim therefor has been waived.

(b) Except as provided in subsections (3) and (4) of this section, the department may only assess an overpayment of benefits because of adjudicator error when the order upon which the overpayment is based is not yet final as provided in RCW 51.52.050 and 51.52.060. "Adjudicator error" includes the failure to consider information in the claim file, failure to secure adequate information, or an error in judgment.

(c) The director, pursuant to rules adopted in accordance with the procedures provided in the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW, may exercise his or her discretion to waive, in whole or in part, the amount of any such timely claim where the recovery would be against equity and good conscience.

(2) Whenever the department fails to pay benefits because of clerical error, mistake of identity, or innocent misrepresentation, all not induced by recipient willful misrepresentation, the recipient may request an adjustment of benefits to be paid from the crime victims' compensation programs subject to the following:

(a) The recipient must request an adjustment in benefits within one year from the date of the incorrect payment or it will be deemed any claim therefore has been waived.

(b) The recipient may not seek an adjustment of benefits because of adjudicator error. Adjustments due to adjudicator error are addressed by the filing of a written request for reconsideration with the department or an appeal with the department within ninety days from the date the order is communicated as provided in RCW 51.52.050. "Adjudicator error" includes the failure to consider information in the claim file, failure to secure adequate information, or an error in judgment.

(3) Whenever any payment of benefits under this chapter has been made pursuant to an adjudication by the department or by order of any court and timely appeal therefrom has been made where the final decision is that any such payment was made pursuant to an erroneous adjudication, the recipient thereof shall repay it and recoupment may be made from any future payments due to the recipient on any claim.

(a) The director, pursuant to rules adopted in accordance with the procedures provided in the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW, may exercise discretion to waive, in whole or in part, the amount of any such payments where the recovery would be against equity and good conscience.

(b) The department shall first attempt recovery of overpayments for health services from any entity that provided health insurance to the victim to the extent that the health insurance entity would have provided health insurance benefits.

(4)(a) Whenever any payment of benefits under this chapter has been induced by willful misrepresentation the recipient thereof shall repay any such payment together with a penalty of fifty percent of the total of any such payments and the amount of such total sum may be recouped from any future payments due to the recipient on any claim with the crime victims' compensation program against whom the willful misrepresentation was committed and the amount of such penalty shall be placed in the crime victims' compensation fund. Such repayment or recoupment must be demanded or ordered within three years of the discovery of the willful misrepresentation.

(b) For purposes of this subsection (4), it is willful misrepresentation for a person to obtain payments or other benefits under this chapter in an amount greater than that to which

the person otherwise would be entitled. Willful misrepresentation includes:

(i) Willful false statement; or

(ii) Willful misrepresentation, omission, or concealment of any material fact.

(c) For purposes of this subsection (4), "willful" means a conscious or deliberate false statement, misrepresentation, omission, or concealment of a material fact with the specific intent of obtaining, continuing, or increasing benefits under this chapter.

(d) For purposes of this subsection (4), failure to disclose a work-type activity must be willful in order for a misrepresentation to have occurred.

(e) For purposes of this subsection (4), a material fact is one which would result in additional, increased, or continued benefits, including but not limited to facts about physical restrictions, or work-type activities which either result in wages or income or would be reasonably expected to do so. Wages or income include the receipt of any goods or services. For a work-type activity to be reasonably expected to result in wages or income, a pattern of repeated activity must exist. For those activities that would reasonably be expected to result in wages or produce income, but for which actual wage or income information cannot be reasonably determined, the department shall impute wages.

(5) The victim, beneficiary, or other person affected thereby shall have the right to contest an order assessing an overpayment pursuant to this section in the same manner and to the same extent as provided under RCW 51.52.050 and 51.52.060. In the event such an order becomes final under chapter 51.52 RCW and notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (1) through (4) of this section, the director or director's designee may file with the clerk in any county within the state a warrant in the amount of the sum representing the unpaid overpayment and/or penalty plus interest accruing from the date the order became final. The clerk of the county in which the warrant is filed shall immediately designate a superior court cause number for such warrant and the clerk shall cause to be entered in the judgment docket under the superior court cause number assigned to the warrant, the name of the victim, beneficiary, or other person mentioned in the warrant, the amount of the unpaid overpayment and/or penalty plus interest accrued, and the date the warrant was filed. The amount of the warrant as docketed shall become a lien upon the title to and interest in all real and personal property of the victim, beneficiary, or other person against whom the warrant is issued, the same as a judgment in a civil case docketed in the office of such clerk. The sheriff shall then proceed in the same manner and with like effect as prescribed by law with respect to execution or other process issued against rights or property upon judgment in the superior court. Such warrant so docketed shall be sufficient to support the issuance of writs of garnishment in favor of the department in the manner provided by law in the case of judgment, wholly or partially unsatisfied. The clerk of the court shall be entitled to a filing fee under RCW 36.18.012(10), which shall be added to the amount of the warrant. A copy of such warrant shall be mailed to the victim, beneficiary, or other person within three days of filing with the clerk.

The director or director's designee may issue to any person, firm, corporation, municipal corporation, political subdivision of the state, public corporation, or agency of the state, a notice to withhold and deliver property of any kind if there is reason to believe that there is in the possession of such person, firm, corporation, municipal corporation, political subdivision of the state, public corporation, or agency of the state, property that is due, owing, or belonging to any victim, beneficiary, or other person upon whom a warrant has been served for payments due the department. The notice and order to withhold and deliver shall be served by certified mail accompanied by an affidavit of service by mailing or served by the sheriff of the county, or by the sheriff's deputy, or by any authorized representative of the director or director's designee, or by electronic means or other methods authorized by law. Any person, firm, corporation, municipal corporation, political subdivision of the state, public corporation, or agency of the state upon whom service has been made shall answer the notice within twenty days exclusive of the day of service, under oath and in writing, and shall make true answers to the matters inquired or in the notice and order to withhold and deliver. In the event there is in the possession of the party named and served with such notice and order, any property that may be subject to the claim of the department, such property shall be delivered forthwith to the director or the director's authorized representative upon demand. If the party served and named in the notice and order fails to answer the notice and order within the time prescribed in this section, the court may, after the time to answer such order has expired, render judgment by default against the party named in the notice for the full amount, plus costs, claimed by the director or the director's designee in the notice. In the event that a notice to withhold and deliver is served upon an employer and the property found to be subject thereto is wages, the employer may assert in the answer all exemptions provided for by chapter 6.27 RCW to which the wage earner may be entitled.

This subsection shall only apply to orders assessing an overpayment which are issued on or after July 28, 1991. This subsection shall apply retroactively to all orders assessing an overpayment resulting from willful misrepresentation, civil or criminal.

(6) Orders assessing an overpayment which are issued on or after July 28, 1991, shall include a conspicuous notice of the collection methods available to the department. [2011 c 346 § 701; 1995 c 33 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 176 § 8.]

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

7.68.126 Recovery of overpayments. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, any overpayments previously recovered under the provisions of RCW 7.68.073 as now or hereafter amended shall be limited to six months' overpayments. Where greater recovery has already been made, the director, in his or her discretion, may make restitution in those cases where an extraordinary hardship has been created. [2011 c 346 § 702.]

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

7.68.130 Public or private insurance—Attorneys' fees and costs of victim. (1) Benefits payable pursuant to this chapter shall be reduced by the amount of any other public or private insurance available, less a proportionate share of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, if any, incurred by the victim in obtaining recovery from the insurer. Calculation of a proportionate share of attorneys' fees and costs shall be made under the formula established in RCW 7.68.050 (9) through (14). The department or the victim may require court approval of costs and attorneys' fees or may petition a court for determination of the reasonableness of costs and attorneys' fees.

(2) Benefits payable after 1980 to victims injured or killed before 1980 shall be reduced by any other public or private insurance including but not limited to social security.

(3) Payment by the department under this chapter shall be secondary to other insurance benefits, notwithstanding the provision of any contract or coverage to the contrary. In the case of private life insurance proceeds, the first forty thousand dollars of the proceeds shall not be considered for purposes of any reduction in benefits.

(4) If the department determines that a victim is likely to be eligible for other public insurance or support services, the department may require the applicant to apply for such services before awarding benefits under RCW 7.68.070. If the department determines that a victim shall apply for such services and the victim refuses or does not apply for those services, the department may deny any further benefits under this chapter. The department may require an applicant to provide a copy of their determination of eligibility before providing benefits under this chapter.

(5) Before payment of benefits will be considered victims shall use their private insurance coverage.

(6) For the purposes of this section, the collection methods available under RCW 7.68.125(5) apply. [2011 c 346 § 703; 1995 c 33 § 3; 1985 c 443 § 16; 1980 c 156 § 4; 1977 ex.s. c 302 § 8; 1973 1st ex.s. c 122 § 13.]

Intent—Retroactive application—Effective date—2011 c 346: See notes following RCW 7.68.020.

Legislative intent—"Public or private insurance"—1980 c 156: See note following RCW 7.68.020.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.68.140 Confidentiality. Information contained in the claim files and records of victims, under the provisions of this chapter, shall be deemed confidential and shall not be open to public inspection: PROVIDED, That, except as limited by state or federal statutes or regulations, such information may be provided to public employees in the performance of their official duties: PROVIDED FURTHER, That except as otherwise limited by state or federal statutes or regulations a claimant or a representative of a claimant, be it an individual or an organization, may review a claim file or receive specific information therefrom upon the presentation of the signed authorization of the claimant: PROVIDED FURTHER, That physicians treating or examining victims claiming benefits under this chapter or physicians giving medical advice to the department regarding any claim may, at the discretion of the department and as not otherwise limited by state or federal statutes or regulations, inspect the claim files and records of such victims, and other persons may, when rendering assistance to the department at any stage of the proceedings on any matter pertaining to the administration of this chapter, inspect the claim files and records of such victims at the discretion of the department and as not otherwise limited by state or federal statutes or regulations. [1997 c 310 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 176 § 6; 1973 1st ex.s. c 122 § 14.]

7.68.145 Release of information in performance of official duties. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all law enforcement, criminal justice, or other governmental agencies, or hospital; any physician or other practitioner of the healing arts; or any other organization or person having possession or control of any investigative or other information pertaining to any alleged criminal act or victim concerning which a claim for benefits has been filed under this chapter, shall, upon request, make available to and allow the reproduction of any such information by the section of the department administering this chapter or other public employees in their performance of their official duties under this chapter.

No person or organization, public or private, shall incur any legal liability by reason of releasing any such information to the director of labor and industries or the section of the department which administers this chapter or other public employees in the performance of their official duties under this chapter. [1975 1st ex.s. c 176 § 7.]

7.68.150 Benefits, payments and costs to be funded and accounted for separately. All benefits and payments made, and all administrative costs accrued, pursuant to this chapter shall be funded and accounted for separate from the other operations and responsibilities of the department. [1973 1st ex.s. c 122 § 15.]

7.68.155 Information on funding availability, payments, administrative costs—Posting on departmental website. (1) Within current funding levels, the department's crime victims' compensation program shall post on its public website a report that shows the following items:

(a) The total amount of current funding available in the crime victims' compensation fund;

(b) The total amount of funding disbursed to victims in the previous thirty days; and

(c) The total amount paid in overhead and administrative costs in the previous thirty days.

(2) The information listed in subsection (1) of this section must be posted and maintained on the department's website by July 1, 2010, and updated every thirty days thereafter. [2010 c 122 § 7.]

7.68.160 Claims of persons injured prior to effective date. Any person who has been injured as a result of a "criminal act" as herein defined on or after January 1, 1972 up to July 1, 1974, who would otherwise be eligible for benefits under this chapter, may for a period of ninety days from July 1, 1974, file a claim for benefits with the department on a form provided by the department. The department shall investigate and review such claims, and, within two hundred ten days of July 1, 1974, shall report to the governor its findings and recommendations as to such claims, along with a statement as to what special legislative relief, if any, the

department recommends should be provided. [1986 c 158 § 2; 1973 1st ex.s. c 122 § 16.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.68.165 Application of chapter to claims filed under RCW 7.68.160. The rights, privileges, responsibilities, duties, limitations and procedures contained in this chapter shall apply to those claims filed pursuant to RCW 7.68.160. In respect to such claims, the department shall proceed in the same manner and with the same authority as provided in this chapter with respect to those claims filed pursuant to RCW 7.68.060 as now or hereafter amended. [1975 1st ex.s. c 176 § 10.]

7.68.170 Examination costs of sexual assault victims paid by state. No costs incurred by a hospital or other emergency medical facility for the examination of the victim of a sexual assault, when such examination is performed for the purposes of gathering evidence for possible prosecution, shall be billed or charged directly or indirectly to the victim of such assault. Such costs shall be paid by the state pursuant to this chapter. [1979 ex.s. c 219 § 11.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.68.175 Examination costs of assault of a child victims paid by state. (1) No costs incurred by an institution as defined in RCW 26.44.020 for the examination of a suspected victim of assault of a child under chapter 9A.36 RCW may be billed or charged directly or indirectly to the suspected victim of the assault. Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the department must pay all costs incurred by an institution as defined in RCW 26.44.020 for the examination of a suspected victim of assault of a child, provided that the cost of the examination would not otherwise be covered by the department.

(2) The department must notify the office of financial management and the fiscal committees of the legislature if it projects that the cost of services provided under this section exceeds the amount of funding provided by the legislature solely for the purposes of this section. [2022 c 171 § 2.]

Findings—2022 c 171: "The legislature finds that the crime victims' compensation fund was established in 1973 to cover medical bills and other costs associated with being the victim of a crime. The legislature finds that state law requires the crime victims' compensation fund to pay the costs of sexual assault examinations of minors when they are performed to gather evidence for possible prosecution. The legislature finds that in 2015, the legislature passed Substitute Senate Bill No. 5897 to provide funding for medical evaluations of suspected child victims of physical abuse. The legislature finds that this law expired June 30, 2019, and was not extended in the omnibus operating appropriations act. The legislature recognizes that while sexual assault examinations are currently provided for by the crime victims' compensation fund, examinations for child victims of physical assault are not provided for. The legislature finds that medical examinations are important for children who may be victims of physical abuse. The legislature finds that contributing to the cost of these examinations will incentivize timely evaluations, lead to early identification of abuse, and potentially prevent a child from further traumatization or injury. The legislature therefore resolves to reenact the provision of medical examinations of children who may be victims of physical abuse." [2022 c 171 § 1.]

7.68.176 Examination costs of assault of a child victims—Annual report. By November 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the department must submit a report to the legislature and governor with the following information: The number of requests to pay for physical abuse exams for child victims of physical assault pursuant to RCW 7.68.175, how many of these requests are approved and denied including the reasons for denial, how many of the exams are covered for another reason, and any other information the department believes is beneficial. [2022 c 171 § 3.]

Findings—2022 c 171: See note following RCW 7.68.175.

7.68.200 Payment for reenactments of crimes—Contracts—Deposits—Damages. After hearing, as provided in RCW 7.68.210, every person, firm, corporation, partnership, association, or other legal entity contracting with any person or the representative or assignee of any person, accused or convicted of a crime in this state, with respect to the reenactment of such crime, by way of a movie, book, magazine article, tape recording, phonograph record, radio or television presentation, live entertainment of any kind, or from the expression of such accused or convicted person's thoughts, feelings, opinion, or emotions regarding such crime, shall submit a copy of such contract to the department and pay over to the department any moneys which would otherwise, by terms of such contract, be owing to the person so accused or convicted or his or her representatives. The department shall deposit such moneys in an escrow account for the benefit of and payable to any victim or the legal representative of any victim of crimes committed by: (1) Such convicted person; or (2) such accused person, but only if such accused person is eventually convicted of the crime and provided that such victim, within five years of the date of the establishment of such escrow account, brings a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction and recovers a money judgment for damages against such person or his or her representatives. [2011 c 336 § 248; 1979 ex.s. c 219 § 13.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.68.210 Payment may be directed based on contract. The prosecutor or the department may, at any time after the person's arraignment petition any superior court for an order, following notice and hearing, directing that any contract described in RCW 7.68.200 shall be paid in accordance with RCW 7.68.200 through 7.68.280. [1979 ex.s. c 219 § 12.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.68.220 Notice published of moneys in escrow. The department, at least once every six months for five years from the date it receives such moneys, shall cause to have published a legal notice in newspapers of general circulation in the county wherein the crime was committed and in counties contiguous to such county advising such victims that such escrow moneys are available to satisfy money judgments pursuant to this section. For crimes committed in a city located within a county having a population of one million or more, the notice provided for in this section shall be in newspapers having general circulation in such city. The department may, in its discretion, provide for such additional notice as it deems necessary. [1979 ex.s. c 219 § 14.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.68.230 Payment to accused if charges dismissed, acquitted. Upon dismissal of charges or acquittal of any

accused person the department shall immediately pay over to such accused person the moneys in the escrow account established on behalf of such accused person. [1979 ex.s. c 219 § 15.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.68.240 Payment if no actions pending. ***(Effective until January 1, 2023.)*** Upon a showing by any convicted person or the state that five years have elapsed from the establishment of such escrow account and further that no actions are pending against such convicted person pursuant to RCW 7.68.200 through 7.68.280, the department shall immediately pay over fifty percent of any moneys in the escrow account to such person or his or her legal representatives and fifty percent of any moneys in the escrow account to the fund under RCW 7.68.035(4). [2011 c 336 § 249; 1988 c 155 § 4; 1979 ex.s. c 219 § 16.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.68.240 Payment if no actions pending. ***(Effective January 1, 2023.)*** Upon a showing by any convicted person or the state that five years have elapsed from the establishment of such escrow account and further that no actions are pending against such convicted person pursuant to RCW 7.68.200 through 7.68.280, the department shall immediately pay over 50 percent of any moneys in the escrow account to such person or his or her legal representatives and 50 percent of any moneys in the escrow account to the fund under RCW 7.68.035(4). [2022 c 260 § 22; 2011 c 336 § 249; 1988 c 155 § 4; 1979 ex.s. c 219 § 16.]

Construction—Effective date—2022 c 260: See notes following RCW 3.66.120.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.68.250 Persons not guilty for mental reasons deemed convicted. For purposes of *this act, a person found not guilty as a result of the defense of mental disease or defect shall be deemed to be a convicted person. [1979 ex.s. c 219 § 17.]

***Reviser's note:** "this act" literally refers to 1979 ex.s. c 219. As used in this section, the term apparently refers to only sections 12 through 20 of that act, which are codified as RCW 7.68.200 through 7.68.280.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.68.260 Time for filing action begins when escrow account established. Notwithstanding any inconsistent provision of the civil practice and rules with respect to the timely bringing of an action, the five year period provided for in RCW 7.68.200 shall not begin to run until an escrow account has been established. [1979 ex.s. c 219 § 18.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.68.270 Escrow moneys may be used for legal representation. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of *this act the department shall make payments from an escrow account to any person accused or convicted of a crime upon the order of a court of competent jurisdiction after a showing by such person that such moneys shall be used for the exclusive purpose of retaining legal representation at any stage of the proceedings against such person, including the appeals process. [1979 ex.s. c 219 § 19.]

***Reviser's note:** "this act," see note following RCW 7.68.250.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.68.280 Actions to avoid law null and void. Any action taken by any person accused or convicted of a crime, whether by way of execution of a power of attorney, creation of corporate entities or otherwise, to defeat the purpose of *this act shall be null and void as against the public policy of this state. [1979 ex.s. c 219 § 20.]

***Reviser's note:** "this act," see note following RCW 7.68.250.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.68.290 Restitution—Disposition when victim dead or not found. If a defendant has paid restitution pursuant to court order under RCW 9.92.060, 9.94A.750, 9.94A.753, 9.95.210, or 9A.20.030 and the victim entitled to restitution cannot be found or has died, the clerk of the court shall deposit with the county treasurer the amount of restitution unable to be paid to the victim. The county treasurer shall monthly transmit the money to the state treasurer for deposit as provided in RCW 43.08.250. Moneys deposited under this section shall be used to compensate victims of crimes through the crime victims' compensation fund. [1997 c 358 § 3; 1987 c 281 § 2.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.68.300 Finding. The legislature finds compelling state interests in compensating the victims of crime and in preventing criminals from profiting from their crimes. RCW 7.68.310 through 7.68.340 are intended to advance both of these interests. [1993 c 288 § 3.]

7.68.310 Property subject to seizure and forfeiture. The following are subject to seizure and forfeiture and no property right exists in them:

(1) All tangible or intangible property, including any right or interest in such property, acquired by a person convicted of a crime for which there is a victim of the crime and to the extent the acquisition is the direct or indirect result of the convicted person having committed the crime. Such property includes but is not limited to the convicted person's remuneration for, or contract interest in, any reenactment or depiction or account of the crime in a movie, book, magazine, newspaper or other publication, audio recording, radio or television presentation, live entertainment of any kind, or any expression of the convicted person's thoughts, feelings, opinions, or emotions regarding the crime.

(2) Any property acquired through the traceable proceeds of property described in subsection (1) of this section. [1993 c 288 § 4.]

7.68.320 Seizure and forfeiture—Procedure. (1) Any property subject to seizure and forfeiture under RCW 7.68.310 may be seized by the prosecuting attorney of the county in which the convicted person was convicted upon process issued by any superior court having jurisdiction over the property.

(2) Proceedings for forfeiture are commenced by a seizure. Seizure of real property shall include the filing of a lis pendens by the seizing agency. Real property seized under this section shall not be transferred or otherwise conveyed

until ninety days after seizure or until a judgment of forfeiture is entered, whichever is later, except that such real property seized may be transferred or conveyed to any person or entity who acquires title by foreclosure or deed in lieu of foreclosure of a security interest.

(3) The prosecuting attorney who seized the property shall cause notice to be served within fifteen days following the seizure on the owner of the property seized and the person in charge thereof and any person having any known right or interest therein, including any community property interest, of the seizure and intended forfeiture of the seized property. Service of notice of seizure of real property shall be made according to the rules of civil procedure. However, the state may not obtain a default judgment with respect to real property against a party who is served by substituted service absent an affidavit stating that a good faith effort has been made to ascertain if the defaulted party is incarcerated within the state, and that there is no present basis to believe that the party is incarcerated within the state. The notice of seizure in other cases may be served by any method authorized by law or court rule including but not limited to service by certified mail with return receipt requested. Service by mail shall be deemed complete upon mailing within the fifteen-day period following the seizure. Notice of seizure in the case of property subject to a security interest that has been perfected by filing a financing statement in accordance with *chapter 62A.9 RCW, or a certificate of title, shall be made by service upon the secured party or the secured party's assignee at the address shown on the financing statement or the certificate of title.

(4) If no person notifies the seizing prosecuting attorney in writing of the person's claim of ownership or right to possession of the property within forty-five days for personal property or ninety days for real property, the property seized shall be deemed forfeited.

(5) If any person notifies the seizing prosecuting attorney in writing of the person's claim of ownership or right to possession of the property within forty-five days for personal property or ninety days for real property, the person or persons shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard as to the claim or right. The prosecuting attorney shall file the case into a court of competent jurisdiction. In a court hearing between two or more claimants to the article or articles involved, the prevailing party shall be entitled to a judgment for costs and reasonable attorneys' fees. In cases involving personal property, the burden of producing evidence shall be by a preponderance and upon the person claiming to be the lawful owner or the person claiming to have the lawful right to possession of the property. In cases involving real property, the burden of producing evidence shall be by a preponderance and upon the prosecuting attorney. The seizing prosecuting attorney shall promptly return the property to the claimant upon a determination by the prosecuting attorney or court that the claimant is the present lawful owner or is lawfully entitled to possession of the property.

(6) Upon the entry of an order of forfeiture of real property, the court shall forward a copy of the order to the county auditor of the county in which the property is located. Orders for the forfeiture of real property shall be entered by the superior court, subject to court rules.

(7) A forfeiture action under this section may be brought at any time from the date of conviction until the expiration of the statutory maximum period of incarceration that could have been imposed for the crime involved.

(8) A forfeiture of property encumbered by a bona fide security interest is subject to the interest of the secured party if at the time the security interest was created, the secured party did not know that the property was subject to seizure and forfeiture. [1993 c 288 § 5.]

***Reviser's note:** Chapter 62A.9 RCW was repealed in its entirety by 2000 c 250 § 9A-901, effective July 1, 2001. For later enactment, see chapter 62A.9A RCW.

7.68.330 Seizure and forfeiture—Distribution of proceeds. (1) The proceeds of any forfeiture action brought under RCW 7.68.320 shall be distributed as follows:

(a) First, to the victim or to the plaintiff in a wrongful death action brought as a result of the victim's death, to satisfy any money judgment against the convicted person, or to satisfy any restitution ordered as part of the convicted person's sentence;

(b) Second, to the reasonable legal expenses of bringing the action;

(c) Third, to the crime victims' compensation fund under RCW 7.68.090.

(2) A court may establish such escrow accounts or other arrangements as it deems necessary and appropriate in order to distribute proceeds in accordance with this section. [1993 c 288 § 6.]

7.68.340 Seizure and forfeiture—Remedies nondefeatable and supplemental. (1) Any action taken by or on behalf of a convicted person including but not limited to executing a power of attorney or creating a corporation for the purpose of defeating the provisions of RCW 7.68.300 through 7.68.330 is null and void as against the public policy of this state.

(2) RCW 7.68.300 through 7.68.330 are supplemental and do not limit rights or remedies otherwise available to the victims of crimes and do not limit actions otherwise available against persons convicted of crimes. [1993 c 288 § 7.]

7.68.350 Washington state task force against the trafficking of persons. (1) There is created the Washington state task force against the trafficking of persons.

(2)(a) The task force shall consist of the following members:

(i) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate;

(ii) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(iii) The director of the office of crime victims advocacy, or the director's designee;

(iv) The secretary of the department of health, or the secretary's designee;

(v) The secretary of the department of social and health services, or the secretary's designee;

(vi) The director of the department of labor and industries, or the director's designee;

(vii) The commissioner of the employment security department, or the commissioner's designee;

(viii) The attorney general or the attorney general's designee;

(ix) The superintendent of public instruction or the superintendent of public instruction's designee;

(x) The director of the department of agriculture or the director's designee;

(xi) At least one member who is a survivor of human trafficking;

(xii) Eleven members, selected by the director of the office of crime victims advocacy, that represent public, community-based nonprofit, and private sector organizations, academic institutions, research-based organizations, faith-based organizations, including organizations that are diverse in viewpoint, geography, ethnicity, and culture, and in the populations served. The members must provide, directly or through their organizations, assistance to persons who are victims and survivors of trafficking, or who work on antitrafficking efforts as part of their organization's work, or both.

(b) Additional members may be selected as determined by the director of the office of crime victims advocacy to ensure representation of interested groups.

(3) The task force shall be chaired by the director of the office of crime victims advocacy, or the director's designee.

(4) The task force shall determine the areas of focus and activity including, but not limited to, the following activities:

(a) Measure and evaluate the resource needs of victims and survivors of human trafficking and the progress of the state in trafficking prevention activities, as well as what is being done in other states and nationally to combat human trafficking;

(b) Identify available federal, state, and local programs that provide services to victims and survivors of trafficking that include, but are not limited to, health care, human services, housing, education, legal assistance, job training or preparation, interpreting services, English as a second language classes, and victim's compensation;

(c) Make recommendations on methods to provide a coordinated system of support and assistance to persons who are victims of trafficking; and

(d) Review the statutory response to human trafficking, analyze the impact and effectiveness of strategies contained in the current state laws, and make recommendations on legislation to further the state's antitrafficking efforts.

(5) The task force shall report its findings and make recommendations to the governor and legislature as needed.

(6) The office of crime victims advocacy shall provide necessary administrative and clerical support to the task force, within available resources.

(7) The members of the task force shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060, within available resources. [2015 c 273 § 3; 2003 c 266 § 1.]

Effective date—2015 c 273: See note following RCW 7.68.370.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.68.360 Human trafficking—Coordinated state agency protocols. (1) By July 1, 2005, the director of the *department of community, trade, and economic development, or the director's designee, shall within existing resources convene and chair a work group to develop written protocols for delivery of services to victims of trafficking of humans. The director shall invite appropriate federal agencies to consult with the work group for the purpose of developing protocols that, to the extent possible, are in concert with federal statutes, regulations, and policies. In addition to the director of the *department of community, trade, and economic development, the following shall be members of the work group: The secretary of the department of health, the secretary of the department of social and health services, the attorney general, the director of the department of labor and industries, the commissioner of the employment security department, a representative of the Washington association of prosecuting attorneys, the chief of the Washington state patrol, two members selected by the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs, and five members, selected by the director of the *department of community, trade, and economic development from a list submitted by public and private sector organizations that provide assistance to persons who are victims of trafficking. The attorney general, the chief of the Washington state patrol, and the secretaries or directors may designate a person to serve in their place.

Members of the work group shall serve without compensation.

(2) The protocols must meet all of the following minimum standards:

(a) The protocols must apply to the following state agencies: The *department of community, trade, and economic development, the department of health, the department of social and health services, the attorney general's office, the Washington state patrol, the department of labor and industries, and the employment security department;

(b) The protocols must provide policies and procedures for interagency coordinated operations and cooperation with government agencies and nongovernmental organizations, agencies, and jurisdictions, including law enforcement agencies and prosecuting attorneys;

(c) The protocols must include the establishment of a database electronically available to all affected agencies which contains the name, address, and telephone numbers of agencies that provide services to victims of human trafficking; and

(d) The protocols must provide guidelines for providing for the social service needs of victims of trafficking of humans, including housing, health care, and employment.

(3) By January 1, 2006, the work group shall finalize the written protocols and submit them with a report to the legislature and the governor.

(4) The protocols shall be reviewed on a biennial basis by the work group to determine whether revisions are appropriate. The director of the *department of community, trade, and economic development, or the director's designee, shall within existing resources reconvene and chair the work group for this purpose. [2005 c 358 § 2.]

***Reviser's note:** The "department of community, trade, and economic development" was renamed the "department of commerce" by 2009 c 565.

Intent—Finding—2005 c 358: "The legislature recognizes that human trafficking is growing to epidemic proportions and that our state is impacted. Human trafficking is one of the greatest threats to human dignity. It is the commodification of human beings and an assault on human values. Washington is, and must continue to be, a national leader at the state level in the fight against human trafficking.

The legislature recognizes there are many state agencies and private organizations that might be called on to provide services to victims of trafficking of humans. Victims of human trafficking are often in need of services such as emergency medical attention, food and shelter, vocational and English language training, mental health counseling, and legal support. The state intends to improve the response of state, local, and private entities to incidents of trafficking of humans. Victims would be better served if there is an established, coordinated system of identifying the needs of trafficking victims, protocols for training of service delivery agencies and staff, timely and appropriate delivery of services, and better investigations and prosecutions of trafficking.

Leadership in providing services to victims of trafficking of humans also extends beyond government efforts and is grounded in the work of highly dedicated individuals and community-based groups. Without these efforts the struggle against human trafficking will be very difficult to win. The legislature, therefore, finds that such efforts merit regular public recognition and appreciation. Such recognition and appreciation will encourage the efforts of all persons to end human trafficking, and provide the public with information and education about the necessity of its involvement in this struggle." [2005 c 358 § 1.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.68.370 Trafficking of persons—Clearinghouse on human trafficking—Functions. (1) The office of crime victims advocacy is designated as the single point of contact in state government regarding the trafficking of persons.

(2) The Washington state clearinghouse on human trafficking is created as an information portal to share and coordinate statewide efforts to combat the trafficking of persons. The clearinghouse will include an internet website operated by the office of crime victims advocacy, and will serve the following functions:

(a) Coordinating information regarding all statewide task forces relating to the trafficking of persons including, but not limited to, sex trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation of children, and labor trafficking;

(b) Publishing the findings and legislative reports of all statewide task forces relating to the trafficking of persons;

(c) Providing a comprehensive directory of resources for victims of trafficking; and

(d) Collecting and disseminating up-to-date information regarding the trafficking of persons, including news and legislative efforts, both state and federal. [2015 c 273 § 2.]

Finding—Intent—2015 c 273: "(1) The legislature has long been committed to increasing access to support services for human trafficking victims and promoting awareness of human trafficking throughout Washington state. In 2002, Washington was the first state to work on human trafficking by enacting new laws and by creating an antitrafficking task force. In 2003, Washington was the first state to enact a law making human trafficking a crime.

Since 2002, the Washington state legislature has enacted thirty-eight laws to combat human trafficking. In 2013 and 2014, Washington received top marks from two leading nongovernmental organizations for the strength of its antitrafficking laws. The polaris project gave Washington a perfect score of ten and Washington received an "A" report card from shared hope international's protected innocence challenge. In light of the 2010 winter olympic games taking place in Vancouver, British Columbia, the legislature enacted RCW 47.38.080, permitting an approved nonprofit to place informational human trafficking posters in restrooms located in rest areas along Interstate 5. Sporting events, such as the winter olympic games or the upcoming 2015 United States open golf tournament at Chambers Bay, provide lucrative opportunities for human traffickers to exploit adults and children for labor and sexual services. The legislature finds that an effective way to combat human trafficking is to increase awareness of human trafficking for both victims and the general public alike as well as who and how to contact for help and support services, for both victims and the general public alike.

(2) Human trafficking data are primarily obtained through a hotline reporting system in which victims and witnesses can report cases of human trafficking over the phone. Since 2007, there have been one thousand eight hundred fifty human trafficking calls made through the human trafficking victim hotline system in Washington state, and a total of four hundred thirty-two human trafficking cases reported. It is the intent of the legislature to facilitate an even wider scope of communication with human trafficking victims and witnesses by requiring human trafficking information to be posted in all public restrooms." [2015 c 273 § 1.]

Effective date—2015 c 273: "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 14, 2015]." [2015 c 273 § 6.]

7.68.380 Commercially sexually exploited children receiving center programs. (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the department of children, youth, and families shall administer funding for two receiving center programs for commercially sexually exploited children. One of these programs must be located west of the crest of the Cascade mountains and one of these programs must be located east of the crest of the Cascade mountains. Law enforcement and service providers may refer children to these programs or children may self-refer into these programs.

(2) The receiving center programs established under this section shall:

(a) Begin providing services by January 1, 2021;

(b) Utilize existing facilities and not require the construction of new facilities; and

(c) Provide ongoing case management for all children who are being served or were served by the programs.

(3) The receiving centers established under this section shall:

(a) Include a short-term evaluation function that is accessible twenty-four hours per day seven days per week that has the capacity to evaluate the immediate needs of commercially sexually exploited children ages twelve through seventeen and either meet those immediate needs or refer those children to the appropriate services;

(b) Assess children for mental health and substance use disorder needs and provide appropriate referrals as needed; and

(c) Provide individual and group counseling focused on developing and strengthening coping skills, and improving self-esteem and dignity.

(4) The department of children, youth, and families shall:

(a) Collect nonidentifiable demographic data of the children served by the programs established under this section;

(b) Collect data regarding the locations that children exit to after being served by the programs; and

(c) Report the data described in this subsection along with recommendations for modification or expansion of these programs to the relevant committees of the legislature by December 1, 2022.

(5) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Receiving center" means a trauma-informed, secure location that meets the multidisciplinary needs of commercially sexually exploited children ages twelve through seventeen located in a behavioral health agency licensed or certified under RCW 71.24.037 to provide inpatient or residential treatment services; and

(b) "Short-term evaluation function" means a short-term emergency shelter that is accessible twenty-four hours per

day seven days per week that has the capacity to evaluate the immediate needs of commercially sexually exploited children under age eighteen and either meet those immediate needs or refer those children to the appropriate services.

(6)(a) The department of children, youth, and families, the department of health, and the division of behavioral health and recovery, shall meet to coordinate the implementation of receiving centers as provided for in this section, including developing eligibility criteria for serving commercially sexually exploited children that allows referral from service providers and prioritizes referral from law enforcement.

(b) By December 1, 2020, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the department of children, youth, and families shall submit a report to the governor and legislature summarizing the implementation plan and eligibility criteria as described in (a) of this subsection, and provide any additional policy recommendations regarding receiving centers as it deems necessary. [2020 c 331 § 2.]

Finding—2020 c 331: "The legislature finds that commercial sexual exploitation of children is a severe form of human trafficking and a severe human rights and public health issue, leaving children at substantial risk of physical harm, substantial physical and emotional pain, and trauma. This trauma has a long-term impact on the social, emotional, and economic future of these children. The state shall provide a victim-centered, trauma-informed response to children who are exploited in this manner rather than treating them as criminals. The state shall also hold accountable the buyers and traffickers who exploit children." [2020 c 331 § 1.]

7.68.390 Commercially sexually exploited children receiving center programs—Referrals. (1) The following individuals or entities may refer a child to receiving centers as defined in RCW 7.68.380:

(a) Law enforcement, who shall:

(i) Transport a child eligible for receiving center services to a receiving center; or

(ii) Coordinate transportation with a liaison dedicated to serving commercially sexually exploited children established under RCW 74.14B.070 or a community service provider;

(b) The department of children, youth, and families;

(c) Juvenile courts;

(d) Community service providers;

(e) A parent or guardian; and

(f) A child may self-refer.

(2) Eligibility for placement in a receiving center is children ages twelve through seventeen, of all genders, who have been, or are at risk for being commercially sexually exploited. [2020 c 331 § 3.]

Finding—2020 c 331: See note following RCW 7.68.380.

7.68.801 Commercially sexually exploited children statewide coordinating committee. ***(Expires June 30, 2023.)*** (1) The commercially sexually exploited children statewide coordinating committee is established to address the issue of children who are commercially sexually exploited, to examine the practices of local and regional entities involved in addressing sexually exploited children, and to make recommendations on statewide laws and practices.

(2) The committee is convened by the office of the attorney general with the department of commerce assisting with agenda planning and administrative and clerical support. The committee consists of the following members:

(a) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house;

(b) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the senate appointed by the president of the senate;

(c) A representative of the governor's office appointed by the governor;

(d) The secretary of the department of children, youth, and families or his or her designee;

(e) The secretary of the juvenile rehabilitation administration or his or her designee;

(f) The attorney general or his or her designee;

(g) The superintendent of public instruction or his or her designee;

(h) A representative of the administrative office of the courts appointed by the administrative office of the courts;

(i) The executive director of the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs or his or her designee;

(j) The executive director of the Washington state criminal justice training commission or his or her designee;

(k) A representative of the Washington association of prosecuting attorneys appointed by the association;

(l) The executive director of the office of public defense or his or her designee;

(m) Three representatives of community service providers that provide direct services to commercially sexually exploited children appointed by the attorney general;

(n) Two representatives of nongovernmental organizations familiar with the issues affecting commercially sexually exploited children appointed by the attorney general;

(o) The president of the superior court judges' association or his or her designee;

(p) The president of the juvenile court administrators or his or her designee;

(q) Any existing chairs of regional task forces on commercially sexually exploited children;

(r) A representative from the criminal defense bar;

(s) A representative of the center for children and youth justice;

(t) A representative from the office of crime victims advocacy;

(u) The executive director of the Washington coalition of sexual assault programs;

(v) The executive director of the statewide organization representing children's advocacy centers or his or her designee;

(w) A representative of an organization that provides inpatient chemical dependency treatment to youth, appointed by the attorney general;

(x) A representative of an organization that provides mental health treatment to youth, appointed by the attorney general; and

(y) A survivor of human trafficking, appointed by the attorney general.

(3) The duties of the committee include, but are not limited to:

(a) Overseeing and reviewing the implementation of the Washington state model protocol for commercially sexually exploited children at task force sites;

(b) Receiving reports and data from local and regional entities regarding the incidence of commercially sexually

exploited children in their areas as well as data information regarding perpetrators, geographic data and location trends, and any other data deemed relevant;

(c) Receiving reports on local coordinated community response practices and results of the community responses;

(d) Reviewing recommendations from local and regional entities regarding policy and legislative changes that would improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local response practices;

(e) Making recommendations regarding policy and legislative changes that would improve the effectiveness of the state's response to and promote best practices for suppression of the commercial sexual exploitation of children;

(f) Making recommendations regarding data collection useful to understanding or addressing the problem of commercially sexually exploited children;

(g) Reviewing and making recommendations regarding strategic local investments or opportunities for federal and state funding to address the commercial sexual exploitation of children;

(h) Reviewing the extent to which chapter 289, Laws of 2010 (Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 6476) is understood and applied by enforcement authorities;

(i) Researching any barriers that exist to full implementation of chapter 289, Laws of 2010 (Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 6476) throughout the state;

(j) Convening a meeting and providing recommendations required under *RCW 7.68.802; and

(k) Compiling data on the number of juveniles believed to be victims of sexual exploitation taken into custody under RCW 43.185C.260.

(4) The committee must meet no less than annually.

(5) The committee shall annually report its findings and recommendations to the appropriate committees of the legislature and to any other known statewide committees addressing trafficking or the commercial sex trade.

(6) This section expires June 30, 2023. [2020 c 331 § 7; 2018 c 58 § 65; 2017 c 18 § 1; 2015 c 273 § 4; 2013 c 253 § 1.]

***Reviser's note:** RCW 7.68.802 expired June 30, 2021.

Finding—2020 c 331: See note following RCW 7.68.380.

Effective date—2018 c 58: See note following RCW 28A.655.080.

Effective date—2017 c 18: "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [April 17, 2017]." [2017 c 18 § 2.]

Effective date—2015 c 273: See note following RCW 7.68.370.

7.68.803 Nonfatal strangulation—Payment of costs for medical examination. ***(Expires June 30, 2023.)*** (1) No costs incurred by a hospital or other emergency medical facility for the examination of the victim of domestic violence assault involving nonfatal strangulation, when such examination is performed for the purposes of gathering evidence for possible prosecution, shall be billed or charged directly or indirectly to the victim of such assault. Such costs shall be paid by the state pursuant to this chapter.

(2) The department must notify the office of financial management and the fiscal committees of the legislature if it projects that the cost of services provided under this section exceeds the amount of funding provided by the legislature solely for the purposes of this section.

(3) No later than October 1, 2022, the department shall report to the legislature the following information for fiscal year 2022:

(a) The number, type, and amount of claims received by victims of suspected nonfatal strangulation, with a subtotal of claims that also involved sexual assault;

(b) The number, type, and amount of claims paid for victims of suspected nonfatal strangulation, with a subtotal of claims that also involved sexual assault; and

(c) The number of police reports filed by victims of suspected nonfatal strangulation who received services under this section.

(4) This section expires June 30, 2023. [2021 c 269 § 3.]

Finding—2021 c 269: "The legislature finds that nonfatal strangulation is among the most dangerous acts of domestic violence and sexual assault. Strangulation involves external compression of the victim's airway and blood vessels, causing reduced air and blood flow to the brain. Victims may show no or minimal external signs of injury despite having life-threatening internal injuries including traumatic brain injury. Injuries may present after the assault or much later and may persist for months and even years postassault. Victims who are strangled multiple times face a greater risk of traumatic brain injury. Traumatic brain injury symptoms are often not recognized as assault-related and may include cognitive difficulties such as decreased ability to concentrate, make decisions, and solve problems. Traumatic brain injury symptoms may also include behavior and personality changes such as irritability, impulsivity, and mood swings.

Domestic violence victims who have been nonfatally strangled are eight times more likely to become a subsequent victim of homicide at the hands of the same abusive partner. Research shows that previous acts of strangulation are a unique and substantial predictor of attempted and completed homicide against an intimate partner.

For years, forensic nurses in Washington have provided high-level care to sexual assault victims. Forensic nurses are also trained in medical evaluation of nonfatal strangulation, but only provide this evaluation in cases of sexual assault involving strangulation, as crime victims' compensation will not reimburse in nonsexual assault cases. Strangulation affects victims physically and psychologically. These victims deserve a higher standard of response and medical care. Allowing crime victims' compensation to reimburse for forensic nurse examinations for victims of domestic violence strangulation will provide a better, more victim-centered response in the most dangerous of domestic violence felony cases." [2021 c 269 § 1.]

7.68.900 Effective date—1973 1st ex.s. c 122. This chapter shall take effect on July 1, 1974. [1973 1st ex.s. c 122 § 17.]

Funding required: "This bill shall not take effect until the funds necessary for its implementation have been specifically appropriated by the legislature and such appropriation itself has become law. It is the intention of the legislature that if the governor shall veto this section or any item thereof, none of the provisions of this bill shall take effect." [1973 1st ex.s. c 122 § 21.]

Reviser's note: Funding for 1973 1st ex.s. c 122 was provided in 1973 1st ex.s. c 137 § 107 and 1975 1st ex.s. c 269 § 67(2).

7.68.905 Severability—Construction—1977 ex.s. c 302. (1) If any provision of this chapter, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the chapter, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances, is not affected.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section shall be effective retroactively to July 1, 1974. [1977 ex.s. c 302 § 12.]

7.68.910 Section captions. Section captions as used in this act do not constitute any part of the law. [1973 1st ex.s. c 122 § 20.]

7.68.915 Savings—Statute of limitations—1982 1st ex.s. c 8. Nothing in chapter 8, Laws of 1982 1st ex. sess., affects or impairs any right to benefits existing prior to *the effective date of this act. For injuries occurring on and after July 1, 1981, and before *the effective date of this act, the statute of limitations for filing claims under this chapter shall begin to run on *the effective date of this act. [1982 1st ex.s. c 8 § 3.]

***Reviser's note:** For "the effective date of this act," see note following RCW 7.68.035.

Effective dates—Intent—Reports—1982 1st ex.s. c 8: See notes following RCW 7.68.035.

7.68.920 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521. For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 17.]

Chapter 7.69 RCW
CRIME VICTIMS, SURVIVORS, AND WITNESSES

Sections

Domestic violence leave: Chapter 49.76 RCW.

7.69.010 Intent. In recognition of the severe and detrimental impact of crime on victims, survivors of victims, and witnesses of crime and the civic and moral duty of victims, survivors of victims, and witnesses of crimes to fully and voluntarily cooperate with law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies, and in further recognition of the continuing importance of such citizen cooperation to state and local law enforcement efforts and the general effectiveness and well-being of the criminal justice system of this state, the legislature declares its intent, in this chapter, to grant to the victims of crime and the survivors of such victims a significant role in the criminal justice system. The legislature further intends to ensure that all victims and witnesses of crime are treated with dignity, respect, courtesy, and sensitivity; and that the rights extended in this chapter to victims, survivors of victims, and witnesses of crime are honored and protected by law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and judges in a manner no less vigorous than the protections afforded criminal defendants. [1985 c 443 § 1; 1981 c 145 § 1.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.69.020 Definitions. Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Crime" means an act punishable as a felony, gross misdemeanor, or misdemeanor under the laws of this state or equivalent federal or local law.

(2) "Survivor" or "survivors" of a victim of crime means a spouse or domestic partner, child, parent, legal guardian, sibling, or grandparent. If there is more than one survivor of a victim of crime, one survivor shall be designated by the prosecutor to represent all survivors for purposes of providing the notice to survivors required by this chapter.

(3) "Victim" means a person against whom a crime has been committed or the representative of a person against whom a crime has been committed.

(4) "Victim impact statement" means a statement submitted to the court by the victim or a survivor, individually or with the assistance of the prosecuting attorney if assistance is requested by the victim or survivor, which may include but is not limited to information assessing the financial, medical, social, and psychological impact of the offense upon the victim or survivors.

(5) "Witness" means a person who has been or is expected to be summoned to testify for the prosecution in a criminal action, or who by reason of having relevant information is subject to call or likely to be called as a witness for the prosecution, whether or not an action or proceeding has been commenced.

(6) "Crime victim/witness program" means any crime victim and witness program of a county or local law enforcement agency or prosecutor's office, any rape crisis center's sexual assault victim advocacy program as provided in chapter 70.125 RCW, any domestic violence program's legal and community advocate program for domestic violence victims as provided in chapter 70.123 RCW, or any other crime victim advocacy program which provides trained advocates to assist crime victims during the investigation and prosecution of the crime. [2008 c 6 § 404; 1993 c 350 § 5; 1985 c 443 § 2; 1981 c 145 § 2.]

Findings—1993 c 350: "The legislature finds that domestic violence is a problem of immense proportions affecting individuals as well as communities. Domestic violence has long been recognized as being at the core of other major social problems including child abuse, crimes of violence against person or property, juvenile delinquency, and alcohol and drug abuse. Domestic violence costs include the loss of lives as well as millions of dollars each year in the state of Washington for health care, absence from work, and services to children. The crisis is growing.

While the existing protection order process can be a valuable tool to increase safety for victims and to hold batterers accountable, specific problems in its use have become evident. Victims have difficulty completing the paperwork required; model forms have been modified to be inconsistent with statutory language; different forms create confusion for law enforcement agencies about the contents and enforceability of orders. Refinements are needed so that victims have the easy, quick, and effective access to the court system envisioned at the time the protection order process was first created.

Valuable information about the reported incidents of domestic violence in the state of Washington is unobtainable without gathering data from all law enforcement agencies. Without this information, it is difficult for policymakers, funders, and service providers to plan for the resources and services needed to address the issue." [1993 c 350 § 1.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.69.030 Rights of victims, survivors, and witnesses. There shall be a reasonable effort made to ensure that victims, survivors of victims, and witnesses of crimes have the following rights, which apply to any criminal court and/or juvenile court proceeding:

(1) With respect to victims of violent or sex crimes, to receive, at the time of reporting the crime to law enforcement officials, a written statement of the rights of crime victims as provided in this chapter. The written statement shall include the name, address, and telephone number of a county or local crime victim/witness program, if such a crime victim/witness program exists in the county;

(2) To be informed by local law enforcement agencies or the prosecuting attorney of the final disposition of the case in which the victim, survivor, or witness is involved;

(3) To be notified by the party who issued the subpoena that a court proceeding to which they have been subpoenaed will not occur as scheduled, in order to save the person an unnecessary trip to court;

(4) To receive protection from harm and threats of harm arising out of cooperation with law enforcement and prosecution efforts, and to be provided with information as to the level of protection available;

(5) To be informed of the procedure to be followed to apply for and receive any witness fees to which they are entitled;

(6) To be provided, whenever practical, a secure waiting area during court proceedings that does not require them to be in close proximity to defendants and families or friends of defendants;

(7) To have any stolen or other personal property expeditiously returned by law enforcement agencies or the superior court when no longer needed as evidence. When feasible, all such property, except weapons, currency, contraband, property subject to evidentiary analysis, and property of which ownership is disputed, shall be photographed and returned to the owner within ten days of being taken;

(8) To be provided with appropriate employer intercession services to ensure that employers of victims, survivors of victims, and witnesses of crime will cooperate with the criminal justice process in order to minimize an employee's loss of pay and other benefits resulting from court appearance;

(9) To access to immediate medical assistance and not to be detained for an unreasonable length of time by a law enforcement agency before having such assistance administered. However, an employee of the law enforcement agency may, if necessary, accompany the person to a medical facility to question the person about the criminal incident if the questioning does not hinder the administration of medical assistance. Victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, as defined in RCW 49.76.020, shall be notified of their right to reasonable leave from employment under chapter 49.76 RCW;

(10) With respect to victims of violent and sex crimes, to have a crime victim advocate from a crime victim/witness program, or any other support person of the victim's choosing, present at any prosecutorial or defense interviews with the victim, and at any judicial proceedings related to criminal acts committed against the victim. This subsection applies if practical and if the presence of the crime victim advocate or support person does not cause any unnecessary delay in the investigation or prosecution of the case. The role of the crime victim advocate is to provide emotional support to the crime victim;

(11) With respect to victims and survivors of victims, to be physically present in court during trial, or if subpoenaed to testify, to be scheduled as early as practical in the proceedings in order to be physically present during trial after testifying and not to be excluded solely because they have testified;

(12) With respect to victims and survivors of victims in any felony case or any case involving domestic violence, to be informed by the prosecuting attorney of the date, time, and place of the trial and of the sentencing hearing upon request by a victim or survivor;

(13) To submit a victim impact statement or report to the court, with the assistance of the prosecuting attorney if requested, which shall be included in all presentence reports and permanently included in the files and records accompanying the offender committed to the custody of a state agency or institution;

(14) With respect to victims and survivors of victims in any felony case or any case involving domestic violence, to present a statement, personally or by representation, at the sentencing hearing; and

(15) With respect to victims and survivors of victims, to entry of an order of restitution by the court in all felony cases, even when the offender is sentenced to confinement, unless extraordinary circumstances exist which make restitution inappropriate in the court's judgment. [2022 c 229 § 1; 2009 c 138 § 5; 2008 c 286 § 16; 2004 c 120 § 8; 1999 c 323 § 2; 1997 c 343 § 1; 1993 c 350 § 6; 1985 c 443 § 3; 1981 c 145 § 3.]

Intent—1999 c 323: See note following RCW 9.94A.885.

Findings—1993 c 350: See note following RCW 7.69.020.

Child victims and witnesses, additional rights: Chapter 7.69A RCW.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.69.032 Right to make statement before postsentence release of offender. (1) The legislature recognizes the significant concerns that many victims, survivors of victims, and witnesses of crimes have when offenders are considered for postsentence release from confinement. Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to ensure that victims, survivors of victims, and witnesses of crimes are afforded the opportunity to make a statement that will be considered prior to the granting of postsentence release from confinement for any offender under the jurisdiction of the indeterminate sentence review board or its successor, or by the governor regarding an application for pardon or commutation of sentence.

(2) Victims, survivors of victims, and witnesses of crimes have the following rights:

(a) With respect to victims, survivors of victims, and witnesses of crimes, to present a statement to the indeterminate sentence review board or its successor, in person or by representation, via audio or videotape or other electronic means, or in writing, prior to the granting of parole or community custody release for any offender under the board's jurisdiction.

(b) With respect to victims and survivors of victims, to present a statement to the clemency and pardons board in person, via audio or videotape or other electronic means, or in

writing, at any hearing conducted regarding an application for pardon or commutation of sentence. [2009 c 138 § 1.]

7.69.035 Protection of witnesses who testify against criminal gang members—Intent. The legislature recognizes that witnesses are often fearful of testifying against criminal gang members. Witnesses may be subject to harassment, intimidation, and threats. While the state does not ensure protection of witnesses, the state intends to provide resources to assist local prosecutors in combating gang-related crimes and to help citizens perform their civic duty to testify in these cases. [2008 c 276 § 501.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.69.040 Representation of incapacitated or incompetent victim. For purposes of this chapter, a victim who is incapacitated or otherwise incompetent shall be represented by a parent or present legal guardian, or if none exists, by a representative designated by the prosecuting attorney without court appointment or legal guardianship proceedings. Any victim may designate another person as the victim's representative for purposes of the rights enumerated in RCW 7.69.030. [1985 c 443 § 4.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.69.050 Construction of chapter—Other remedies or defenses. Nothing contained in this chapter may be construed to provide grounds for error in favor of a criminal defendant in a criminal proceeding, nor may anything in this chapter be construed to grant a new cause of action or remedy against the state, its political subdivisions, law enforcement agencies, or prosecuting attorneys. The failure of a person to make a reasonable effort to ensure that victims, survivors, and witnesses under this chapter have the rights enumerated in RCW 7.69.030 shall not result in civil liability against that person. This chapter does not limit other civil remedies or defenses of the offender or the victim or survivors of the victim. [1985 c 443 § 5.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

Chapter 7.69A RCW
CHILD VICTIMS AND WITNESSES

Sections

7.69A.010 Legislative intent. The legislature recognizes that it is important that child victims and child witnesses of crime cooperate with law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies and that their assistance contributes to state and local enforcement efforts and the general effectiveness of the criminal justice system of this state. Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature by means of this chapter, to insure that all child victims and witnesses of crime are treated with the sensitivity, courtesy, and special care that must be afforded to each child victim of crime and that their rights be protected by law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and judges in a manner no less vigorous than the protection afforded the adult victim, witness, or criminal defendant. [1985 c 394 § 1.]

Reviser's note: "This chapter" has been substituted for "this act" in this section.

7.69A.020 Definitions. Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Crime" means an act punishable as a felony, gross misdemeanor, or misdemeanor under the laws of this state or equivalent federal or local law.

(2) "Child" means any living child under the age of eighteen years.

(3) "Victim" means a living person against whom a crime has been committed.

(4) "Witness" means a person who has been or is expected to be summoned to testify for the prosecution in a criminal action, or who by reason of having relevant information is subject to call or likely to be called as a witness for the prosecution, whether or not an action or proceeding has been commenced.

(5) "Family member" means child, parent, or legal guardian.

(6) "Advocate" means any person, including a family member not accused of a crime, who provides support to a child victim or child witness during any legal proceeding.

(7) "Court proceedings" means any court proceeding conducted during the course of the prosecution of a crime committed against a child victim, including pretrial hearings, trial, sentencing, or appellate proceedings.

(8) "Identifying information" means the child's name, address, location, and photograph, and in cases in which the child is a relative or stepchild of the alleged perpetrator, identification of the relationship between the child and the alleged perpetrator.

(9) "Crime victim/witness program" means any crime victim and witness program of a county or local law enforcement agency or prosecutor's office, any rape crisis center's sexual assault victim advocacy program as provided in chapter 70.125 RCW, any domestic violence program's legal and community advocate program for domestic violence victims as provided in chapter 70.123 RCW, or any other crime victim advocacy program which provides trained advocates to assist crime victims during the investigation and prosecution of the crime. [1993 c 350 § 7; 1992 c 188 § 2; 1985 c 394 § 2.]

Findings—1993 c 350: See note following RCW 7.69.020.

Findings—Intent—1992 c 188: "The legislature recognizes that the cooperation of child victims of sexual assault and their families is integral to the successful prosecution of sexual assaults against children. The legislature finds that release of information identifying child victims of sexual assault may subject the child to unwanted contacts by the media, public scrutiny and embarrassment, and places the child victim and the victim's family at risk when the assailant is not in custody. Release of information to the press and the public harms the child victim and has a chilling effect on the willingness of child victims and their families to report sexual abuse and to cooperate with the investigation and prosecution of the crime. The legislature further finds that public dissemination of the child victim's name and other identifying information is not essential to accurate and necessary release of information to the public concerning the operation of the criminal justice system. Therefore, the legislature intends to assure child victims of sexual assault and their families that the identities and locations of child victims will remain confidential." [1992 c 188 § 1.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.69A.030 Rights of child victims and witnesses. In addition to the rights of victims and witnesses provided for in RCW 7.69.030, there shall be every reasonable effort made by law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and judges to assure that child victims and witnesses are afforded the rights enumerated in this section. Except as provided in RCW 7.69A.050 regarding child victims or child witnesses of violent crimes, sex crimes, or child abuse, the enumeration of rights shall not be construed to create substantive rights and duties, and the application of an enumerated right in an individual case is subject to the discretion of the law enforcement agency, prosecutor, or judge. Child victims and witnesses have the following rights, which apply to any criminal court and/or juvenile court proceeding:

(1) To have explained in language easily understood by the child, all legal proceedings and/or police investigations in which the child may be involved.

(2) With respect to child victims of sex or violent crimes or child abuse, to have a crime victim advocate from a crime victim/witness program, or any other support person of the victim's choosing, present at any prosecutorial or defense interviews with the child victim. This subsection applies if practical and if the presence of the crime victim advocate or support person does not cause any unnecessary delay in the investigation or prosecution of the case. The role of the crime victim advocate is to provide emotional support to the child victim and to promote the child's feelings of security and safety.

(3) To be provided, whenever possible, a secure waiting area during court proceedings and to have an advocate or support person remain with the child prior to and during any court proceedings.

(4) To not have the names, addresses, nor photographs of the living child victim or witness disclosed by any law enforcement agency, prosecutor's office, or state agency without the permission of the child victim, child witness, parents, or legal guardians to anyone except another law enforcement agency, prosecutor, defense counsel, or private or governmental agency that provides services to the child victim or witness.

(5) To allow an advocate to make recommendations to the prosecuting attorney about the ability of the child to cooperate with prosecution and the potential effect of the proceedings on the child.

(6) To allow an advocate to provide information to the court concerning the child's ability to understand the nature of the proceedings.

(7) To be provided information or appropriate referrals to social service agencies to assist the child and/or the child's family with the emotional impact of the crime, the subsequent investigation, and judicial proceedings in which the child is involved.

(8) To allow an advocate to be present in court while the child testifies in order to provide emotional support to the child.

(9) To provide information to the court as to the need for the presence of other supportive persons at the court proceedings while the child testifies in order to promote the child's feelings of security and safety.

(10) To allow law enforcement agencies the opportunity to enlist the assistance of other professional personnel such as child protection services, victim advocates or prosecutorial staff trained in the interviewing of the child victim.

(11) With respect to child victims of violent or sex crimes or child abuse, to receive either directly or through the child's parent or guardian if appropriate, at the time of reporting the crime to law enforcement officials, a written statement of the rights of child victims as provided in this chapter. The written statement shall include the name, address, and telephone number of a county or local crime victim/witness program, if such a crime victim/witness program exists in the county. [2004 c 120 § 9; 1997 c 283 § 2; 1993 c 350 § 8; 1985 c 394 § 3.]

Findings—1993 c 350: See note following RCW 7.69.020.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.69A.040 Liability for failure to notify or assure child's rights. The failure to provide notice to a child victim or witness under this chapter of the rights enumerated in RCW 7.69A.030 shall not result in civil liability so long as the failure to notify was in good faith and without gross negligence. The failure to make a reasonable effort to assure that child victims and witnesses are afforded the rights enumerated in RCW 7.69A.030 shall not result in civil liability so long as the failure to make a reasonable effort was in good faith and without gross negligence. [1985 c 394 § 4.]

7.69A.050 Rights of child victims and witnesses—Confidentiality of address—Notice of right—Penalty. At the time of reporting a crime to law enforcement officials and at the time of the initial witness interview, child victims or child witnesses of violent crimes, sex crimes, or child abuse and the child's parents shall be informed of their rights to not have their address disclosed by any law enforcement agency, prosecutor's office, defense counsel, or state agency without the permission of the child victim or the child's parents or legal guardian. The address may be disclosed to another law enforcement agency, prosecutor, defense counsel, or private or governmental agency that provides services to the child. Intentional disclosure of an address in violation of this section is a misdemeanor. [1997 c 283 § 1.]

Chapter 7.69B RCW
CRIME VICTIMS AND WITNESSES—DEPENDENT PERSONS

Sections

7.69B.005 Intent—Finding. The legislature recognizes that it is important that dependent persons who are witnesses and victims of crime cooperate with law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies and that their assistance contributes to state and local enforcement efforts and the general effectiveness of the criminal justice system. The legislature finds that the state has an interest in making it possible for

courts to adequately and fairly conduct cases involving dependent persons who are victims of crimes. Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature, by means of this chapter, to insure that all dependent persons who are victims and witnesses of crime are treated with sensitivity, courtesy, and special care and that their rights be protected by law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and judges in a manner no less vigorous than the protection afforded to other victims, witnesses, and criminal defendants. [2005 c 381 § 1.]

7.69B.010 Definitions. Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Crime" means an act punishable as a felony, gross misdemeanor, or misdemeanor under the laws of this state or equivalent federal or local law.

(2) "Dependent person" has the same meaning as that term is defined in RCW 9A.42.010.

(3) "Victim" means a living person against whom a crime has been committed.

(4) "Witness" means a person who has been or is expected to be summoned to testify for the prosecution or defense in a criminal action, or who by reason of having relevant information is subject to call or likely to be called as a witness, whether or not an action or proceeding has been commenced.

(5) "Family member" means a person who is not accused of a crime and who is an adult child, adult sibling, spouse or domestic partner, parent, or legal guardian of the dependent person.

(6) "Advocate" means any person not accused of a crime, including a family member, approved by the witness or victim, in consultation with his or her guardian if applicable, who provides support to a dependent person during any legal proceeding.

(7) "Court proceedings" means any court proceeding conducted during the course of the prosecution of a crime committed against a dependent person, including pretrial hearings, trial, sentencing, or appellate proceedings.

(8) "Identifying information" means the dependent person's name, address, location, and photograph, and in cases in which the dependent person is a relative of the alleged perpetrator, identification of the relationship between the dependent person and the alleged perpetrator.

(9) "Crime victim/witness program" means any crime victim and witness program of a county or local law enforcement agency or prosecutor's office, any rape crisis center's sexual assault victim advocacy program as provided in chapter 70.125 RCW, any domestic violence program's legal and community advocate program for domestic violence victims as provided in chapter 70.123 RCW, or any other crime victim advocacy program which provides trained advocates to assist crime victims during the investigation and prosecution of the crime. [2008 c 6 § 405; 2005 c 381 § 2.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.69B.020 Rights enumerated. (1) In addition to the rights of victims and witnesses provided for in RCW 7.69.030, there shall be every reasonable effort made by law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and judges to assure that dependent persons who are victims or witnesses are afforded the rights enumerated in this section. The enumeration of rights under this chapter shall not be construed to create substantive rights and duties, and the application of an enumerated right in an individual case is subject to the discretion of the law enforcement agency, prosecutor, or judge. Dependent persons who are victims or witnesses in the criminal justice system have the following rights, which apply to any criminal court or juvenile court proceeding:

(a) To have explained in language easily understood by the dependent person, all legal proceedings and police investigations in which the dependent person may be involved.

(b) With respect to a dependent person who is a victim of a sex or violent crime, to have a crime victim advocate from a crime victim/witness program, or any other advocate of the victim's choosing, present at any prosecutorial or defense interviews with the dependent person. This subsection applies unless it creates undue hardship and if the presence of the crime victim advocate or other advocate does not cause any unnecessary delay in the investigation or prosecution of the case. The role of the crime victim advocate or other advocate is to provide emotional support to the dependent person and to promote the dependent person's feelings of security and safety.

(c) To be provided, whenever possible, a secure waiting area during court proceedings and to have an advocate or support person remain with the dependent person prior to and during any court proceedings.

(d) To allow an advocate to make recommendations to the prosecuting attorney about the ability of the dependent person to cooperate with prosecution and the potential effect of the proceedings on the dependent person.

(e) To allow an advocate to provide information to the court concerning the dependent person's ability to understand the nature of the proceedings.

(f) To be provided information or appropriate referrals to social service agencies to assist the dependent person with the emotional impact of the crime, the subsequent investigation, and judicial proceedings in which the dependent person is involved.

(g) To allow an advocate to be present in court while the dependent person testifies in order to provide emotional support to the dependent person.

(h) To provide information to the court as to the need for the presence of other supportive persons at the court proceedings while the dependent person testifies in order to promote the dependent person's feelings of security and safety.

(i) To allow law enforcement agencies the opportunity to enlist the assistance of other professional personnel such as victim advocates or prosecutorial staff trained in the interviewing of the dependent person.

(j) With respect to a dependent person who is a victim of a violent or sex crime, to receive either directly or through the dependent person's legal guardian, if applicable, at the time of reporting the crime to law enforcement officials, a written statement of the rights of dependent persons as provided in this chapter. The statement may be paraphrased to make it more easily understood. The written statement shall include the name, address, and telephone number of a county or local crime victim/witness program, if such a crime victim/witness program exists in the county.

(2) Any party may request a preliminary hearing for the purpose of establishing accommodations for the dependent person consistent with, but not limited to, the rights enumerated in this section. [2005 c 381 § 3.]

7.69B.030 Testimony—Videotaped depositions. (1) The prosecutor or defense may file a motion with the court at any time prior to commencement of the trial for an order authorizing the taking of a videotape deposition for the purpose of preserving the direct testimony of the moving party's witness if that witness is a dependent person.

(2) The court may grant the motion if the moving party shows that it is likely that the dependent person will be unavailable to testify at a subsequent trial. The court's finding shall be based upon, at a minimum, recommendations from the dependent person's physician or any other person having direct contact with the dependent person and whose recommendations are based on specific behavioral indicators exhibited by the dependent person.

(3) The moving party shall provide reasonable written notice to the other party of the motion and order, if granted, pursuant to superior court criminal rules for depositions.

(4) Both parties shall have an opportunity to be present at the deposition and the nonmoving party shall have the opportunity to cross-examine the dependent person.

(5) Under circumstances permitted by the rules of evidence, the deposition may be introduced as evidence in a subsequent proceeding if the dependent person is unavailable at trial and both the prosecutor and the defendant had notice of and an opportunity to participate in the taking of the deposition. [2005 c 381 § 4.]

7.69B.040 Liability for violating chapter—Actions based on other state or federal laws. (1) The failure to provide notice to a dependent person of the rights enumerated in this chapter or the failure to provide the rights enumerated shall not result in civil liability so long as the failure was in good faith.

(2) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to limit a party's ability to bring an action, including an action for damages, based on rights conferred by other state or federal law. [2005 c 381 § 5.]

Chapter 7.70 RCW
ACTIONS FOR INJURIES RESULTING FROM HEALTH CARE

Sections

Complaint in personal injury actions not to include statement of damages: RCW 4.28.360.

Evidence of furnishing or offering to pay medical expenses inadmissible to prove liability in personal injury actions for medical negligence: Chapter 5.64 RCW.

Immunity of members of professional review committees, societies, examining, licensing or disciplinary boards from civil suit: RCW 4.24.240.

Malpractice insurance for retired physicians providing health care services: RCW 43.70.460.

Statute of limitations in actions for injuries resulting from health care: RCW 4.16.350.

Verdict or award of future economic damages in personal injury or property damage action may provide for periodic payments: RCW 4.56.260.

7.70.010 Declaration of modification of actions for damages based upon injuries resulting from health care. The state of Washington, exercising its police and sovereign power, hereby modifies as set forth in this chapter and in RCW 4.16.350, as now or hereafter amended, certain substantive and procedural aspects of all civil actions and causes of action, whether based on tort, contract, or otherwise, for damages for injury occurring as a result of health care which is provided after June 25, 1976. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 56 § 6.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.70.020 Definitions. As used in this chapter "health care provider" means either:

(1) A person licensed by this state to provide health care or related services including, but not limited to, an acupuncturist or acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner, a physician, osteopathic physician, dentist, nurse, optometrist, podiatric physician and surgeon, chiropractor, physical therapist, psychologist, pharmacist, optician, physician assistant, midwife, osteopathic physician's assistant, nurse practitioner, or physician's trained mobile intensive care paramedic, including, in the event such person is deceased, his or her estate or personal representative;

(2) An employee or agent of a person described in part (1) above, acting in the course and scope of his [or her] employment, including, in the event such employee or agent is deceased, his or her estate or personal representative; or

(3) An entity, whether or not incorporated, facility, or institution employing one or more persons described in part (1) above, including, but not limited to, a hospital, clinic, health maintenance organization, or nursing home; or an officer, director, employee, or agent thereof acting in the course and scope of his or her employment, including in the event such officer, director, employee, or agent is deceased, his or her estate or personal representative. [2019 c 308 § 16; 2010 c 286 § 13; 1995 c 323 § 3; 1985 c 326 § 27; 1981 c 53 § 1; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 56 § 7.]

Findings—2019 c 308: See note following RCW 18.06.010.

Intent—2010 c 286: See RCW 18.06.005.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.70.030 Propositions required to be established—Burden of proof. No award shall be made in any action or arbitration for damages for injury occurring as the result of health care which is provided after June 25, 1976, unless the plaintiff establishes one or more of the following propositions:

(1) That injury resulted from the failure of a health care provider to follow the accepted standard of care;

(2) That a health care provider promised the patient or his or her representative that the injury suffered would not occur;

(3) That injury resulted from health care to which the patient or his or her representative did not consent.

Unless otherwise provided in this chapter, the plaintiff shall have the burden of proving each fact essential to an award by a preponderance of the evidence. [2011 c 336 § 250; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 56 § 8.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.70.040 Necessary elements of proof that injury resulted from failure to follow accepted standard of care—COVID-19 pandemic. (1) The following shall be necessary elements of proof that injury resulted from the failure of the health care provider to follow the accepted standard of care:

(a) The health care provider failed to exercise that degree of care, skill, and learning expected of a reasonably prudent health care provider at that time in the profession or class to which he or she belongs, in the state of Washington, acting in the same or similar circumstances;

(b) Such failure was a proximate cause of the injury complained of.

(2)(a) The following shall be necessary elements of proof that injury resulted from the failure of a health care provider to follow the accepted standard of care in acting or failing to act following the proclamation of a state of emergency in all counties in the state of Washington by the governor in response to the COVID-19 pandemic on February 29, 2020, and until the state of emergency is terminated:

(i) The health care provider failed to exercise that degree of care, skill, and learning expected of a reasonably prudent health care provider at that time in the profession or class to which he or she belongs, in the state of Washington, acting in the same or similar circumstances, taking into account whether the act or omission:

(A) Was in good faith based upon guidance, direction, or recommendations, including in interim or preliminary form, published by the federal government, the state of Washington or departments, divisions, agencies, or agents thereof, or local governments in the state of Washington or departments, divisions, agencies, or agents thereof, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and applicable to such health care provider; or

(B) Was due to a lack of resources including, but not limited to, available facility capacity, staff, and supplies, directly attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic;

(ii) Such failure was a proximate cause of the injury complained of.

(b) The provisions in (a) of this subsection apply only if relevant to the determination of whether the health care provider followed the standard of care, as determined by the court.

(c) If any health care provider presents evidence described in (a) of this subsection, the injured patient or the patient's representative is permitted to present rebuttal evidence, so long as such evidence is otherwise admissible. [2021 c 241 § 2; 2011 c 336 § 251; 1983 c 149 § 2; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 56 § 9.]

Findings—Intent—2021 c 241: "(1) The legislature finds that the COVID-19 pandemic, a public health crisis, has placed an oversized burden on Washington's health care providers and health care facilities, as they care for communities and families.

(2) The legislature further finds that during the pandemic, the law should accurately reflect the realities of the challenging practice conditions. It is fair and appropriate to give special consideration to the challenges arising during the pandemic, such as evolving and sometimes conflicting direction from health officials regarding treatment for COVID-19 infected patients, supply chain shortages of personal protective equipment and testing supplies, and a proclamation on nonurgent procedures resulting in delayed or missed health screenings and diagnoses.

(3) The legislature intends, during the period of the declared state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, to amend the current standard of care law governing health care providers to give special consideration to additional relevant factors." [2021 c 241 § 1.]

Effective date—2021 c 241: "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [May 10, 2021]." [2021 c 241 § 3.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.70.050 Failure to secure informed consent—Necessary elements of proof—Emergency situations. (1) The following shall be necessary elements of proof that injury resulted from health care in a civil negligence case or arbitration involving the issue of the alleged breach of the duty to secure an informed consent by a patient or his or her representatives against a health care provider:

(a) That the health care provider failed to inform the patient of a material fact or facts relating to the treatment;

(b) That the patient consented to the treatment without being aware of or fully informed of such material fact or facts;

(c) That a reasonably prudent patient under similar circumstances would not have consented to the treatment if informed of such material fact or facts;

(d) That the treatment in question proximately caused injury to the patient.

(2) Under the provisions of this section a fact is defined as or considered to be a material fact, if a reasonably prudent person in the position of the patient or his or her representative would attach significance to it deciding whether or not to submit to the proposed treatment.

(3) Material facts under the provisions of this section which must be established by expert testimony shall be either:

(a) The nature and character of the treatment proposed and administered;

(b) The anticipated results of the treatment proposed and administered;

(c) The recognized possible alternative forms of treatment; or

(d) The recognized serious possible risks, complications, and anticipated benefits involved in the treatment administered and in the recognized possible alternative forms of treatment, including nontreatment.

(4) If a recognized health care emergency exists and the patient does not have the capacity to give an informed consent and/or a person legally authorized to consent on behalf of the patient is not readily available, his or her consent to required treatment will be implied. [2021 c 270 § 2; 2011 c 336 § 252; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 56 § 10.]

Effective date—2021 c 270: See note following RCW 7.70.065.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.70.060 Consent form—Contents—Prima facie evidence—Shared decision making—Patient decision aid—Failure to use. (1) If a patient who has capacity to make health a care [a health care] decision, or his or her representative if he or she does not have the capacity to make a health care decision, signs a consent form which sets forth the following, the signed consent form shall constitute prima facie evidence that the patient gave his or her informed consent to the treatment administered and the patient has the burden of rebutting this by a preponderance of the evidence:

(a) A description, in language the patient could reasonably be expected to understand, of:

(i) The nature and character of the proposed treatment;

(ii) The anticipated results of the proposed treatment;

(iii) The recognized possible alternative forms of treatment; and

(iv) The recognized serious possible risks, complications, and anticipated benefits involved in the treatment and in the recognized possible alternative forms of treatment, including nontreatment;

(b) Or as an alternative, a statement that the patient elects not to be informed of the elements set forth in (a) of this subsection.

(2) If a patient who has capacity to make a health care decision, or his or her representative if he or she does not have the capacity to make a health care decision, signs an acknowledgment of shared decision making as described in this section, such acknowledgment shall constitute prima facie evidence that the patient gave his or her informed consent to the treatment administered and the patient has the burden of rebutting this by clear and convincing evidence. An acknowledgment of shared decision making shall include:

(a) A statement that the patient, or his or her representative, and the health care provider have engaged in shared decision making as an alternative means of meeting the informed consent requirements set forth by laws, accreditation standards, and other mandates;

(b) A brief description of the services that the patient and provider jointly have agreed will be furnished;

(c) A brief description of the patient decision aid or aids that have been used by the patient and provider to address the needs for (i) high quality, up-to-date information about the condition, including risk and benefits of available options and, if appropriate, a discussion of the limits of scientific knowledge about outcomes; (ii) values clarification to help patients sort out their values and preferences; and (iii) guidance or coaching in deliberation, designed to improve the patient's involvement in the decision process;

(d) A statement that the patient or his or her representative understands: The risk or seriousness of the disease or condition to be prevented or treated; the available treatment alternatives, including nontreatment; and the risks, benefits, and uncertainties of the treatment alternatives, including nontreatment; and

(e) A statement certifying that the patient or his or her representative has had the opportunity to ask the provider questions, and to have any questions answered to the patient's satisfaction, and indicating the patient's intent to receive the identified services.

(3) As used in this section, "shared decision making" means a process in which the physician or other health care practitioner discusses with the patient or his or her representative the information specified in subsection (2) of this section with the use of a patient decision aid and the patient shares with the provider such relevant personal information as might make one treatment or side effect more or less tolerable than others.

(4)(a) As used in this section, "patient decision aid" means a written, audiovisual, or online tool that provides a balanced presentation of the condition and treatment options, benefits, and harms, including, if appropriate, a discussion of the limits of scientific knowledge about outcomes, for any medical condition or procedure, including abortion as defined in RCW 9.02.170 and:

(i)(A) That is certified by one or more national certifying organizations recognized by the medical director of the health care authority; or

(B) That has been evaluated based on the international patient decision aid standards by an organization located in the United States or Canada and has a current overall score satisfactory to the medical director of the health care authority; or

(ii) That, if a current evaluation is not available from an organization located in the United States or Canada, the medical director of the health care authority has independently assessed and certified based on the international patient decision aid standards.

(b) The health care authority may charge a fee to the certification applicant to defray the costs of the assessment and certification under this subsection.

(5) Failure to use a form or to engage in shared decision making, with or without the use of a patient decision aid, shall not be admissible as evidence of failure to obtain informed consent. There shall be no liability, civil or otherwise, resulting from a health care provider choosing either the signed consent form set forth in subsection (1)(a) of this section or the signed acknowledgment of shared decision making as set forth in subsection (2) of this section. [2021 c 270 § 3; 2012 c 101 § 1; 2007 c 259 § 3; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 56 § 11.]

Effective date—2021 c 270: See note following RCW 7.70.065.

Minors

access to personal records: RCW 42.48.020.
liability of provider: RCW 26.09.310.
mental health treatment: Chapter 71.34 RCW.
sexually transmitted diseases: RCW 70.24.110.

Records, rights: RCW 70.02.130.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.70.065 Informed consent—Persons authorized to provide for patients who do not have capacity—Priority—Unaccompanied homeless minors. (1) Informed consent for health care for a patient who does not have the capacity to make a health care decision may be obtained from a person authorized to consent on behalf of such patient. For purposes of this section, a person who is of the age of consent to make a particular health care decision is presumed to have capacity, unless a health care provider reasonably determines the person lacks capacity to make the health care decision due to the person's demonstrated inability to understand and appreciate the nature and consequences of a health condition, the proposed treatment, including the anticipated results, benefits, risks, and alternatives to the proposed treatment, including nontreatment, and reach an informed decision as a result of cognitive impairment; and the health care provider documents the basis for the determination in the medical record.

(a) Persons authorized to provide informed consent to health care on behalf of an adult patient who does not have the capacity to make a health care decision shall be a member of one of the following classes of persons in the following order of priority:

(i) The appointed guardian of the patient, if any;

(ii) The individual, if any, to whom the patient has given a durable power of attorney that encompasses the authority to make health care decisions;

(iii) The patient's spouse or state registered domestic partner;

(iv) Children of the patient who are at least eighteen years of age;

(v) Parents of the patient;

(vi) Adult brothers and sisters of the patient;

(vii) Adult grandchildren of the patient who are familiar with the patient;

(viii) Adult nieces and nephews of the patient who are familiar with the patient;

(ix) Adult aunts and uncles of the patient who are familiar with the patient; and

(x)(A) An adult who:

(I) Has exhibited special care and concern for the patient;

(II) Is familiar with the patient's personal values;

(III) Is reasonably available to make health care decisions;

(IV) Is not any of the following: A physician to the patient or an employee of the physician; the owner, administrator, or employee of a health care facility, nursing home, or long-term care facility where the patient resides or receives care; or a person who receives compensation to provide care to the patient; and

(V) Provides a declaration under (a)(x)(B) of this subsection.

(B) An adult who meets the requirements of (a)(x)(A) of this subsection shall provide a declaration, which is effective for up to six months from the date of the declaration, signed and dated under penalty of perjury pursuant to chapter 5.50 RCW, that recites facts and circumstances demonstrating that he or she is familiar with the patient and that he or she:

(I) Meets the requirements of (a)(x)(A) of this subsection;

(II) Is a close friend of the patient;

(III) Is willing and able to become involved in the patient's health care;

(IV) Has maintained such regular contact with the patient as to be familiar with the patient's activities, health, personal values, and morals; and

(V) Is not aware of a person in a higher priority class willing and able to provide informed consent to health care on behalf of the patient.

(C) A health care provider may, but is not required to, rely on a declaration provided under (a)(x)(B) of this subsection. The health care provider or health care facility where services are rendered is immune from suit in any action, civil or criminal, or from professional or other disciplinary action when such reliance is based on a declaration provided in compliance with (a)(x)(B) of this subsection.

(b) If the health care provider seeking informed consent for proposed health care of the patient who does not have the capacity to make a particular health care decision, other than a person who is under the age of consent for the particular health care decision, makes reasonable efforts to locate and secure authorization from a competent person in the first or succeeding class and finds no such person available, authorization may be given by any person in the next class in the order of descending priority. However, no person under this section may provide informed consent to health care:

(i) If a person of higher priority under this section has refused to give such authorization; or

(ii) If there are two or more individuals in the same class and the decision is not unanimous among all available members of that class.

(c) Before any person authorized to provide informed consent on behalf of a patient who does not have the capacity to make a health care decision exercises that authority, the person must first determine in good faith that that patient, if he or she had the capacity to make the health care decision, would consent to the proposed health care. If such a determination cannot be made, the decision to consent to the proposed health care may be made only after determining that the proposed health care is in the patient's best interests. This subsection (1)(c) does not apply to informed consent provided on behalf of a patient who has not reached the age of consent required to make a particular health care decision.

(d) No rights under Washington's death with dignity act, chapter 70.245 RCW, may be exercised through a person authorized to provide informed consent to health care on behalf of a patient who does not have the capacity to make a health care decision.

(2) Informed consent for health care, including mental health care, for a patient who is under the age of majority and who is not otherwise authorized to provide informed consent, may be obtained from a person authorized to consent on behalf of such a patient.

(a) Persons authorized to provide informed consent to health care, including mental health care, on behalf of a patient who is under the age of majority and who is not otherwise authorized to provide informed consent, shall be a member of one of the following classes of persons in the following order of priority:

(i) The appointed guardian, or legal custodian authorized pursuant to Title 26 RCW, of the minor patient, if any;

(ii) A person authorized by the court to consent to medical care for a child in out-of-home placement pursuant to chapter 13.32A or 13.34 RCW, if any;

(iii) Parents of the minor patient;

(iv) The individual, if any, to whom the minor's parent has given a signed authorization to make health care decisions for the minor patient; and

(v) A competent adult representing himself or herself to be a relative responsible for the health care of such minor patient or a competent adult who has signed and dated a declaration under penalty of perjury pursuant to chapter 5.50 RCW stating that the adult person is a relative responsible for the health care of the minor patient. Such declaration shall be effective for up to six months from the date of the declaration.

(b)(i) Informed consent for health care on behalf of a patient who is under the age of majority and who is not otherwise authorized to provide informed consent may be obtained from a school nurse, school counselor, or homeless student liaison when:

(A) Consent is necessary for nonemergency, outpatient, primary care services, including physical examinations, vision examinations and eyeglasses, dental examinations, hearing examinations and hearing aids, immunizations, treatments for illnesses and conditions, and routine follow-up care customarily provided by a health care provider in an outpatient setting, excluding elective surgeries;

(B) The minor patient meets the definition of a "homeless child or youth" under the federal McKinney-Vento homeless education assistance improvements act of 2001, P.L. 107-110, January 8, 2002, 115 Stat. 2005; and

(C) The minor patient is not under the supervision or control of a parent, custodian, or legal guardian, and is not in the care and custody of the department of social and health services.

(ii) A person authorized to consent to care under this subsection (2)(b) and the person's employing school or school district are not subject to administrative sanctions or civil damages resulting from the consent or nonconsent for care, any care, or payment for any care, rendered pursuant to this section. Nothing in this section prevents a health care facility or a health care provider from seeking reimbursement from other sources for care provided to a minor patient under this subsection (2)(b).

(iii) Upon request by a health care facility or a health care provider, a person authorized to consent to care under this subsection (2)(b) must provide to the person rendering care a declaration signed and dated under penalty of perjury pursuant to chapter 5.50 RCW stating that the person is a school nurse, school counselor, or homeless student liaison and that the minor patient meets the elements under (b)(i) of this subsection. The declaration must also include written notice of the exemption from liability under (b)(ii) of this subsection.

(c) A health care provider may, but is not required to, rely on the representations or declaration of a person claiming to be a relative responsible for the care of the minor patient, under (a)(v) of this subsection, or a person claiming to be authorized to consent to the health care of the minor patient under (b) of this subsection, if the health care provider does not have actual notice of the falsity of any of the statements made by the person claiming to be a relative responsible for the health care of the minor patient, or person claiming to be authorized to consent to the health care of the minor patient.

(d) A health care facility or a health care provider may, in its discretion, require documentation of a person's claimed status as being a relative responsible for the health care of the minor patient, or a person claiming to be authorized to consent to the health care of the minor patient under (b) of this subsection. However, there is no obligation to require such documentation.

(e) The health care provider or health care facility where services are rendered shall be immune from suit in any action, civil or criminal, or from professional or other disciplinary action when such reliance is based on a declaration signed under penalty of perjury pursuant to chapter 5.50 RCW stating that the adult person is a relative responsible for the health care of the minor patient under (a)(v) of this subsection, or a person claiming to be authorized to consent to the health care of the minor patient under (b) of this subsection.

(3) An unaccompanied homeless youth who is under the age of majority, who is not otherwise authorized to provide informed consent, and is unable to obtain informed consent under subsection (2)(b)(i) of this section is authorized to provide informed consent for nonemergency, outpatient, primary care services, including physical examinations, vision examinations and eyeglasses, dental examinations, hearing examinations and hearing aids, immunizations, treatments for illnesses and conditions, and routine follow-up care customarily provided by a health care provider in an outpatient setting, excluding elective surgeries.

(a) For purposes of this subsection:

(i) "Unaccompanied" means a youth experiencing homelessness while not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

(ii) "Homeless" means without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence as set forth in the federal McKinney-Vento homeless education assistance improvements act of 2001, P.L. 107-110, January 8, 2002, 115 Stat. 2005.

(b) A health care facility or a health care provider may, in its discretion, require documentation that the minor patient under this subsection (3) is an unaccompanied homeless youth. However, there is no obligation to require such documentation. Acceptable documentation that a minor patient is an unaccompanied homeless youth includes a written or electronic statement signed under penalty of perjury pursuant to chapter 5.50 RCW by:

(i) Staff at a governmental or nonprofit human services agency or homeless services agency;

(ii) An attorney representing the minor patient; or

(iii) An adult relative of the minor patient or other adult with knowledge of the minor patient and the minor patient's housing situation.

(c) A health care provider may, but is not required to, rely on the representations or declaration stating that the patient is an unaccompanied homeless youth, if the health care provider does not have actual notice of the falsity of any of the statements made by the person claiming to be authorized to consent to the health care of the minor patient.

(d) The health care provider or health care facility where services are rendered is immune from suit in any action, civil

or criminal, and from professional or other disciplinary action when such reliance is based on a declaration signed under penalty of perjury pursuant to chapter 5.50 RCW stating that the patient is an unaccompanied homeless youth under (b) of this subsection, or is based on the statement of a minor patient regarding the minor patient's housing situation.

(e) A person who provides a statement for documentation that the minor patient is an unaccompanied homeless youth is not subject to administrative sanctions or civil liability for providing documentation in good faith based upon the person's knowledge of the minor patient and the minor patient's housing situation.

(f) During a visit with an unaccompanied homeless youth who provides informed consent authorized under this subsection (3), a primary care provider as defined under RCW 74.09.010 shall use existing best practices that align with any guidelines developed by the office of crime victims advocacy established in RCW 43.280.080 and the commercially sexually exploited children statewide coordinating committee established under RCW 7.68.801 designed to identify:

(i) Whether the unaccompanied homeless youth may be a victim of human trafficking; and

(ii) Potential referral to additional services, the department of children, youth, and families, or law enforcement.

(4) For the purposes of this section, "health care," "health care provider," and "health care facility" shall be defined as established in RCW 70.02.010.

(5) A person who knowingly provides a false declaration under this section shall be subject to criminal penalties under chapter 9A.72 RCW. [2022 c 291 § 1; 2021 c 270 § 1; 2020 c 312 § 705. Prior: 2019 c 232 § 8; 2019 c 209 § 1; 2017 c 275 § 1; 2007 c 156 § 11; 2006 c 93 § 1; 2005 c 440 § 2; 2003 c 283 § 29; 1987 c 162 § 1.]

Effective date—2021 c 270: "This act takes effect January 1, 2022." [2021 c 270 § 6.]

Effective dates—2020 c 312: See note following RCW 11.130.915.

Intent—2005 c 440: "(1) It is the intent of the legislature to assist children in the care of kin to access appropriate medical services. Children being raised by kin have faced barriers to medical care because their kinship caregivers have not been able to verify that they are the identified primary caregivers of these children. Such barriers pose an especially significant challenge to kinship caregivers in dealing with health professionals when children are left in their care.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature to assist kinship caregivers in accessing appropriate medical care to meet the needs of a child in their care by permitting such responsible adults who are providing care to a child to give informed consent to medical care." [2005 c 440 § 1.]

7.70.068 Informed consent—May be contained in mental health advance directive. Consent to treatment or admission contained in a validly executed mental health advance directive constitutes informed consent for purposes of this chapter. [2003 c 283 § 30.]

7.70.070 Attorneys' fees. The court shall, in any action under this chapter, determine the reasonableness of each party's attorneys fees. The court shall take into consideration the following:

(1) The time and labor required, the novelty and difficulty of the questions involved, and the skill requisite to perform the legal service properly;

(2) The likelihood, if apparent to the client, that the acceptance of the particular employment will preclude other employment by the lawyer;

(3) The fee customarily charged in the locality for similar legal services;

(4) The amount involved and the results obtained;

(5) The time limitations imposed by the client or by the circumstances;

(6) The nature and length of the professional relationship with the client;

(7) The experience, reputation, and ability of the lawyer or lawyers performing the services;

(8) Whether the fee is fixed or contingent. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 56 § 12.]

Attorneys' fees: Chapter 4.84 RCW.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.70.080 Evidence of compensation from other source. Any party may present evidence to the trier of fact that the plaintiff has already been compensated for the injury complained of from any source except the assets of the plaintiff, the plaintiff's representative, or the plaintiff's immediate family. In the event such evidence is admitted, the plaintiff may present evidence of an obligation to repay such compensation and evidence of any amount paid by the plaintiff, or his or her representative or immediate family, to secure the right to the compensation. Compensation as used in this section shall mean payment of money or other property to or on behalf of the plaintiff, rendering of services to the plaintiff free of charge to the plaintiff, or indemnification of expenses incurred by or on behalf of the plaintiff. Notwithstanding this section, evidence of compensation by a defendant health care provider may be offered only by that provider. [2006 c 8 § 315; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 56 § 13.]

Findings—Intent—Part headings and subheadings not law—Severability—2006 c 8: See notes following RCW 5.64.010.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.70.090 Hospital governing bodies—Liability—Limitations. Members of the board of directors or other governing body of a public or private hospital are not individually liable for personal injuries or death resulting from health care administered by a health care provider granted privileges to provide health care at the hospital unless the decision to grant the privilege to provide health care at the hospital constitutes gross negligence. [1987 c 212 § 1201; 1986 c 305 § 905.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.70.100 Mandatory mediation of health care claims—Procedures. (1) Before a superior court trial, all causes of action, whether based in tort, contract, or otherwise, for damages arising from injury occurring as a result of health care provided after July 1, 1993, shall be subject to mandatory mediation prior to trial except as provided in subsection (4) of this section.

(2) The supreme court shall by rule adopt procedures to implement mandatory mediation of actions under this chapter. The implementation contemplates the adoption of rules by the supreme court which will require mandatory mediation without exception unless subsection (4) of this section

applies. The rules on mandatory mediation shall address, at a minimum:

(a) Procedures for the appointment of, and qualifications of, mediators. A mediator shall have experience or expertise related to actions arising from injury occurring as a result of health care, and be a member of the state bar association who has been admitted to the bar for a minimum of five years or who is a retired judge. The parties may stipulate to a nonlawyer mediator. The court may prescribe additional qualifications of mediators;

(b) Appropriate limits on the amount or manner of compensation of mediators;

(c) The number of days following the filing of a claim under this chapter within which a mediator must be selected;

(d) The method by which a mediator is selected. The rule shall provide for designation of a mediator by the superior court if the parties are unable to agree upon a mediator;

(e) The number of days following the selection of a mediator within which a mediation conference must be held;

(f) A means by which mediation of an action under this chapter may be waived by a mediator who has determined that the claim is not appropriate for mediation; and

(g) Any other matters deemed necessary by the court.

(3) Mediators shall not impose discovery schedules upon the parties.

(4) The mandatory mediation requirement of subsection (2) of this section does not apply to an action subject to mandatory arbitration under chapter 7.06 RCW or to an action in which the parties have agreed, subsequent to the arisal of the claim, to submit the claim to arbitration under chapter 7.04A or 7.70A RCW.

(5) The implementation also contemplates the adoption of a rule by the supreme court for procedures for the parties to certify to the court the manner of mediation used by the parties to comply with this section. [2013 c 82 § 1; 2007 c 119 § 1; 2006 c 8 § 314; 1993 c 492 § 419.]

Findings—Intent—Part headings and subheadings not law—Severability—2006 c 8: See notes following RCW 5.64.010.

Findings—Intent—1993 c 492: See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.70.110 Mandatory mediation of health care claims—Tolling statute of limitations. The making of a written, good faith request for mediation of a dispute related to damages for injury occurring as a result of health care prior to filing a cause of action under this chapter shall toll the statute of limitations provided in RCW 4.16.350 for one year. [1996 c 270 § 1; 1993 c 492 § 420.]

Findings—Intent—1993 c 492: See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.70.120 Mandatory mediation of health care claims—Right to trial not abridged. RCW 7.70.100 may not be construed to abridge the right to trial by jury following an unsuccessful attempt at mediation. [1993 c 492 § 421.]

Findings—Intent—1993 c 492: See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.70.130 Mandatory mediation of health care claims—Exempt from arbitration mandate. A cause of action that has been mediated as provided in RCW 7.70.100 shall be exempt from any superior court civil rules mandating arbitration of civil actions or participation in settlement conferences prior to trial. [1993 c 492 § 423.]

Findings—Intent—1993 c 492: See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.70.140 Medical malpractice closed claim reporting requirements. (1) As used in this section:

(a) "Claim" has the same meaning as in RCW 48.140.010(1).

(b) "Claimant" has the same meaning as in RCW 48.140.010(2).

(c) "Commissioner" has the same meaning as in RCW 48.140.010(4).

(d) "Medical malpractice" has the same meaning as in RCW 48.140.010(9).

(2)(a) For claims settled or otherwise disposed of on or after January 1, 2008, the claimant or his or her attorney must report data to the commissioner if any action filed under this chapter results in a final:

(i) Judgment in any amount;

(ii) Settlement or payment in any amount; or

(iii) Disposition resulting in no indemnity payment.

(b) As used in this subsection, "data" means:

(i) The date of the incident of medical malpractice that was the principal cause of the action;

(ii) The principal county in which the incident of medical malpractice occurred;

(iii) The date of suit, if filed;

(iv) The injured person's sex and age on the incident date; and

(v) Specific information about the disposition, judgment, or settlement, including:

(A) The date and amount of any judgment or settlement;

(B) Court costs;

(C) Attorneys' fees; and

(D) Costs of expert witnesses. [2006 c 8 § 209.]

Findings—Intent—Part headings and subheadings not law—Severability—2006 c 8: See notes following RCW 5.64.010.

7.70.150 Actions alleging violation of accepted standard of care—Certificate of merit required. (1) In an action against an individual health care provider under this chapter for personal injury or wrongful death in which the injury is alleged to have been caused by an act or omission that violates the accepted standard of care, the plaintiff must file a certificate of merit at the time of commencing the action. If the action is commenced within forty-five days prior to the expiration of the applicable statute of limitations, the plaintiff must file the certificate of merit no later than forty-five days after commencing the action.

(2) The certificate of merit must be executed by a health care provider who meets the qualifications of an expert in the action. If there is more than one defendant in the action, the person commencing the action must file a certificate of merit for each defendant.

(3) The certificate of merit must contain a statement that the person executing the certificate of merit believes, based on the information known at the time of executing the certificate of merit, that there is a reasonable probability that the

defendant's conduct did not follow the accepted standard of care required to be exercised by the defendant.

(4) Upon motion of the plaintiff, the court may grant an additional period of time to file the certificate of merit, not to exceed ninety days, if the court finds there is good cause for the extension.

(5)(a) Failure to file a certificate of merit that complies with the requirements of this section is grounds for dismissal of the case.

(b) If a case is dismissed for failure to file a certificate of merit that complies with the requirements of this section, the filing of the claim against the health care provider shall not be used against the health care provider in professional liability insurance rate setting, personal credit history, or professional licensing and credentialing. [2006 c 8 § 304.]

Findings—Intent—Part headings and subheadings not law—Severability—2006 c 8: See notes following RCW 5.64.010.

7.70.160 Frivolous claims. In any action under this section [chapter], an attorney that has drafted, or assisted in drafting and filing an action, counterclaim, cross-claim, third-party claim, or a defense to a claim, upon signature and filing, certifies that to the best of the party's or attorney's knowledge, information, and belief, formed after reasonable inquiry it is not frivolous, and is well-grounded in fact and is warranted by existing law or a good faith argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law, and that it is not interposed for any improper purpose, such as to harass or to cause frivolous litigation. If an action is signed and filed in violation of this rule, the court, upon motion or upon its own initiative, may impose upon the person who signed it, a represented party, or both, an appropriate sanction, which may include an order to pay to the other party or parties the amount of the reasonable expenses incurred because of the filing of the action, counterclaim, cross-claim, third-party claim, or a defense to a claim, including a reasonable attorney fee. The procedures governing the enforcement of RCW 4.84.185 shall apply to this section. [2006 c 8 § 316.]

Findings—Intent—Part headings and subheadings not law—Severability—2006 c 8: See notes following RCW 5.64.010.

Chapter 7.70A RCW
ARBITRATION OF HEALTH CARE ACTIONS

Sections

7.70A.010 Actions for personal injury or wrongful death—Arbitration authorized. This chapter applies to any cause of action for damages for personal injury or wrongful death based on alleged professional negligence in the provision of health care where all parties to the action have agreed to submit the dispute to arbitration under this chapter in accordance with the requirements of RCW 7.70A.020. [2006 c 8 § 305.]

7.70A.020 Election to submit to arbitration—Procedures. (1) Parties in an action covered under RCW 7.70A.010 may elect to submit the dispute to arbitration under this chapter in accordance with the requirements in this section.

(a) A claimant may elect to submit the dispute to arbitration under this chapter by including such election in the complaint filed at the commencement of the action. A defendant may elect to submit the dispute to arbitration under this chapter by including such election in the defendant's answer to the complaint. The dispute will be submitted to arbitration under this chapter only if all parties to the action elect to submit the dispute to arbitration.

(b) If the parties do not initially elect to submit the dispute to arbitration in accordance with (a) of this subsection, the parties may make such an election at any time during the pendency of the action by filing a stipulation with the court in which all parties to the action agree to submit the dispute to arbitration under this chapter.

(2) A party that does not initially elect to submit a dispute to arbitration under this chapter must file a declaration with the court that meets the following requirements:

(a) In the case of a claimant, the declaration must be filed at the time of commencing the action and must state that the attorney representing the claimant presented the claimant with a copy of the provisions of this chapter before commencing the action and that the claimant elected not to submit the dispute to arbitration under this chapter; and

(b) In the case of a defendant, the declaration must be filed at the time of filing the answer and must state that the attorney representing the defendant presented the defendant with a copy of the provisions of this chapter before filing the defendant's answer and that the defendant elected not to submit the dispute to arbitration under this chapter. [2006 c 8 § 306.]

7.70A.030 Selection of arbitrator. (1) An arbitrator shall be selected by agreement of the parties no later than forty-five days after: (a) The date all defendants elected arbitration in the answer where the parties elected arbitration in the initial complaint and answer; or (b) the date of the stipulation where the parties agreed to enter into arbitration after the commencement of the action through a stipulation filed with the court. The parties may agree to select more than one arbitrator to conduct the arbitration.

(2) If the parties are unable to agree to an arbitrator by the time specified in subsection (1) of this section, each side may submit the names of three arbitrators to the court, and the court shall select an arbitrator from among the submitted names within fifteen days of being notified that the parties are unable to agree to an arbitrator. If none of the parties submit any names of potential arbitrators, the court shall select an arbitrator. [2006 c 8 § 307.]

7.70A.040 Arbitration proceedings—Experts—Discovery. The arbitrator may conduct the arbitration in such

manner as the arbitrator considers appropriate so as to aid in the fair and expeditious disposition of the proceeding subject to the requirements of this section and RCW 7.70A.050.

(1)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, each party is entitled to two experts on the issue of liability, two experts on the issue of damages, and one rebuttal expert.

(b) Where there are multiple parties on one side, the arbitrator shall determine the number of experts that are allowed based on the minimum number of experts necessary to ensure a fair and economic resolution of the action.

(2)(a) Unless the arbitrator determines that exceptional circumstances require additional discovery, each party is entitled to the following discovery from any other party:

(i) Twenty-five interrogatories, including subparts;

(ii) Ten requests for admission; and

(iii) In accordance with applicable court rules:

(A) Requests for production of documents and things, and for entry upon land for inspection and other purposes; and

(B) Requests for physical and mental examinations of persons.

(b) The parties shall be entitled to the following depositions:

(i) Depositions of parties and any expert that a party expects to call as a witness. Except by order of the arbitrator for good cause shown, the length of the deposition of a party or an expert witness shall be limited to four hours.

(ii) Depositions of other witnesses. Unless the arbitrator determines that exceptional circumstances require additional depositions, the total number of depositions of persons who are not parties or expert witnesses is limited to five depositions per side, each of which may last no longer than two hours in length. In the deposition of a fact witness, each side is entitled to examine for one hour of the deposition.

(3) An arbitrator may issue a subpoena for the attendance of a witness and for the production of records and other evidence at any hearing and may administer oaths. A subpoena must be served in the manner for service of subpoenas in a civil action and, upon motion to the court by a party to the arbitration proceeding or the arbitrator, enforced in the manner for enforcement of subpoenas in a civil action. [2006 c 8 § 308.]

7.70A.050 Arbitration time frames. (1) An arbitration under this chapter shall be conducted according to the time frames specified in this section. The time frames provided in this section run from the date all defendants have agreed to arbitration in their answers where the parties elected arbitration in the initial complaint and answer, and from the date of the execution of the stipulation where the parties agreed to enter into arbitration after the commencement of the action through a stipulation filed with the court. The arbitrator shall issue a case scheduling order in every case specifying the dates by which the requirements of (b) through (f) of this subsection must be completed.

(a) Within forty-five days, the claimant shall provide stipulations for all relevant medical records to the defendants.

(b) Within one hundred twenty days, the claimant shall disclose to the defendants the names and curriculum vitae or other documentation of qualifications of any expert the claimant expects to call as a witness.

(c) Within one hundred forty days, each defendant shall disclose to the claimants the names and curriculum vitae or other documentation of qualifications of any expert the defendant expects to call as a witness.

(d) Within one hundred sixty days, each party shall disclose to the other parties the name and curriculum vitae or other documentation of qualifications of any rebuttal expert the party expects to call as a witness.

(e) Within two hundred forty days, all discovery shall be completed.

(f) Within two hundred seventy days, the arbitration hearing shall commence subject to the limited authority of the arbitrator to extend this deadline under subsection (2) of this section.

(2) It is the express public policy of the legislature that arbitration hearings under this chapter be commenced no later than twelve months after the parties elect to submit the dispute to arbitration. The arbitrator may grant a continuance of the commencement of the arbitration hearing to a date more than twelve months after the parties elect to submit the dispute to arbitration only where a party shows that exceptional circumstances create an undue and unavoidable hardship on the party. [2006 c 8 § 309.]

7.70A.060 Issuance of decision—Limitation on award of damages—Fees and expenses. (1) The arbitrator shall issue a decision in writing and signed by the arbitrator within fourteen days after the completion of the arbitration hearing and shall promptly deliver a copy of the decision to each of the parties or their attorneys.

(2) The arbitrator may not make an award of damages under this chapter that exceeds one million dollars for both economic and noneconomic damages.

(3) The arbitrator may not make an award of damages under this chapter under a theory of ostensible agency liability.

(4) With or without the request of a party, the arbitrator shall review the reasonableness of each party's attorneys' fees taking into account the factors enumerated in RCW 4.24.005.

(5) The fees and expenses of the arbitrator shall be paid by the nonprevailing parties. [2006 c 8 § 310.]

7.70A.070 Motion for judgment. After a party to the arbitration proceeding receives notice of a decision, the party may file a motion with the court for a judgment in accordance with the decision, at which time the court shall issue such a judgment unless the decision is modified, corrected, or vacated as provided in RCW 7.70A.080. [2006 c 8 § 311.]

7.70A.080 Appeal of decision. There is no right to a trial de novo on an appeal of the arbitrator's decision. An appeal of the arbitrator's decision is limited to the bases for appeal provided in RCW 7.04A.230(1) (a) through (d) and 7.04A.240, or equivalent provisions in a successor statute. [2006 c 8 § 312.]

7.70A.090 Application of chapter 7.04A RCW. The provisions of chapter 7.04A RCW do not apply to arbitrations conducted under this chapter except to the extent specifically provided in this chapter. [2006 c 8 § 313.]

7.70A.900 Findings—Intent—Part headings and subheadings not law—Severability—2006 c 8. See notes following RCW 5.64.010.

Chapter 7.71 RCW
HEALTH CARE PEER REVIEW

Sections

7.71.010 Legislative finding. The legislature finds the assurance of quality and cost-effectiveness in the delivery of health care can be assisted through the review of health care by health care providers. It also recognizes that some peer review decisions may be based on factors other than competence or professional conduct. Although it finds that peer review decisions based on matters unrelated to quality and utilization review need redress, it concludes that it is necessary to balance carefully the rights of the consuming public who benefit by peer review with the rights of those who are occasionally hurt by peer review decisions based on matters other than competence or professional conduct.

The legislature intends to foreclose federal antitrust actions to the extent Parker v. Brown, 317 U.S. 341 (1943), allows and to permit only those actions in RCW 7.71.020 and 7.71.030. [1987 c 269 § 1.]

7.71.020 Federal law applicable in Washington state. Pursuant to P.L. 99-660 Sec. 411(c)(2), Title IV of that act shall apply in Washington state as of July 26, 1987. [1987 c 269 § 2.]

7.71.030 Actions by health care peer review body—Exclusive remedy. (1) If the limitation on damages under RCW 7.71.020 and P.L. 99-660 Sec. 411(a)(1) does not apply, this section shall provide the exclusive remedies in any lawsuit by a health care provider for any action taken by a professional peer review body of health care providers as defined in RCW 7.70.020.

(2) Remedies shall be limited to appropriate injunctive relief, and damages shall be allowed only for lost earnings directly attributable to the action taken by the professional peer review body, incurred between the date of such action and the date the action is functionally reversed by the professional peer review body.

(3) Reasonable attorneys' fees and costs shall be awarded if approved by the court under RCW 7.71.035.

(4) The statute of limitations for actions under this section shall be one year from the date of the action of the professional peer review body. [2013 c 301 § 1; 2012 c 165 § 1; 1987 c 269 § 3.]

7.71.035 Actions by health care peer review body—Award of costs to substantially prevailing party. (1) Except as provided for in subsection (2) of this section, at the conclusion of an action under RCW 7.71.030 the court shall award to the substantially prevailing party the costs of the suit attributable to any claim or defense asserted in the action by the nonprevailing party, including reasonable attorneys' fees, if the nonprevailing party's claim, defense, or conduct was frivolous, unreasonable, without foundation, or in bad faith.

(2) At the conclusion of an action under RCW 7.71.030 the court shall award to the substantially prevailing defendant the cost of the suit, including reasonable attorneys' fees, if the nonprevailing plaintiff failed to first exhaust all administrative remedies available before the professional peer review body.

(3) A party shall not be considered to have substantially prevailed if the opposing party obtains an award for damages or permanent injunctive relief under this chapter. [2012 c 165 § 2.]

7.71.040 Chapter does not limit or repeal other immunities conferred by law. Nothing in this chapter limits or repeals any other immunities conferred upon participants in the peer review process contained in any other state or federal law. [1987 c 269 § 4.]

7.71.050 Medical staff privileges and membership—Revocation, suspension, reduction. (1) A medical staff privilege sanction process that results in a revocation, suspension, or reduction of medical staff privileges or membership at a health care facility must meet the requirements of RCW 70.41.200(1)(b).

(2) A professional peer review action taken by a health care facility that imposes a revocation, suspension, or reduction of medical staff privileges or membership must meet the requirements of and is subject to 42 U.S.C. Sec. 11112.

(3) In this section, "health care facility" has the same meaning as in RCW 43.70.075. [2019 c 62 § 2.]

Chapter 7.72 RCW
PRODUCT LIABILITY ACTIONS

Sections

Contributory fault: Chapter 4.22 RCW.

7.72.010 Definitions. For the purposes of this chapter, unless the context clearly indicates to the contrary:

(1) Product seller. "Product seller" means any person or entity that is engaged in the business of selling products, whether the sale is for resale, or for use or consumption. The term includes a manufacturer, wholesaler, distributor, or retailer of the relevant product. The term also includes a party who is in the business of leasing or bailing such products. The term "product seller" does not include:

(a) A seller of real property, unless that person is engaged in the mass production and sale of standardized dwellings or is otherwise a product seller;

(b) A provider of professional services who utilizes or sells products within the legally authorized scope of the professional practice of the provider;

(c) A commercial seller of used products who resells a product after use by a consumer or other product user: PROVIDED, That when it is resold, the used product is in essentially the same condition as when it was acquired for resale;

(d) A finance lessor who is not otherwise a product seller. A "finance lessor" is one who acts in a financial capacity, who is not a manufacturer, wholesaler, distributor, or retailer, and who leases a product without having a reasonable opportunity to inspect and discover defects in the product, under a lease arrangement in which the selection, possession, maintenance, and operation of the product are controlled by a person other than the lessor; and

(e) A licensed pharmacist who dispenses a prescription product manufactured by a commercial manufacturer pursuant to a prescription issued by a licensed prescribing practitioner if the claim against the pharmacist is based upon strict liability in tort or the implied warranty provisions under the uniform commercial code, Title 62A RCW, and if the pharmacist complies with recordkeeping requirements pursuant to chapters 18.64, 69.41, and 69.50 RCW, and related administrative rules as provided in RCW 7.72.040. Nothing in this subsection (1)(e) affects a pharmacist's liability under RCW 7.72.040(1).

(2) Manufacturer. "Manufacturer" includes a product seller who designs, produces, makes, fabricates, constructs, or remanufactures the relevant product or component part of a product before its sale to a user or consumer. The term also includes a product seller or entity not otherwise a manufacturer that holds itself out as a manufacturer.

A product seller acting primarily as a wholesaler, distributor, or retailer of a product may be a "manufacturer" but only to the extent that it designs, produces, makes, fabricates, constructs, or remanufactures the product for its sale. A product seller who performs minor assembly of a product in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturer shall not be deemed a manufacturer. A product seller that did not participate in the design of a product and that constructed the product in accordance with the design specifications of the claimant or another product seller shall not be deemed a manufacturer for the purposes of RCW 7.72.030(1)(a).

(3) Product. "Product" means any object possessing intrinsic value, capable of delivery either as an assembled whole or as a component part or parts, and produced for introduction into trade or commerce. Human tissue and organs, including human blood and its components, are excluded from this term.

The "relevant product" under this chapter is that product or its component part or parts, which gave rise to the product liability claim.

(4) Product liability claim. "Product liability claim" includes any claim or action brought for harm caused by the manufacture, production, making, construction, fabrication, design, formula, preparation, assembly, installation, testing, warnings, instructions, marketing, packaging, storage or labeling of the relevant product. It includes, but is not limited to, any claim or action previously based on: Strict liability in tort; negligence; breach of express or implied warranty; breach of, or failure to, discharge a duty to warn or instruct, whether negligent or innocent; misrepresentation, concealment, or nondisclosure, whether negligent or innocent; or other claim or action previously based on any other substantive legal theory except fraud, intentionally caused harm or a claim or action under the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW.

(5) Claimant. "Claimant" means a person or entity asserting a product liability claim, including a wrongful death action, and, if the claim is asserted through or on behalf of an estate, the term includes claimant's decedent. "Claimant" includes any person or entity that suffers harm. A claim may be asserted under this chapter even though the claimant did not buy the product from, or enter into any contractual relationship with, the product seller.

(6) Harm. "Harm" includes any damages recognized by the courts of this state: PROVIDED, That the term "harm" does not include direct or consequential economic loss under Title 62A RCW. [1991 c 189 § 3; 1981 c 27 § 2.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.72.020 Scope. (1) The previous existing applicable law of this state on product liability is modified only to the extent set forth in this chapter.

(2) Nothing in this chapter shall prevent the recovery of direct or consequential economic loss under Title 62A RCW. [1981 c 27 § 3.]

7.72.030 Liability of manufacturer. (1) A product manufacturer is subject to liability to a claimant if the claimant's harm was proximately caused by the negligence of the manufacturer in that the product was not reasonably safe as designed or not reasonably safe because adequate warnings or instructions were not provided.

(a) A product is not reasonably safe as designed, if, at the time of manufacture, the likelihood that the product would cause the claimant's harm or similar harms, and the seriousness of those harms, outweighed the burden on the manufacturer to design a product that would have prevented those harms and the adverse effect that an alternative design that was practical and feasible would have on the usefulness of the product: PROVIDED, That a firearm or ammunition shall not be deemed defective in design on the basis that the benefits of the product do not outweigh the risk of injury posed by its potential to cause serious injury, damage, or death when discharged.

(b) A product is not reasonably safe because adequate warnings or instructions were not provided with the product, if, at the time of manufacture, the likelihood that the product would cause the claimant's harm or similar harms, and the seriousness of those harms, rendered the warnings or instructions of the manufacturer inadequate and the manufacturer could have provided the warnings or instructions which the claimant alleges would have been adequate.

(c) A product is not reasonably safe because adequate warnings or instructions were not provided after the product was manufactured where a manufacturer learned or where a reasonably prudent manufacturer should have learned about a danger connected with the product after it was manufactured.

In such a case, the manufacturer is under a duty to act with regard to issuing warnings or instructions concerning the danger in the manner that a reasonably prudent manufacturer would act in the same or similar circumstances. This duty is satisfied if the manufacturer exercises reasonable care to inform product users.

(2) A product manufacturer is subject to strict liability to a claimant if the claimant's harm was proximately caused by the fact that the product was not reasonably safe in construction or not reasonably safe because it did not conform to the manufacturer's express warranty or to the implied warranties under Title 62A RCW.

(a) A product is not reasonably safe in construction if, when the product left the control of the manufacturer, the product deviated in some material way from the design specifications or performance standards of the manufacturer, or deviated in some material way from otherwise identical units of the same product line.

(b) A product does not conform to the express warranty of the manufacturer if it is made part of the basis of the bargain and relates to a material fact or facts concerning the product and the express warranty proved to be untrue.

(c) Whether or not a product conforms to an implied warranty created under Title 62A RCW shall be determined under that title.

(3) In determining whether a product was not reasonably safe under this section, the trier of fact shall consider whether the product was unsafe to an extent beyond that which would be contemplated by the ordinary consumer. [1988 c 94 § 1; 1981 c 27 § 4.]

7.72.040 Liability of product seller other than manufacturer—Exception. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, a product seller other than a manufacturer is liable to the claimant only if the claimant's harm was proximately caused by:

(a) The negligence of such product seller; or

(b) Breach of an express warranty made by such product seller; or

(c) The intentional misrepresentation of facts about the product by such product seller or the intentional concealment of information about the product by such product seller.

(2) A product seller, other than a manufacturer, shall have the liability of a manufacturer to the claimant if:

(a) No solvent manufacturer who would be liable to the claimant is subject to service of process under the laws of the claimant's domicile or the state of Washington; or

(b) The court determines that it is highly probable that the claimant would be unable to enforce a judgment against any manufacturer; or

(c) The product seller is a controlled subsidiary of a manufacturer, or the manufacturer is a controlled subsidiary of the product seller; or

(d) The product seller provided the plans or specifications for the manufacture or preparation of the product and such plans or specifications were a proximate cause of the defect in the product; or

(e) The product was marketed under a trade name or brand name of the product seller.

(3) Subsection (2) of this section does not apply to a pharmacist who dispenses a prescription product in the form manufactured by a commercial manufacturer pursuant to a prescription issued by a licensed practitioner if the pharmacist complies with recordkeeping requirements pursuant to chapters 18.64, 69.41, and 69.50 RCW, and related administrative rules. [1991 c 189 § 2; 1981 c 27 § 5.]

7.72.050 Relevance of industry custom, technological feasibility, and nongovernmental, legislative or administrative regulatory standards. (1) Evidence of custom in the product seller's industry, technological feasibility or that the product was or was not, in compliance with nongovernmental standards or with legislative regulatory standards or administrative regulatory standards, whether relating to design, construction or performance of the product or to warnings or instructions as to its use may be considered by the trier of fact.

(2) When the injury-causing aspect of the product was, at the time of manufacture, in compliance with a specific mandatory government contract specification relating to design or warnings, this compliance shall be an absolute defense. When the injury-causing aspect of the product was not, at the time of manufacture, in compliance with a specific mandatory government specification relating to design or warnings, the product shall be deemed not reasonably safe under RCW 7.72.030(1). [1981 c 27 § 6.]

7.72.060 Length of time product sellers are subject to liability. (1) Useful safe life. (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b) hereof, a product seller shall not be subject to liability to a claimant for harm under this chapter if the product seller proves by a preponderance of the evidence that the harm was caused after the product's "useful safe life" had expired.

"Useful safe life" begins at the time of delivery of the product and extends for the time during which the product would normally be likely to perform or be stored in a safe manner. For the purposes of this chapter, "time of delivery" means the time of delivery of a product to its first purchaser or lessee who was not engaged in the business of either selling such products or using them as component parts of another product to be sold. In the case of a product which has been remanufactured by a manufacturer, "time of delivery" means the time of delivery of the remanufactured product to its first purchaser or lessee who was not engaged in the business of either selling such products or using them as component parts of another product to be sold.

(b) A product seller may be subject to liability for harm caused by a product used beyond its useful safe life, if:

(i) The product seller has warranted that the product may be utilized safely for such longer period; or

(ii) The product seller intentionally misrepresents facts about its product, or intentionally conceals information about it, and that conduct was a proximate cause of the claimant's harm; or

(iii) The harm was caused by exposure to a defective product, which exposure first occurred within the useful safe life of the product, even though the harm did not manifest itself until after the useful safe life had expired.

(2) Presumption regarding useful safe life. If the harm was caused more than twelve years after the time of delivery, a presumption arises that the harm was caused after the useful

safe life had expired. This presumption may only be rebutted by a preponderance of the evidence.

(3) Statute of limitation. Subject to the applicable provisions of chapter 4.16 RCW pertaining to the tolling and extension of any statute of limitation, no claim under this chapter may be brought more than three years from the time the claimant discovered or in the exercise of due diligence should have discovered the harm and its cause. [1981 c 27 § 7.]

7.72.070 Food and beverage consumption. (1) Any manufacturer, packer, distributor, carrier, holder, marketer, or seller of a food or nonalcoholic beverage intended for human consumption, or an association of one or more such entities, shall not be subject to civil liability in an action brought by a private party based on an individual's purchase or consumption of food or nonalcoholic beverages in cases where liability is premised upon the individual's weight gain, obesity, or a health condition associated with the individual's weight gain or obesity and resulting from the individual's long-term purchase or consumption of a food or nonalcoholic beverage.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the term "long-term consumption" means the cumulative effect of the consumption of food or nonalcoholic beverages, and not the effect of a single instance of consumption. [2004 c 139 § 1.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

Chapter 7.75 RCW
DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTERS

Sections

Mediation testimony competency: RCW 5.60.070 and 5.60.072.

7.75.010 Legislative findings and intent. (1) The legislature finds and declares that:

(a) The resolution of many disputes can be costly and complex in a judicial setting where the parties involved are necessarily in an adversary posture and subject to formalized procedures; and

(b) Alternative dispute resolution centers can meet the needs of Washington's citizens by providing forums in which persons may voluntarily participate in the resolution of disputes in an informal and less adversarial atmosphere.

(2) It is the intent of the legislature that programs established pursuant to this chapter:

(a) Stimulate the establishment and use of dispute resolution centers to help meet the need for alternatives to the courts for the resolution of certain disputes.

(b) Encourage continuing community participation in the development, administration, and oversight of local programs designed to facilitate the informal resolution of disputes between and among members of the community.

(c) Offer structures for dispute resolution which may serve as models for resolution centers in other communities.

(d) Serve a specific community or locale and resolve disputes that arise within that community or locale.

(e) Educate the community on ways of using the services of the neighborhood dispute resolution center directly and in a preventive capacity. [1984 c 258 § 501.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.75.020 Dispute resolution center—Creation—Plan—Approval by county or municipality. (1) A dispute resolution center may be created and operated by a municipality, county, or by a corporation organized exclusively for the resolution of disputes or for charitable or educational purposes. The corporation shall not be organized for profit, and no part of the net earnings may inure to the benefit of any private shareholders or individuals. The majority of the directors of such a corporation shall not consist of members of any single profession.

(2) A dispute resolution center may not begin operation under this chapter until a plan for establishing a center for the mediation and settlement of disputes has been approved by the legislative authority of the municipality or county creating the center or, in the case of a center operated by a nonprofit corporation, by the legislative authority of the municipality or county within which the center will be located. A plan for a dispute resolution center shall not be approved and the center shall not begin operation until the legislative authority finds that the plan adequately prescribes:

(a) Procedures for filing requests for dispute resolution services with the center and for scheduling mediation sessions participated in by the parties to the dispute;

(b) Procedures to ensure that each dispute mediated by the center meets the criteria for appropriateness for mediation set by the legislative authority and for rejecting disputes which do not meet the criteria;

(c) Procedures for giving notice of the time, place, and nature of the mediation session to the parties, and for conducting mediation sessions that comply with the provisions of this chapter;

(d) Procedures which ensure that participation by all parties is voluntary;

(e) Procedures for obtaining referrals from public and private bodies;

(f) Procedures for meeting the particular needs of the participants, including, but not limited to, providing services at times convenient to the participants, in sign language, and in languages other than English;

(g) Procedures for providing trained and certified mediators who, during the dispute resolution process, shall make no decisions or determinations of the issues involved, but who shall facilitate negotiations by the participants themselves to achieve a voluntary resolution of the issues; and

(h) Procedures for informing and educating the community about the dispute resolution center and encouraging the use of the center's services in appropriate cases. [1997 c 41 § 4; 1984 c 258 § 502.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.75.030 Services to be provided without charge or for fee based on ability to pay. A dispute resolution center established under this chapter shall provide dispute resolution services either without charge to the participants or for a fee which is based on the participant's ability to pay. [1984 c 258 § 503.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.75.035 Surcharge by county legislative authority. (1) A county legislative authority may impose a surcharge of up to ten dollars on each civil filing fee in district court and a surcharge of up to fifteen dollars on each filing fee for small claims actions for the purpose of funding dispute resolution centers established under this chapter.

(2) Any surcharge imposed shall be collected by the clerk of the court and remitted to the county treasurer for deposit in a separate account to be used solely for dispute resolution centers established under this chapter. Money received under this section is not subject to RCW 3.62.020(2) or 3.62.090. The accounts created pursuant to this subsection shall be audited by the state auditor in accordance with RCW 43.09.260. [1990 c 172 § 1.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.75.040 Dispute resolution agreement required—When admissible as evidence. (1) In conducting a dispute resolution process, a center established under this chapter shall require:

(a) That the disputing parties enter into a written agreement which expresses the method by which they shall attempt to resolve the issues in dispute; and

(b) That at the conclusion of the dispute resolution process, the parties enter into a written agreement which sets forth the settlement of the issues and the future responsibilities, if any, of each party.

(2) A written agreement entered into with the assistance of a center at the conclusion of the written dispute resolution process is admissible as evidence in any judicial or administrative proceeding. [1984 c 258 § 504.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.75.050 Confidentiality of centers' files, etc.—Exception—Privileged communications. Regardless of any provision to the contrary in *chapter 42.17 RCW, all memoranda, work notes or products, or case files of centers established under this chapter are confidential and privileged and are not subject to disclosure in any judicial or administrative proceeding unless the court or administrative tribunal determines that the materials were submitted by a participant to the center for the purpose of avoiding discovery of the material in a subsequent proceeding. In all other respects, chapter 7.07 RCW, shall govern the privilege and confidentiality to be accorded to communications made in conjunction with a mediation conducted by a dispute resolution center established under this chapter. [2005 c 172 § 16; 1984 c 258 § 505.]

***Reviser's note:** Provisions in chapter 42.17 RCW relating to public disclosure were recodified in chapter 42.56 RCW by 2005 c 274.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.75.060 Withdrawal from dispute resolution process. Any person who voluntarily enters a dispute resolution process at a center established under this chapter may revoke his or her consent, withdraw from dispute resolution, and seek judicial or administrative redress prior to reaching a written resolution agreement. The withdrawal shall be in writing. No legal penalty, sanction, or restraint may be imposed upon the person. [1984 c 258 § 506.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.75.070 Center may seek and expend funds. A dispute resolution center established under this chapter may seek and accept contributions from counties and municipalities, agencies of the state and federal governments, private sources, and any other available funds, and may expend the funds to carry out the purposes of this chapter. [1984 c 258 § 507.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.75.080 Statutes of limitations tolled until dispute resolution process concluded. Any applicable statute of limitations shall be tolled as to participants in dispute resolution at a center established under this chapter during the period which begins with the date of the participants' execution of the written agreement required by RCW 7.75.040(1)(a) and ends on the date that a written agreement at the conclusion of the dispute resolution process is executed under RCW 7.75.040(1)(b) or a participant's written notice of withdrawal from the dispute resolution process is executed under RCW 7.75.060. [1984 c 258 § 508.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.75.090 Application of chapter. Nothing in this chapter precludes any person or persons not operating under RCW 7.75.020 from providing dispute resolution services. However, the provisions of RCW 7.75.050, relating to confidentiality, and RCW 7.75.080, relating to statutes of limitation, apply only to proceedings conducted by a dispute resolution center established under this chapter. [1984 c 258 § 509.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.75.100 Immunity from civil action. (1) Members of the board of directors of a dispute resolution center are immune from suit in any civil action based upon any proceedings or other official acts performed in good faith as members of the board.

(2) Employees and volunteers of a dispute resolution center are immune from suit in any civil action based on any proceedings or other official acts performed in their capacity as employees or volunteers, except in cases of wilful or wanton misconduct.

(3) A dispute resolution center is immune from suit in any civil action based on any of its proceedings or other official acts performed by its employees, volunteers, or members or its board of directors, except (a) in cases of wilful or wanton misconduct by its employees or volunteers, and (b) in cases of official acts performed in bad faith by members of its board. [1986 c 95 § 2.]

Chapter 7.77 RCW
UNIFORM COLLABORATIVE LAW ACT

Sections

7.77.010 Definitions. In this chapter:

(1) "Collaborative law communication" means a statement, whether oral or in a record, or verbal or nonverbal, that:

(a) Is made to conduct, participate in, continue, or reconvene a collaborative law process; and

(b) Occurs after the parties sign a collaborative law participation agreement and before the collaborative law process is concluded.

(2) "Collaborative law participation agreement" means an agreement by persons to participate in a collaborative law process.

(3) "Collaborative law process" means a procedure intended to resolve a collaborative matter without intervention by a tribunal in which persons:

(a) Sign a collaborative law participation agreement; and

(b) Are represented by collaborative lawyers.

(4) "Collaborative lawyer" means a lawyer who represents a party in a collaborative law process.

(5) "Collaborative matter" means a dispute, transaction, claim, problem, or issue for resolution, including a dispute, claim, or issue in a proceeding, which is described in a collaborative law participation agreement.

(6) "Law firm" means:

(a) Lawyers who practice law together in a partnership, professional corporation, sole proprietorship, limited liability company, or association; and

(b) Lawyers employed in a legal services organization, or the legal department of a corporation or other organization, or the legal department of a government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality.

(7) "Nonparty participant" means a person, other than a party and the party's collaborative lawyer, that participates in a collaborative law process.

(8) "Party" means a person that signs a collaborative law participation agreement and whose consent is necessary to resolve a collaborative matter.

(9) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture, public corporation, government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity.

(10) "Proceeding" means a judicial, administrative, arbitral, or other adjudicative process before a tribunal, including related prehearing and posthearing motions, conferences, and discovery.

(11) "Prospective party" means a person that discusses with a prospective collaborative lawyer the possibility of signing a collaborative law participation agreement.

(12) "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

(13) "Related to a collaborative matter" means involving the same parties, transaction or occurrence, nucleus of operative fact, dispute, claim, or issue as the collaborative matter.

(14) "Sign" means, with present intent to authenticate or adopt a record:

(a) To execute or adopt a tangible symbol; or

(b) To attach to or logically associate with the record an electronic symbol, sound, or process.

(15) "Tribunal" means a court, arbitrator, administrative agency, or other body acting in an adjudicative capacity which, after presentation of evidence or legal argument, has jurisdiction to render a decision affecting a party's interests in a matter. [2013 c 119 § 2.]

7.77.020 Applicability. (1) This chapter applies to a collaborative law participation agreement that meets the requirements of RCW 7.77.030 signed on or after July 28, 2013.

(2) The use of collaborative law applies only to matters that would be resolved in civil court and may not be used to resolve matters in criminal cases. [2013 c 119 § 3.]

7.77.030 Collaborative law participation agreement—Requirements. (1) A collaborative law participation agreement must:

(a) Be in a record;

(b) Be signed by the parties;

(c) State the parties' intention to resolve a collaborative matter through a collaborative law process under this chapter;

(d) Describe the nature and scope of the matter;

(e) Identify the collaborative lawyer who represents each party in the process; and

(f) Contain a statement by each collaborative lawyer confirming the lawyer's representation of a party in the collaborative law process.

(2) Parties may agree to include in a collaborative law participation agreement additional provisions not inconsistent with this chapter. [2013 c 119 § 4.]

7.77.040 Beginning and concluding collaborative law process. (1) A collaborative law process begins when the parties sign a collaborative law participation agreement.

(2) A tribunal may not order a party to participate in a collaborative law process over that party's objection.

(3) A collaborative law process is concluded by a:

(a) Resolution of a collaborative matter as evidenced by a signed record;

(b) Resolution of a part of the collaborative matter, evidenced by a signed record, in which the parties agree that the remaining parts of the matter will not be resolved in the process; or

(c) Termination of the process.

(4) A collaborative law process terminates:

(a) When a party gives notice to other parties in a record that the process is ended; or

(b) When a party:

(i) Begins a proceeding related to a collaborative matter without the agreement of all parties; or

(ii) In a pending proceeding related to the matter:

(A) Initiates a pleading, motion, order to show cause, or request for a conference with the tribunal without the agreement of all parties as to the relief sought;

(B) Requests that the proceeding be put on the tribunal's active calendar; or

(C) Takes similar contested action requiring notice to be sent to the parties; or

(c) Except as otherwise provided by subsection (7) of this section, when a party discharges a collaborative lawyer or a collaborative lawyer withdraws from further representation of a party.

(5) A party's collaborative lawyer shall give prompt notice to all other parties in a record of a discharge or withdrawal.

(6) A party may terminate a collaborative law process with or without cause.

(7) Notwithstanding the discharge or withdrawal of a collaborative lawyer, a collaborative law process continues, if not later than thirty days after the date that the notice of the discharge or withdrawal of a collaborative lawyer required by subsection (5) of this section is sent to the parties:

(a) The unrepresented party engages a successor collaborative lawyer; and

(b) In a signed record:

(i) The parties consent to continue the process by reaffirming the collaborative law participation agreement;

(ii) The agreement is amended to identify the successor collaborative lawyer; and

(iii) The successor collaborative lawyer confirms the lawyer's representation of a party in the collaborative law process.

(8) A collaborative law process does not conclude if, with the consent of the parties, a party requests a tribunal to approve a resolution of the collaborative matter or any part thereof as evidenced by a signed record.

(9) A collaborative law participation agreement may provide additional methods of concluding a collaborative law process. [2013 c 119 § 5.]

7.77.050 Proceedings pending before tribunal—Status report. (1) Persons in a proceeding pending before a tribunal may sign a collaborative law participation agreement to seek to resolve a collaborative matter related to the proceeding. Parties shall file promptly with the tribunal a notice of the agreement after it is signed. Subject to subsection (3) of this section and RCW 7.77.060 and 7.77.070, the filing operates as an application for a stay of the proceeding.

(2) The parties shall file promptly with the tribunal notice in a record when a collaborative law process concludes. The stay of the proceeding under subsection (1) of this section is lifted when the notice is filed. The notice may not specify any reason for termination of the process.

(3) A tribunal in which a proceeding is stayed under subsection (1) of this section may require the parties and collaborative lawyers to provide a status report on the collaborative law process and the proceeding. A status report may include only information on whether the process is ongoing or concluded. It may not include a report, assessment, evaluation, recommendation, finding, or other communication regarding a collaborative law process or collaborative matter.

(4) A tribunal may not consider a communication made in violation of subsection (3) of this section.

(5) A tribunal shall provide parties notice and an opportunity to be heard before dismissing a proceeding in which a notice of collaborative law process is filed based on delay or failure to prosecute. [2013 c 119 § 6.]

7.77.060 Emergency order. During a collaborative law process, a tribunal may issue emergency orders to protect the health, safety, welfare, or interest of a party or of a family or household member or intimate partner, as defined in RCW 7.105.010. [2021 c 215 § 91; 2020 c 29 § 1; 2013 c 119 § 7.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

Effective date—2020 c 29: "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately [March 18, 2020]." [2020 c 29 § 19.]

7.77.070 Approval of agreement by tribunal. A tribunal may approve an agreement resulting from a collaborative law process. [2013 c 119 § 8.]

7.77.080 Disqualification of collaborative lawyer and lawyers in associated law firm. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) of this section, a collaborative lawyer is disqualified from appearing before a tribunal to represent a party in a proceeding related to the collaborative matter.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) of this section and RCW 7.77.090, a lawyer in a law firm with which the collaborative lawyer is associated is disqualified from appearing before a tribunal to represent a party in a proceeding related to the collaborative matter if the collaborative lawyer is disqualified from doing so under subsection (1) of this section.

(3) A collaborative lawyer or a lawyer in a law firm with which the collaborative lawyer is associated may represent a party:

(a) To ask a tribunal to approve an agreement resulting from the collaborative law process; or

(b) To seek or defend an emergency order to protect the health, safety, welfare, or interest of a party, or family or household member or intimate partner, as defined in RCW 7.105.010, if a successor lawyer is not immediately available to represent that person.

(4) If subsection (3)(b) of this section applies, a collaborative lawyer, or lawyer in a law firm with which the collaborative lawyer is associated, may represent a party or family or household member or intimate partner only until the person is represented by a successor lawyer or reasonable mea-

sures are taken to protect the health, safety, welfare, or interest of the person. [2021 c 215 § 92; 2020 c 29 § 2; 2013 c 119 § 9.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

Effective date—2020 c 29: See note following RCW 7.77.060.

7.77.090 Governmental entity as party. (1) The disqualification of RCW 7.77.080(1) applies to a collaborative lawyer representing a party that is a government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality.

(2) After a collaborative law process concludes, another lawyer in a law firm with which the collaborative lawyer is associated may represent a government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality in the collaborative matter or a matter related to the collaborative matter if:

(a) The collaborative law participation agreement so provides; and

(b) The collaborative lawyer is isolated from any participation in the collaborative matter or a matter related to the collaborative matter through procedures within the law firm which are reasonably calculated to isolate the collaborative lawyer from such participation. [2013 c 119 § 10.]

7.77.100 Disclosure of information. Except as provided by law other than this chapter, during the collaborative law process, on the request of another party, a party shall make timely, full, candid, and informal disclosure of information related to the collaborative matter without formal discovery. A party also shall update promptly previously disclosed information that has materially changed. The parties may define the scope of disclosure during the collaborative law process. [2013 c 119 § 11.]

7.77.110 Standards of professional responsibility and mandatory reporting not affected. (1) This chapter does not affect the professional responsibility obligations and standards applicable to a lawyer or other licensed professional or relieve a lawyer or other licensed professional from the duty to comply with all applicable professional responsibility obligations and standards.

(2) This chapter does not affect the obligation of a person to report abuse or neglect, abandonment, or exploitation of a child or adult under the law of this state.

(3) Noncompliance with an obligation or prohibition imposed by this chapter does not in itself establish grounds for professional discipline. [2013 c 119 § 12.]

7.77.120 Appropriateness of collaborative law process. Before a prospective party signs a collaborative law participation agreement, the prospective party must:

(1) Be advised as to whether a collaborative law process is appropriate for the prospective party's matter;

(2) Be provided with sufficient information to make an informed decision about the material benefits and risks of a collaborative law process as compared to the material benefits and risks of other reasonably available alternatives for resolving the proposed collaborative matter, such as litigation, mediation, arbitration, or expert evaluation;

(3) Be informed that after signing an agreement if a party initiates a proceeding or seeks tribunal intervention in a pending proceeding related to the collaborative matter, the collaborative law process terminates;

(4) Be informed that participation in a collaborative law process is voluntary and any party has the right to terminate unilaterally a collaborative law process with or without cause; and

(5) Be informed that the collaborative lawyer and any lawyer in a law firm with which the collaborative lawyer is associated may not appear before a tribunal to represent a party in a proceeding related to the collaborative matter, except as authorized by law or court rule. [2013 c 119 § 13.]

7.77.130 Coercive or violent relationship among parties. (1) Before a prospective party signs a collaborative law participation agreement, a prospective collaborative lawyer shall make reasonable inquiry whether the prospective party has a history of a coercive or violent relationship with another prospective party.

(2) Throughout a collaborative law process, a collaborative lawyer reasonably and continuously shall assess whether the party the collaborative lawyer represents has a history of a coercive or violent relationship with another party.

(3) If a collaborative lawyer reasonably believes that the party the lawyer represents or the prospective party who consults the lawyer has a history of a coercive or violent relationship with another party or prospective party, the lawyer may not begin or continue a collaborative law process unless:

(a) The party or the prospective party requests beginning or continuing a process; and

(b) The collaborative lawyer reasonably believes that the safety of the party or prospective party can be protected adequately during a process. [2013 c 119 § 14.]

7.77.140 Confidentiality of collaborative law communication. Subject to RCW 7.77.110, a collaborative law communication is confidential to the extent agreed by the parties in a signed record or as provided by law of this state other than this chapter. [2013 c 119 § 15.]

7.77.150 Privilege against disclosure for collaborative law communication—Admissibility—Discovery. (1) Subject to RCW 7.77.160 and 7.77.170, a collaborative law communication is privileged under subsection (2) of this section, is not subject to discovery, and is not admissible in evidence.

(2) In a proceeding, the following privileges apply:

(a) A party may refuse to disclose, and may prevent any other person from disclosing, a collaborative law communication.

(b) A nonparty participant may refuse to disclose, and may prevent any other person from disclosing, a collaborative law communication of the nonparty participant.

(3) Evidence or information that is otherwise admissible or subject to discovery does not become inadmissible or protected from discovery solely because of its disclosure or use in a collaborative law process. [2013 c 119 § 16.]

7.77.160 Waiver and preclusion of privilege. (1) A privilege under RCW 7.77.150 may be waived in a record or orally during a proceeding if it is expressly waived by all par-

ties and, in the case of the privilege of a nonparty participant, it is also expressly waived by the nonparty participant.

(2) A person that makes a disclosure or representation about a collaborative law communication which prejudices another person in a proceeding may not assert a privilege under RCW 7.77.150, but this preclusion applies only to the extent necessary for the person prejudiced to respond to the disclosure or representation. [2013 c 119 § 17.]

7.77.170 Limits of privilege. (1) There is no privilege under RCW 7.77.150 for a collaborative law communication that is:

(a) Available to the public under chapter 42.56 RCW or made during a session of a collaborative law process that is open, or is required by law to be open, to the public;

(b) A threat or statement of a plan to inflict bodily injury or commit a crime of violence;

(c) Intentionally used to plan a crime, commit or attempt to commit a crime, or conceal an ongoing crime or ongoing criminal activity; or

(d) In an agreement resulting from the collaborative law process, evidenced by a record signed by all parties to the agreement.

(2) The privileges under RCW 7.77.150 for a collaborative law communication do not apply to the extent that a communication is:

(a) Sought or offered to prove or disprove a claim or complaint of professional misconduct or malpractice arising from or related to a collaborative law process;

(b) Sought or offered to prove or disprove abuse, neglect, abandonment, or exploitation of a child or adult, unless the child protective services agency or adult protective services agency is a party to or otherwise participates in the process; or

(c) Sought or offered to prove or disprove stalking or cyber harassment of a party or child.

(3) There is no privilege under RCW 7.77.150 if a tribunal finds, after a hearing in camera, that the party seeking discovery or the proponent of the evidence has shown the evidence is not otherwise available, the need for the evidence substantially outweighs the interest in protecting confidentiality, and the collaborative law communication is sought or offered in:

(a) A court proceeding involving a felony or misdemeanor; or

(b) A proceeding seeking rescission or reformation of a contract arising out of the collaborative law process or in which a defense to avoid liability on the contract is asserted.

(4) If a collaborative law communication is subject to an exception under subsection (2) or (3) of this section, only the part of the communication necessary for the application of the exception may be disclosed or admitted.

(5) Disclosure or admission of evidence excepted from the privilege under subsection (2) or (3) of this section does not make the evidence or any other collaborative law communication discoverable or admissible for any other purpose.

(6) The privileges under RCW 7.77.150 do not apply if the parties agree in advance in a signed record, or if a record of a proceeding reflects agreement by the parties, that all or part of a collaborative law process is not privileged. This subsection does not apply to a collaborative law communication made by a person that did not receive actual notice of the agreement before the communication was made. [2022 c 231 § 6; 2013 c 119 § 18.]

7.77.180 Authority of tribunal in case of noncompliance. (1) If an agreement fails to meet the requirements of RCW 7.77.030, or a lawyer fails to comply with RCW 7.77.120 or 7.77.130, a tribunal may nonetheless find that the parties intended to enter into a collaborative law participation agreement if they:

(a) Signed a record indicating an intention to enter into a collaborative law participation agreement; and

(b) Reasonably believed they were participating in a collaborative law process.

(2) If a tribunal makes the findings specified in subsection (1) of this section, and the interests of justice require, the tribunal may:

(a) Enforce an agreement evidenced by a record resulting from the process in which the parties participated;

(b) Apply the disqualification provisions of RCW 7.77.040, 7.77.050, 7.77.080, and 7.77.090; and

(c) Apply a privilege under RCW 7.77.150. [2013 c 119 § 19.]

7.77.900 Short title. This chapter may be known and cited as the "uniform collaborative law act." [2013 c 119 § 1.]

7.77.901 Uniformity of application and construction. In applying and construing this uniform act, consideration must be given to the need to promote uniformity of the law with respect to its subject matter among states that enact it. [2013 c 119 § 20.]

7.77.902 Relation to electronic signatures in global and national commerce act. This chapter modifies, limits, and supersedes the federal electronic signatures in global and national commerce act, 15 U.S.C. Sec. 7001, et seq., but does not modify, limit, or supersede section 101(c) of that act, 15 U.S.C. Sec. 7001(c), or authorize electronic delivery of any of the notices described in section 103(b) of that act, 15 U.S.C. Sec. 7003(b). [2013 c 119 § 21.]

Chapter 7.80 RCW
CIVIL INFRACTIONS

Sections

7.80.005 Legislative finding—1987 c 456. The legislature finds that many minor offenses that are established as misdemeanors are obsolete or can be more appropriately punished by the imposition of civil fines. The legislature finds that some misdemeanors should be decriminalized to allow resources of the legal system, such as judges, prosecutors, juries, and jails, to be used to punish serious criminal behavior, since acts characterized as criminal behavior have a tremendous fiscal impact on the legal system.

The establishment of a system of civil infractions is a more expeditious and less expensive method of disposing of minor offenses and will decrease the cost and workload of the courts of limited jurisdiction. [1987 c 456 § 6.]

7.80.010 Jurisdiction of courts. (1) All violations of state law, local law, ordinance, regulation, or resolution designated as civil infractions may be heard and determined by a district court, except as otherwise provided in this section.

(2) Any municipal court has the authority to hear and determine pursuant to this chapter civil infractions that are established by municipal ordinance or by local law or resolution of a transit agency authorized to issue civil infractions, and that are committed within the jurisdiction of the municipality.

(3) Any city or town with a municipal court under chapter 3.50 RCW may contract with the county to have civil infractions that are established by city or town ordinance and that are committed within the city or town adjudicated by a district court.

(4) District court commissioners have the authority to hear and determine civil infractions pursuant to this chapter.

(5) Nothing in this chapter prevents any city, town, or county from hearing and determining civil infractions pursuant to its own system established by ordinance. [2009 c 279 § 2; 1987 c 456 § 9.]

7.80.020 Issuance of process. Notwithstanding any other provision of law governing service of process in civil cases, a court of limited jurisdiction having jurisdiction over an alleged civil infraction may issue process anywhere within the state. [1987 c 456 § 10.]

7.80.030 Training of judicial officers. All judges and court commissioners adjudicating civil infractions shall complete such training requirements as are promulgated by the supreme court. [1987 c 456 § 11.]

7.80.040 "Enforcement officer" defined. As used in this chapter, "enforcement officer" means a person authorized to enforce the provisions of the title or ordinance in which the civil infraction is established. [1987 c 456 § 12.]

7.80.050 Notice of infraction—Issuance, service, filing. (1) A civil infraction proceeding is initiated by the issuance, service, and filing of a notice of civil infraction.

(2) A notice of civil infraction may be issued by an enforcement officer when the civil infraction occurs in the officer's presence.

(3) A court may issue a notice of civil infraction if an enforcement officer files with the court a written statement that the civil infraction was committed in the officer's presence or that the officer has reasonable cause to believe that a civil infraction was committed.

(4) Service of a notice of civil infraction issued under subsection (2) or (3) of this section shall be as provided by court rule. Until such a rule is adopted, service shall be as provided in *JTIR 2.2(c)(1) and (3), as applicable.

(5) A notice of infraction shall be filed with a court having jurisdiction within forty-eight hours of issuance, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. A notice of infraction not filed within the time limits prescribed in this section may be dismissed without prejudice. [1987 c 456 § 13.]

***Reviser's note:** The Justice Court Traffic Infraction Rules (JTIR) were replaced by the Infraction Rules for Courts of Limited Jurisdiction (IRLJ), effective September 1, 1992.

7.80.060 Person receiving notice—Identification and detention. A person who is to receive a notice of civil infraction under RCW 7.80.050 is required to identify himself or herself to the enforcement officer by giving his or her name, address, and date of birth. Upon the request of the officer, the person shall produce reasonable identification, including a driver's license or identicard.

A person who is unable or unwilling to reasonably identify himself or herself to an enforcement officer may be detained for a period of time not longer than is reasonably necessary to identify the person for purposes of issuing a civil infraction.

Each agency authorized to issue civil infractions shall adopt rules on identification and detention of persons committing civil infractions. [1987 c 456 § 14.]

7.80.070 Notice—Determination final unless contested—Form. (1) A notice of civil infraction represents a determination that a civil infraction has been committed. The determination is final unless contested as provided in this chapter.

(2) The form for the notice of civil infraction shall be prescribed by rule of the supreme court and shall include the following:

(a) A statement that the notice represents a determination that a civil infraction has been committed by the person named in the notice and that the determination is final unless contested as provided in this chapter;

(b) A statement that a civil infraction is a noncriminal offense for which imprisonment may not be imposed as a sanction;

(c) A statement of the specific civil infraction for which the notice was issued;

(d) A statement of the monetary penalty established for the civil infraction;

(e) A statement of the options provided in this chapter for responding to the notice and the procedures necessary to exercise these options;

(f) A statement that at any hearing to contest the determination the state has the burden of proving, by a preponder-

ance of the evidence, that the civil infraction was committed and that the person may subpoena witnesses including the enforcement officer who issued the notice of civil infraction;

(g) A statement that at any hearing requested for the purpose of explaining mitigating circumstances surrounding the commission of the civil infraction, the person will be deemed to have committed the civil infraction and may not subpoena witnesses;

(h) A statement that the person must respond to the notice as provided in this chapter within fifteen days;

(i) A statement that failure to respond to the notice or a failure to appear at a hearing requested for the purpose of contesting the determination or for the purpose of explaining mitigating circumstances will result in a default judgment against the person in the amount of the penalty and that this failure may be referred to the prosecuting attorney for criminal prosecution for failure to respond or appear;

(j) A statement that failure to respond to a notice of civil infraction or to appear at a requested hearing is a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine or imprisonment in jail. [2006 c 270 § 5; 1987 c 456 § 15.]

7.80.080 Response to notice—Contesting determination—Mitigating circumstances—Hearing—Failure to respond or appear. (1) Any person who receives a notice of civil infraction shall respond to such notice as provided in this section within fifteen days of the date of the notice.

(2) If the person determined to have committed the civil infraction does not contest the determination, the person shall respond by completing the appropriate portion of the notice of civil infraction and submitting it, either by mail or in person, to the court specified on the notice. A check or money order in the amount of the penalty prescribed for the civil infraction must be submitted with the response. The clerk of a court may accept cash in payment for an infraction. When a response which does not contest the determination is received, an appropriate order shall be entered in the court's records.

(3) If the person determined to have committed the civil infraction wishes to contest the determination, the person shall respond by completing the portion of the notice of civil infraction requesting a hearing and submitting it, either by mail or in person, to the court specified on the notice. The court shall notify the person in writing of the time, place, and date of the hearing, and that date shall not be earlier than seven days nor more than ninety days from the date of the notice of hearing, except by agreement.

(4) If the person determined to have committed the civil infraction does not contest the determination but wishes to explain mitigating circumstances surrounding the infraction, the person shall respond by completing the portion of the notice of civil infraction requesting a hearing for that purpose and submitting it, either by mail or in person, to the court specified on the notice. The court shall notify the person in writing of the time, place, and date of the hearing, and that date shall not be earlier than seven days nor more than ninety days from the date of the notice of hearing, except by agreement.

(5) The court shall enter a default judgment assessing the monetary penalty prescribed for the civil infraction and may notify the prosecuting attorney of the failure to respond to the notice of civil infraction or to appear at a requested hearing if any person issued a notice of civil infraction:

(a) Fails to respond to the notice of civil infraction as provided in subsection (2) of this section; or

(b) Fails to appear at a hearing requested pursuant to subsection (3) or (4) of this section. [1987 c 456 § 16.]

7.80.090 Hearings—Rules of procedure—Counsel. (1) Procedures for the conduct of all hearings provided in this chapter may be established by rule of the supreme court.

(2) Any person subject to proceedings under this chapter may be represented by counsel.

(3) The attorney representing the state, county, city, town, or transit agency authorized to issue civil infractions may appear in any proceedings under this chapter but need not appear, notwithstanding any statute or rule of court to the contrary. [2009 c 279 § 1; 1987 c 456 § 17.]

7.80.100 Hearings—Contesting determination that infraction committed—Appeal. (1) A hearing held for the purpose of contesting the determination that a civil infraction has been committed shall be without a jury and shall be recorded in the manner provided for in courts of limited jurisdiction.

(2) The court may consider the notice of civil infraction and any other written report made under oath submitted by the enforcement officer who issued the notice or whose written statement was the basis for the issuance of the notice in lieu of the officer's personal appearance at the hearing. The person named in the notice may request the court for issuance of subpoena of witnesses, including the enforcement officer who issued the notice, and has the right to present evidence and examine witnesses present in court.

(3) The burden of proof is upon the state to establish the commission of the civil infraction by a preponderance of the evidence.

(4) After consideration of the evidence and argument, the court shall determine whether the civil infraction was committed. Where it has not been established that the civil infraction was committed, an order dismissing the notice shall be entered in the court's records. Where it has been established that the civil infraction was committed, an appropriate order shall be entered in the court's records.

(5) An appeal from the court's determination or order shall be to the superior court in the manner provided by the Rules for Appeal of Decisions of Courts of Limited Jurisdiction. The decision of the superior court is subject only to discretionary review pursuant to the Rules of Appellate Procedure. [1987 c 456 § 18.]

7.80.110 Hearings—Explanation of mitigating circumstances. (1) A hearing held for the purpose of allowing a person to explain mitigating circumstances surrounding the commission of a civil infraction shall be an informal proceeding. The person may not subpoena witnesses. The determination that a civil infraction has been committed may not be contested at a hearing held for the purpose of explaining mitigating circumstances.

(2) After the court has heard the explanation of the circumstances surrounding the commission of the civil infrac-

tion, an appropriate order shall be entered in the court's records.

(3) There is no appeal from the court's determination or order. [1987 c 456 § 19.]

7.80.120 Monetary penalties—Restitution. (1) A person found to have committed a civil infraction shall be assessed a monetary penalty.

(a) The maximum penalty and the default amount for a class 1 civil infraction shall be $250, not including statutory assessments, except for an infraction of state law involving (i) potentially dangerous litter as specified in RCW 70A.200.060(4) or violent video or computer games under RCW 9.91.180, in which case the maximum penalty and default amount is $500; or (ii) a person's refusal to submit to a test or tests pursuant to RCW 79A.60.040 and 79A.60.700, in which case the maximum penalty and default amount is $1,000; or (iii) the misrepresentation of service animals under RCW 49.60.214, in which case the maximum penalty and default amount is $500; or (iv) untraceable firearms pursuant to RCW 9.41.326 or unfinished frames or receivers pursuant to RCW 9.41.327, in which case the maximum penalty and default amount is $500;

(b) The maximum penalty and the default amount for a class 2 civil infraction shall be $125, not including statutory assessments;

(c) The maximum penalty and the default amount for a class 3 civil infraction shall be $50, not including statutory assessments; and

(d) The maximum penalty and the default amount for a class 4 civil infraction shall be $25, not including statutory assessments.

(2) The supreme court shall prescribe by rule the conditions under which local courts may exercise discretion in assessing fines for civil infractions.

(3) Whenever a monetary penalty is imposed by a court under this chapter it is immediately payable. If the person is unable to pay at that time the court may grant an extension of the period in which the penalty may be paid. If the penalty is not paid on or before the time established for payment, the court may proceed to collect the penalty in the same manner as other civil judgments and may notify the prosecuting authority of the failure to pay.

(4) The court may also order a person found to have committed a civil infraction to make restitution. [2022 c 105 § 1; 2021 c 65 § 8; 2018 c 176 § 5; 2013 c 278 § 3. Prior: 2003 c 365 § 3; 2003 c 337 § 4; 1997 c 159 § 2; 1987 c 456 § 20.]

Effective date—2022 c 105: "This act takes effect July 1, 2022." [2022 c 105 § 9.]

Explanatory statement—2021 c 65: See note following RCW 53.54.030.

Declaration—Finding—Purpose—Effective date—2018 c 176: See notes following RCW 49.60.215.

Findings—2003 c 365: See note following RCW 9.91.180.

Findings—2003 c 337: See note following RCW 70A.200.060.

7.80.130 Order of court—Civil nature—Modification of penalty—Community restitution. (1) An order entered after the receipt of a response which does not contest the determination, or after it has been established at a hearing that the civil infraction was committed, or after a hearing for the purpose of explaining mitigating circumstances is civil in nature.

(2) The court may waive, reduce, or suspend the monetary penalty prescribed for the civil infraction. If the court determines that a person has insufficient funds to pay the monetary penalty, the court may order performance of a number of hours of community restitution in lieu of a monetary penalty, at the rate of the then state minimum wage per hour. [2002 c 175 § 1; 1987 c 456 § 21.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.80.140 Costs and attorney fees. Each party to a civil infraction case is responsible for costs incurred by that party, but the court may assess witness fees against a nonprevailing respondent. Attorney fees may be awarded to either party in a civil infraction case. [1987 c 456 § 22.]

7.80.150 Notices—Record of—Cancellation prohibited, penalty—Audit. (1) Every law enforcement agency in this state or other agency authorized to issue notices of civil infractions shall provide in appropriate form notices of civil infractions which shall be issued in books with notices in quadruplicate and meeting the requirements of this section, or issued by an electronic device capable of producing a printed copy and electronic copies of the citations.

The chief administrative officer of every such agency shall be responsible for the issuance of such books or electronic devices and shall maintain a record of every such book or electronic device and each notice contained therein issued to individual members or employees of the agency and shall require and retain a receipt for every book or electronic device so issued.

(2) Every law enforcement officer or other person upon issuing a notice of civil infraction to an alleged perpetrator of a civil infraction under the laws of this state or of any ordinance of any city or town shall deposit the original or a printed or electronic copy of such notice of civil infraction with a court having competent jurisdiction over the civil infraction, as provided in RCW 7.80.050.

Upon the deposit of the original or a printed or electronic copy of such notice of civil infraction with a court having competent jurisdiction over the civil infraction, the original or copy may be disposed of only as provided in this chapter.

(3) It is unlawful and is official misconduct for any law enforcement officer or other officer or public employee to dispose of a notice of civil infraction or copies thereof or of the record of the issuance of the same in a manner other than as required in this section.

(4) The chief administrative officer of every law enforcement agency or other agency authorized to issue notices of civil infractions shall require the return to him or her of a copy of every notice issued by a person under his or her supervision to an alleged perpetrator of a civil infraction under any law or ordinance and of all copies of every notice which has been spoiled or upon which any entry has been made and not issued to an alleged perpetrator.

Such chief administrative officer shall also maintain or cause to be maintained in connection with every notice issued by a person under his or her supervision a record of the disposition of the charge by the court in which the original or copy of the notice was deposited.

(5) Any person who cancels or solicits the cancellation of any notice of civil infraction, in any manner other than as provided in this section, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(6) Every record of notices required in this section shall be audited monthly by the appropriate fiscal officer of the government agency to which the law enforcement agency or other agency authorized to issue notices of civil infractions is responsible. [2004 c 43 § 1; 1987 c 456 § 23.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.80.160 Failure to exercise notice options—Failure to satisfy penalty. (1) Any person who, after receiving a statement of the options provided in this chapter for responding to the notice of civil infraction and the procedures necessary to exercise these options, fails to exercise one of the options in a timely manner is guilty of a misdemeanor regardless of the disposition of the notice of civil infraction. A notice of civil infraction may be complied with by an appearance by counsel.

(2) A person who willfully fails to pay a monetary penalty or to perform community restitution as required by a court under this chapter may be found in contempt of court as provided in chapter 7.21 RCW. [2006 c 270 § 6; 2002 c 175 § 2; 1989 c 373 § 12; 1987 c 456 § 24.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.80.900 Decriminalization of certain municipal ordinances. Any municipal criminal ordinance in existence on the January 1, 1989, which is the same as or substantially similar to a statute which is decriminalized by sections 25 through 30 and 32, chapter 456, Laws of 1987 is deemed to be civil in nature and shall be punished as provided in this chapter. [1987 c 456 § 31.]

7.80.901 Effective date—1987 c 456 §§ 9-31. Sections 9 through 31 of this act shall take effect January 1, 1989. [1987 c 456 § 34.]

Chapter 7.84 RCW
NATURAL RESOURCE INFRACTIONS

Sections

Tree spiking, action for damages: RCW 9.91.155.

7.84.010 Legislative declaration. The legislature declares that decriminalizing certain offenses contained in Titles *75, 76, 77, 79, and 79A RCW and chapter 43.30 RCW and any rules adopted pursuant to those titles and chapters would promote the more efficient administration of those titles and chapters. The purpose of this chapter is to provide a just, uniform, and efficient procedure for adjudicating those violations which, in any of these titles and chapters or rules adopted under these chapters or titles, are declared not to be criminal offenses. The legislature respectfully requests the supreme court to prescribe any rules of procedure necessary to implement this chapter. [1999 c 249 § 502; 1993 c 244 § 2; 1987 c 380 § 1.]

***Reviser's note:** Title 75 RCW was recodified, repealed, or decodified in its entirety by 2000 c 107. See Comparative Table for Title 75 RCW, in the Table of Disposition of Former RCW Sections.

Intent—1993 c 244: See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.84.020 "Infraction" defined. The definition in this section applies throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

"Infraction" means an offense which, by the terms of Title 76, 77, 79, or 79A RCW or RCW 7.84.030(2)(b) and rules adopted under these titles and section, is declared not to be a criminal offense and is subject to the provisions of this chapter. [2012 c 176 § 2; 2003 c 39 § 3; 1999 c 249 § 503; 1993 c 244 § 3; 1987 c 380 § 2.]

Intent—1993 c 244: See note following RCW 79A.60.010.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.84.030 Notice of infraction—Issuance—Authorization for detention for a reasonable period—Service—Filing. (1) An infraction proceeding is initiated by the issuance and service of a printed notice of infraction and filing of a printed or electronic copy of the notice of infraction.

(2)(a) A notice of infraction may be issued by a person authorized to enforce the provisions of the title or chapter in which the infraction is established, or by a person authorized by an interlocal agreement entered into under RCW 7.84.140, when the infraction occurs in that person's presence.

(b) A person who is a peace officer as defined in chapter 10.93 RCW may detain the person receiving the infraction for a reasonable period of time necessary to identify the person, check for outstanding warrants, and complete and issue a notice of infraction under RCW 7.84.050. A person who is to receive a notice of infraction is required to identify himself or herself to the peace officer by giving the person's name, address, and date of birth. Upon request, the person shall produce reasonable identification, which may include a driver's license or identicard. Any person who fails to comply with the requirement to identify himself or herself and give the person's current address may be found to have committed an infraction.

(3) A court may issue a notice of infraction if a person authorized to enforce the provisions of the title or chapter in which the infraction is established, or by a person authorized by an interlocal agreement entered into under RCW 7.84.140, files with the court a written statement that the infraction was committed in that person's presence or that the officer has reason to believe an infraction was committed.

(4) Service of a notice of infraction issued under subsection (2) or (3) of this section shall be as provided by court rule.

(5) A notice of infraction shall be filed with a court having jurisdiction within five days of issuance, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. [2012 c 176 § 1; 2011 c 320 § 14; 2009 c 174 § 1; 2004 c 43 § 2; 1987 c 380 § 3.]

Findings—Intent—2011 c 320: See RCW 79A.80.005.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.84.040 Jurisdiction of court—Venue. (1) Infraction proceedings may be heard and determined by a district court.

(2) Infraction proceedings shall be brought in the district court district in which the infraction occurred. If an infraction takes place in the offshore waters, as defined in RCW 77.08.010, the infraction proceeding may be brought in any county bordering on the Pacific Ocean. [2003 c 39 § 4; 1987 c 380 § 4.]

7.84.050 Notice—Determination final unless contested—Form. (1) A notice of infraction represents a determination that an infraction has been committed. The determination shall be final unless contested as provided in this chapter.

(2) The form for the notice of infraction shall be prescribed by rule of the supreme court and shall include the following:

(a) A statement that the notice represents a determination that an infraction has been committed by the person named in the notice and that the determination shall be final unless contested as provided in this chapter;

(b) A statement that an infraction is a noncriminal offense for which imprisonment will not be imposed as a sanction;

(c) A statement of the specific infraction for which the notice was issued;

(d) A statement of the monetary penalty established for the infraction;

(e) A statement of the options provided in this chapter for responding to the notice and the procedures necessary to exercise these options;

(f) A statement that at any hearing to contest the determination, the state has the burden of proving, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the infraction was committed; and that the person may subpoena witnesses including the officer who issued the notice of infraction;

(g) A statement that at any hearing requested for the purpose of explaining mitigating circumstances surrounding the commission of the infraction the person shall be deemed to have committed the infraction and shall not subpoena witnesses;

(h) A statement that failure to respond to a notice of infraction within fifteen days is a misdemeanor and may be punished by fine or imprisonment; and

(i) A statement that failure to appear at a hearing requested for the purpose of contesting the determination or for the purpose of explaining mitigating circumstances is a misdemeanor and may be punished by fine or imprisonment. [2006 c 270 § 7; 1987 c 380 § 5.]

7.84.060 Response to notice—Contesting determination—Mitigating circumstances—Hearing—Failure to respond or appear—Penalty. (1) Any person who receives a notice of infraction shall respond to such notice as provided in this section within fifteen days of the date of the notice.

(2) If the person determined to have committed the infraction does not contest the determination, the person shall respond by completing the appropriate portion of the notice of infraction and submitting it, either by mail or in person, to the court specified on the notice. A check or money order in the amount of the penalty prescribed for the infraction shall be submitted with the response. When a response which does not contest the determination is received, an appropriate order shall be entered in the court's records.

(3) If the person determined to have committed the infraction wishes to contest the determination, the person shall respond by completing the portion of the notice of infraction requesting a hearing and submitting it, either by mail or in person, to the court specified on the notice. The court shall notify the person in writing of the time, place, and date of the hearing, and that date shall not be sooner than seven days from the date of the notice, except by agreement.

(4) If the person determined to have committed the infraction does not contest the determination but wishes to explain mitigating circumstances surrounding the infraction, the person shall respond by completing the portion of the notice of infraction requesting a hearing for that purpose and submitting it, either by mail or in person, to the court specified on the notice. The court shall notify the person in writing of the time, place, and date of the hearing.

(5) If any person issued a notice of infraction: (a) Fails to respond to the notice of infraction as provided in subsection (2) of this section, or (b) fails to appear at a hearing requested pursuant to subsection (3) or (4) of this section, the court shall enter an appropriate order assessing the monetary penalty prescribed for the infraction and any other penalty authorized by this chapter. In addition, failure to respond to a notice of infraction, as required by this chapter, and failure to appear at a hearing requested pursuant to subsection (3) or (4) of this section are each punishable as a misdemeanor under chapter 9A.20 RCW. [1987 c 380 § 6.]

7.84.070 Hearing—Rules of procedure—Counsel. (1) Procedures for the conduct of all hearings provided for in this chapter may be established by rule of the supreme court.

(2) Any person subject to proceedings under this chapter may be represented by counsel.

(3) The attorney representing the state, county, city, town, or agency authorized to issue an infraction as defined in RCW 7.84.020 may appear in any proceedings under this chapter but need not appear, notwithstanding any statute or rule of court to the contrary. [2020 c 38 § 5; 1987 c 380 § 7.]

7.84.080 Hearing—Contesting determination that infraction committed—Appeal. (1) A hearing held for the purpose of contesting the determination that an infraction has been committed shall be without a jury.

(2) The court may consider the notice of infraction and any other written report made under oath submitted by the officer who issued the notice or whose written statement was the basis for the issuance of the notice in lieu of the officer's

personal appearance at the hearing. The person named in the notice may subpoena witnesses, including the officer, and has the right to present evidence and examine witnesses present in court. The rules of evidence shall apply to contested hearings.

(3) The burden of proof is upon the state to establish the commission of the infraction by a preponderance of the evidence.

(4) After consideration of the evidence and argument, the court shall determine whether the infraction was committed. Where it has not been established that the infraction was committed, an order dismissing the notice shall be entered in the court's records. Where it has been established that the infraction was committed, the court may assess a monetary penalty not exceeding that provided for the infraction in the applicable court rule or statute and shall enter an appropriate order.

(5) An appeal from the court's determination or order shall be to the superior court. A defendant may appeal a judgment entered after a contested hearing finding that the defendant has committed the infraction. The plaintiff may appeal a decision which in effect abates, discontinues, or determines the case other than by a judgment that the defendant has not committed an infraction. No other orders or judgments are appealable by either party. The decision of the superior court is subject only to discretionary review pursuant to the rules of appellate procedure. [1987 c 380 § 8.]

7.84.090 Hearing—Explanation of mitigating circumstances. (1) A hearing held for the purpose of allowing a person to explain mitigating circumstances surrounding the commission of an infraction shall be an informal proceeding. The person may not subpoena witnesses. The determination that an infraction has been committed shall not be contested at a hearing held for the purpose of explaining mitigating circumstances.

(2) After the court has heard the explanation of the circumstances surrounding the commission of the infraction, it may assess a monetary penalty not exceeding that provided for the infraction in rules adopted pursuant to this chapter and shall enter an appropriate order.

(3) There may be no appeal from the court's determination or order. [1987 c 380 § 9.]

7.84.100 Monetary penalties. (1) A person found to have committed an infraction shall be assessed a monetary penalty. No penalty may exceed five hundred dollars for each offense unless specifically authorized by statute.

(2) The supreme court may prescribe by rule a schedule of monetary penalties for designated infractions. The legislature requests the supreme court to adjust this schedule every two years for inflation. The maximum penalty imposed by the schedule shall be five hundred dollars per infraction and the minimum penalty imposed by the schedule shall be ten dollars per infraction. This schedule may be periodically reviewed by the legislature and is subject to its revision.

(3) Whenever a monetary penalty is imposed by a court under this chapter, it is immediately payable. If the person is unable to pay at that time, the court may, in its discretion, grant an extension of the period in which the penalty may be paid.

(4)(a) The county treasurer shall remit seventy-five percent of the money received under RCW 79A.80.080(5) to the state treasurer.

(b) Money remitted under this subsection to the state treasurer must be deposited in the recreation access pass account established under RCW 79A.80.090. The balance of the noninterest money received by the county treasurer must be deposited in the county current expense fund. [2020 c 268 § 1; 2012 c 262 § 2; 1987 c 380 § 10.]

7.84.110 Order of court—Civil nature—Modification of penalty—Community restitution. (1) An order entered after the receipt of a response which does not contest the determination, or after it has been established at a hearing that the infraction was committed, or after a hearing for the purpose of explaining mitigating circumstances, is civil in nature.

(2) The court may, in its discretion, waive, reduce, or suspend the monetary penalty prescribed for the infraction. At the person's request, the court may order performance of a number of hours of community restitution in lieu of a monetary penalty, at the rate of the then state minimum wage per hour. [2002 c 175 § 3; 1987 c 380 § 11.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.84.120 Issuance of process. A court of limited jurisdiction having jurisdiction over an alleged infraction may issue process anywhere within the state. [1987 c 380 § 12.]

7.84.130 Failure to pay or complete community restitution—Penalty. (1) Failure to pay a monetary penalty assessed by a court under the provisions of this chapter is a misdemeanor under chapter 9A.20 RCW.

(2) Failure to complete community restitution ordered by a court under the provisions of this chapter is a misdemeanor under chapter 9A.20 RCW. [2002 c 175 § 4; 1987 c 380 § 13.]

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.84.140 Authority to delegate or accept enforcement authority over natural resource infractions. The director chosen by the state parks and recreation commission, the commissioner of public lands, and the director of the department of fish and wildlife are each authorized to delegate and accept enforcement authority over natural resource infractions to or from the other agencies through an agreement entered into under the interlocal cooperation act, chapter 39.34 RCW. [2011 c 320 § 13.]

Findings—Intent—2011 c 320: See RCW 79A.80.005.

Additional notes found at www.leg.wa.gov

7.84.900 Effective date—1987 c 380. This act shall take effect January 1, 1988. [1987 c 380 § 21.]

Chapter 7.88 RCW
CONFIDENTIALITY OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION COMPLIANCE REVIEW INFORMATION

Sections

7.88.005 Findings. The legislature finds and declares that efforts by financial institutions to comply voluntarily with state and federal statutory and regulatory requirements are vital to the public interest; that possible discovery and use in civil litigation of work produced in connection with such voluntary compliance efforts has an undesirable chilling effect on the use, scope, and effectiveness of voluntary compliance efforts by financial institutions; and that the public interest in encouraging aggressive voluntary compliance review outweighs the value of this work product in civil litigation. [1997 c 435 § 1.]

7.88.010 Definitions. The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Affiliate" means any person that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with a financial institution.

(2) "Civil action" means a civil proceeding pending in a court or other adjudicatory tribunal with jurisdiction to issue a request or subpoena for records, including a voluntary or mandated alternative dispute resolution mechanism under which a party may compel the production of records. "Civil action" does not include an examination or enforcement proceeding initiated by a governmental agency with primary regulatory jurisdiction over a financial institution in possession of a compliance review document.

(3) "Compliance review personnel" means a person or persons assigned and directed by the board of directors or management of a financial institution or affiliate to conduct a compliance review, and any person engaged or assigned by compliance review personnel or by the board of directors or management to assist in a compliance review.

(4) "Compliance review" means a self-critical analysis conducted by compliance review personnel to test, review, or evaluate past conduct, transactions, policies, or procedures for the purpose of confidentially (a) ascertaining, monitoring, or remediating violations of applicable state and federal statutes, rules, regulations, or mandatory policies, statements, or guidelines, (b) assessing and improving loan quality, loan underwriting standards, or lending practices, or (c) assessing and improving financial reporting to federal or state regulatory agencies.

(5) "Compliance review document" means any record prepared or created by compliance review personnel in connection with a compliance review. "Compliance review document" includes any documents created or data generated in the course of conducting a compliance review, but does not include other underlying documents, data, or factual materials that are the subject of, or source materials for, the compliance review, including any documents in existence prior to the commencement of the compliance review that are not themselves compliance review documents related to a past compliance review.

(6) "Financial institution" means a bank, trust company, mutual savings bank, savings and loan association, or credit union authorized by federal or state law to accept deposits in this state.

(7) "Person" means an individual, group, committee, partnership, firm, association, corporation, limited liability company, or other entity, including a financial institution or affiliate and its agents, employees, legal counsel, auditors, and consultants. [1997 c 435 § 2.]

7.88.020 Compliance review document confidentiality—Civil actions—Immunity of compliance review personnel from compulsory testimony. Except as provided in RCW 7.88.030:

(1) Compliance review documents are confidential and are not discoverable or admissible as evidence in any civil action.

(2) Compliance review personnel shall not be required to testify at deposition or trial in any civil action concerning the contents of or matters addressed in any compliance review or any compliance review documents, nor as to the actions or activities undertaken by or at the direction of the financial institution or affiliate in connection with a compliance review. [1997 c 435 § 3.]

7.88.030 Compliance review document confidentiality—Exceptions. RCW 7.88.020 does not:

(1) Limit the discovery or admissibility in any civil action of any documents that are not compliance review documents;

(2) Limit the discovery or admissibility of the testimony as to the identity of relevant witnesses or the identification of any relevant documents other than compliance review documents;

(3) Apply if the financial institution or affiliate expressly waives the privilege in writing;

(4) Apply if a compliance review document or matters learned in connection with a compliance review are voluntarily disclosed, but only to the extent of that disclosure, to a nonaffiliated third party other than a federal or state regulatory agency or legal counsel for or independent auditors of the financial institution or affiliate; or

(5) Apply to any information required by statute, rule, or federal regulation to be maintained by or provided to a governmental agency while the information is in the possession of the agency, to the extent applicable law authorizes its disclosure. [1997 c 435 § 4.]

7.88.040 Court review of application of privilege—Disclosure order. In a proceeding in which the privilege provided by this chapter is asserted, a court of competent jurisdiction may determine after in camera review that the privilege does not apply to any or all of the documents for which the privilege is claimed, and if so, the court may order the materials disclosed but shall protect from disclosure any other material in or related to compliance review documents or to activities of compliance review personnel to which the privilege does apply. [1997 c 435 § 5.]

7.88.050 Other privileges not limited, waived, or abrogated. This chapter does not limit, waive, or abrogate

the scope or nature of any other statutory or common law privilege of this state or the United States, including the attorney-client privilege. [1997 c 435 § 6.]

Chapter 7.96 RCW
UNIFORM CORRECTION OR CLARIFICATION OF DEFAMATION ACT

Sections

7.96.010 Intent. Since the United States supreme court recognized the First Amendment limitations on the common law tort of defamation and defamation-like torts, courts have struggled to achieve a balance between constitutionally protected guarantees of free expression and the need to protect citizens from reputational harm. Unlike personal injuries, harm to reputation can often be cured by means other than money damages. The correction or clarification of a published statement may restore a person's reputation more quickly and more thoroughly than a victorious lawsuit. The salutary effect of a correction or clarification is enhanced if it is published reasonably soon after a statement is made.

Chapter 294, Laws of 2013 seeks to provide strong incentives for individuals to promptly correct or clarify an alleged false statement as an alternative to costly litigation. The options created by chapter 294, Laws of 2013 provide an opportunity for a plaintiff who believes he or she has been harmed by a false statement to secure quick and complete vindication of his or her reputation. Chapter 294, Laws of 2013 provides publishers with a quick and cost-effective means of correcting or clarifying alleged mistakes and avoiding costly litigation. [2013 c 294 § 1.]

7.96.020 Definition of "person." The definition in this section applies throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

"Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, association, joint venture, or other legal or commercial entity. The term does not include a government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality. [2013 c 294 § 2.]

7.96.030 Scope. (1) This chapter applies to any claim for relief, however characterized, for damages arising out of harm caused by the false content of a publication that is published on or after July 28, 2013.

(2) This chapter applies to all publications, including writings, broadcasts, oral communications, electronic transmissions, or other forms of transmitting information. [2013 c 294 § 3.]

7.96.040 Request for correction or clarification. (1) A person may maintain an action for defamation or another claim covered by this chapter only if:

(a) The person has made a timely and adequate request for correction or clarification from the defendant; or

(b) The defendant has made a correction or clarification.

(2) A request for correction or clarification is timely if made within the period of limitation for commencement of an action for defamation.

(3) A request for correction or clarification is adequate if it:

(a) Is made in writing and reasonably identifies the person making the request;

(b) Specifies with particularity the statement alleged to be false and defamatory or otherwise actionable and, to the extent known, the time and place of publication;

(c) Alleges the defamatory meaning of the statement;

(d) Specifies the circumstances giving rise to any defamatory meaning of the statement which arises from other than the express language of the publication; and

(e) States that the alleged defamatory meaning of the statement is false.

(4) In the absence of a previous adequate request, service of a summons and complaint stating a claim for defamation or another claim covered by this chapter and containing the information required in subsection (3) of this section constitutes an adequate request for correction or clarification.

(5) The period of limitation for commencement of a defamation action or another claim covered by this chapter is tolled during the period allowed in RCW 7.96.070(1) for responding to a request for correction or clarification. [2013 c 294 § 4.]

7.96.050 Disclosure of evidence of falsity. (1) A person who has been requested to make a correction or clarification may ask the requester to disclose reasonably available information material to the falsity of the allegedly defamatory or otherwise actionable statement.

(2) If a correction or clarification is not made, a person who unreasonably fails to disclose the information after a request to do so may not recover damages for injury to reputation or presumed damages; however, the person may recover all other damages permitted by law. [2013 c 294 § 5.]

7.96.060 Effect of correction or clarification. If a timely and sufficient correction or clarification is made, a person may not recover damages for injury to reputation or presumed damages; however, the person may recover all other damages permitted by law. [2013 c 294 § 6.]

7.96.070 Timelines and sufficiency of correction or clarification. (1) A correction or clarification is timely if it is published before, or within thirty days after, receipt of a request for correction or clarification or of the information in RCW 7.96.050(1), whichever is later, unless the period is extended by written agreement of the parties.

(2) A correction or clarification is sufficient if it:

(a) Is published with a prominence and in a manner and medium reasonably likely to reach substantially the same audience as the publication complained of;

(b) Refers to the statement being corrected or clarified and:

(i) Corrects the statement;

(ii) In the case of defamatory or false meaning arising from other than the express language of the publication, disclaims an intent to communicate that meaning or to assert its truth; or

(iii) In the case of a statement attributed to another person, identifies the person and disclaims an intent to assert the truth of the statement;

(c) In advance of the publication, is provided to the person who has made a request for correction or clarification; and

(d) Accompanies and is an equally prominent part of any electronic publication of the allegedly defamatory or otherwise actionable statement by the publisher.

(3) A correction or clarification is published in a medium reasonably likely to reach substantially the same audience as the publication complained of if it is published in a later issue, edition, or broadcast of the original publication.

(4) If a later issue, edition, or broadcast of the original publication will not be published within the time limits established for a timely correction or clarification, a correction or clarification is published in a manner and medium reasonably likely to reach substantially the same audience as the publication complained of if:

(a) It is timely published in a reasonably prominent manner:

(i) In another medium likely to reach an audience reasonably equivalent to the original publication; or

(ii) If the parties cannot agree on another medium, in the newspaper with the largest general circulation in the region in which the original publication was distributed;

(b) Reasonable steps are taken to correct undistributed copies of the original publication, if any; and

(c) It is published in the next practicable issue, edition, or broadcast, if any, of the original publication.

(5) A correction or clarification is timely and sufficient if the parties agree in writing that it is timely and sufficient. [2013 c 294 § 7.]

7.96.080 Challenges to correction or clarification or to request for correction or clarification. (1) If a defendant in an action governed by this chapter intends to rely on a timely and sufficient correction or clarification, the defendant's intention to do so, and the correction or clarification relied upon, must be set forth in a notice served on the plaintiff within sixty days after service of the summons and complaint or ten days after the correction or clarification is made, whichever is later.

(2) If a defendant in an action governed by this chapter intends to challenge the adequacy or timeliness of a request for correction or clarification, the defendant must set forth the challenge in a motion to declare the request inadequate or untimely served within sixty days after service of the summons and complaint. The court shall rule on the motion at the earliest appropriate time before trial. [2013 c 294 § 8.]

7.96.090 Offer to correct or clarify. (1) If a timely correction or clarification is no longer possible, the publisher of an alleged defamatory or otherwise actionable statement may offer, at any time before trial, to make a correction or clarification. The offer must be made in writing to the person allegedly harmed by the publication and:

(a) Contain the publisher's offer to:

(i) Publish, at the person's request, a sufficient correction or clarification; and

(ii) Pay the person's reasonable expenses of litigation, including attorneys' fees, incurred before publication of the correction or clarification; and

(b) Be accompanied by a copy of the proposed correction or clarification and the plan for its publication.

(2) If the person accepts in writing an offer to correct or clarify made pursuant to subsection (1) of this section:

(a) The person is barred from commencing an action against the publisher based on the statement; or

(b) If an action has been commenced, the court shall dismiss the action against the defendant with prejudice after the defendant complies with the terms of the offer.

(3) A person who does not accept an offer made in conformance with subsection (1) of this section may not recover damages for injury to reputation or presumed damages in an action based on the statement; however, the person may recover all other damages permitted by law, together with reasonable expenses of litigation, including attorneys' fees, incurred before the offer, unless the person failed to make a good faith attempt to request a correction or clarification in accordance with RCW 7.96.040 or failed to disclose information in accordance with RCW 7.96.050.

(4) On request of either party, a court shall promptly determine the sufficiency of the offered correction or clarification. [2013 c 294 § 9.]

7.96.100 Scope of protection. A timely and sufficient correction or clarification made by a person responsible for a publication constitutes a correction or clarification made by all persons responsible for that publication other than a republisher. However, a correction or clarification that is sufficient only because of the operation of RCW 7.96.070(2)(b)(iii) does not constitute a correction or clarification made by the person to whom the statement is attributed. [2013 c 294 § 10.]

7.96.900 Uniformity of application and construction. This chapter shall be applied and construed to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law with respect to the subject of this chapter among states enacting it. [2013 c 294 § 11.]

7.96.901 Short title. This chapter may be known and cited as the uniform correction or clarification of defamation act. [2013 c 294 § 12.]

Chapter 7.98 RCW
ALIEN VICTIMS OF CRIME

Sections

7.98.005 Finding. The legislature finds that ensuring that all victims of crimes are able to access the protections available to them under law is in the best interest of victims, law enforcement, and the entire community. Immigrants are frequently reluctant to cooperate with or contact law enforcement when they are victims of crimes, and the protections available to immigrants under the law are designed to strengthen the ability of law enforcement agencies to detect, investigate, and prosecute cases of trafficking in persons, domestic violence, sexual assault, and other crimes while offering protection to such victims. [2018 c 86 § 2.]

7.98.010 Definitions. The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Certification" means any law enforcement certification or statement required by federal immigration law including, but not limited to, the information required by 8 U.S.C. Sec. 1184 (o) and (p), or any successor statutes regarding T or U nonimmigrant visas or their successor programs, including current United States citizenship and immigration services form I-914 supplement B or form I-918 supplement B, respectively, and any successor forms.

(2) "Certifying agency" means a state or local law enforcement agency, prosecutor, administrative judge, hearing office, or other authority that has responsibility for the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity. A certifying agency includes an agency that has investigative jurisdiction in its respective area of expertise including, but not limited to, the Washington state patrol, the Washington department of labor and industries, and the Washington department of social and health services.

(3) "Criminal activity" includes any activity that constitutes a crime as defined in RCW 7.69.020, for which the nature and elements of the offenses are substantially similar to the offenses described in 8 U.S.C. Sec. 1101(a)(15)(U), and the attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit any of those offenses.

(4) "Law enforcement agency" means any agency in Washington that qualifies as a criminal justice agency under RCW 10.97.030(5) and is charged with the enforcement of state, county, municipal, or federal laws, or with managing custody of detained persons in the state, and includes municipal police departments, sheriff's departments, campus police departments, the Washington state patrol, and the juvenile justice rehabilitative administration.

(5) "Law enforcement official" means any officer or other agent of a state or local law enforcement agency authorized to enforce criminal statutes, regulations, or local ordinances.

(6) "Victim of criminal activity" means any individual who has: (a) Reported criminal activity to a law enforcement agency or certifying agency, or otherwise participated in the detection, investigation, or prosecution of criminal activity; and (b) suffered direct or proximate harm as a result of the commission of any criminal activity and may include, but is not limited to, an indirect victim, regardless of the direct victim's immigration or citizenship status, including the spouse, children under twenty-one years of age and, if the direct victim is under twenty-one years of age, parents, and unmarried siblings under eighteen years of age where the direct victim is deceased, incompetent, or incapacitated. Bystander victims must also be considered. More than one victim may be identified and provided with certification depending upon the circumstances. For purposes of this subsection, "incapacitated" means unable to interact with law enforcement agency or certifying agency personnel as a result of a cognitive impairment or other physical limitation, or because of physical restraint or disability or age, such as minors. This definition applies to this chapter only.

(7) "Victim of trafficking" means any individual who is or has been a victim of human trafficking, which includes, but is not limited to, the following acts: (a) Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act was induced by force, fraud, or coercion; (b) sex trafficking and the victim was under the age of eighteen years; (c) recruiting, harboring, transportation of, providing, or obtaining a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery; or (d) another act or circumstance involving human trafficking. [2018 c 86 § 3.]

7.98.020 Crime victim certification—Certifying agencies. (1) Upon the request by the victim or representative thereof including, but not limited to, the victim's attorney, accredited representative, or domestic violence, sexual assault, or victim's service provider, a certifying agency shall: (a) Make a determination on United States citizenship and immigration services form I-918 supplement B or relevant successor certification form, whether the victim was a victim of criminal activity and has been helpful, is being helpful, or is likely to be helpful to the detection or investigation or prosecution of that criminal activity; or (b) make a determination on United States citizenship and immigration services form I-914 supplement B or relevant successor certification form, whether the victim is or has been a victim of trafficking and, unless the victim is under the age of eighteen, whether he or she has complied with any reasonable requests from law enforcement in any related investigation or prosecution of the acts of trafficking in which he or she was a victim.

(2) Upon a certifying agency's affirmative determination under subsection (1) of this section, the certifying official shall fully complete and sign the certification, including, if applicable, the specific details regarding the nature of the crime investigated or prosecuted and a detailed description of the victim's helpfulness or likely helpfulness to the detection or investigation or prosecution of criminal activity.

(3) A certifying agency shall process the certification within ninety days of request, unless the victim is in federal immigration removal proceedings, in which case the certifying agency shall execute the certification no later than fourteen days after the request is received by the agency. In any case in which the victim or the victim's children would lose any benefits under 8 U.S.C. Sec. 1184 (o) and (p) by virtue of having reached the age of twenty-one years within ninety days after the certifying agency receives the certification request, the certifying agency shall execute the certification no later than fourteen days before the date on which the victim or child would reach the age of twenty-one years or ninety days from the date of the request, whichever is earlier. Requests for expedited certification must be affirmatively raised by the victim.

(4) A current investigation, the filing of charges, and a prosecution or conviction are not required for a victim to request and obtain the certification from a certifying official.

(5) A certifying agency may only withdraw the certification if the victim unreasonably refuses to provide information and assistance related to the investigation or prosecution of the associated criminal activity when reasonably requested by the certifying agency.

(6) The head of each certifying agency shall designate an agent, who performs a supervisory role within the agency, to perform the following responsibilities:

(a) Respond to requests for certifications;

(b) Provide outreach to victims of criminal activity and trafficking to inform them of the agency's certification process; and

(c) Keep written documentation regarding the number of victims who requested certifications, the number of certification forms that were signed, the number of certification forms that were denied, and the number of certifications that were withdrawn, which must be reported to the office of crime victims advocacy on an annual basis.

(7) All certifying agencies shall develop a language access protocol for limited English proficient and deaf or hard of hearing victims of criminal activity.

(8) A certifying agency shall reissue any certification within ninety days of receiving a request from the victim of criminal activity or trafficking or representative thereof including, but not limited to, the victim's attorney, accredited representative, or domestic violence, sexual assault, or victim's service provider.

(9) A certifying agency shall not disclose personal identifying information, or information regarding the citizenship or immigration status of any victim of criminal activity or trafficking who is requesting a certification unless required to do so by applicable federal law or court order, or unless the certifying agency has written authorization from the victim or, if the victim is a minor or is otherwise not legally competent, by the victim's parent or guardian. This subsection does not modify prosecutor or law enforcement obligations to disclose information and evidence to defendants under *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83, 83 S. Ct. 1194, 10 L. Ed. 2d 215 (1963), or *Kyles v. Whitley*, 514 U.S. 419, 115 S. Ct. 1555; 131 L. Ed. 2d 490 (1995), or any related Washington case law, statutes, or court rules.

(10) The Washington state criminal justice training commission, in collaboration with the office of crime victims advocacy and the crime victim certification steering committee, shall develop and adopt minimum standards for a course of study on U and T nonimmigrant visas, other legal protections for immigrant survivors of criminal activity, and promising practices in working with immigrant crime victims. [2018 c 86 § 4.]

7.98.030 Crime victim certification steering committee. The office of crime victims advocacy shall convene a crime victim certification steering committee within ninety days of June 7, 2018. The office of crime victims advocacy shall provide administrative support for the committee. The committee must include members representing immigrant communities, law enforcement, prosecutors, the criminal justice training commission, providers of services to survivors of crime victims including domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and other crimes, a representative from the department of labor and industries charged with enforcement of workplace standards, and may include other entities concerned with victim safety and effective collaboration between immigrant communities and local law enforcement entities. The members of the committee shall serve without compensation. Members are reimbursed for travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060, subject to available resources and other limitations in chapter 43.03 RCW. The committee is responsible for the following:

(1) Monitoring compliance under this chapter;

(2) Developing and implementing training of law enforcement, prosecutors, victim advocates, state agency personnel, court personnel, and others about this chapter;

(3) Dissemination of information about this chapter to affected communities and the general public;

(4) Establishing mechanisms by which the public can report concerns and recommendations regarding implementation of this chapter;

(5) Identifying implementation issues and other trends, and providing recommendations to the governor and the legislature for addressing these issues;

(6) Other responsibilities relating to this chapter identified by the committee. [2018 c 86 § 5.]

7.98.900 Short title—2018 c 86. This act may be known and cited as the safety and access for immigrant victims act. [2018 c 86 § 1.]

Chapter 7.100 RCW

FORECLOSURE AND ABANDONMENT OF RESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY—NUISANCE ABATEMENT

Sections

7.100.010 Applicability of chapter. (1) This chapter applies only to residential real property consisting solely of a single-family residence, a residential condominium unit, or a residential cooperative unit.

(2) For purposes of this chapter:

(a) Property is "abandoned" when there are no signs of occupancy and at least three of the following indications of abandonment are visible from the exterior:

(i) The absence of furnishings and personal items consistent with residential habitation;

(ii) The gas, electric, or water utility services have been disconnected;

(iii) Statements by neighbors, passersby, delivery agents, or government employees that the property is vacant;

(iv) Multiple windows on the property are boarded up or closed off or are smashed through, broken, or unhinged, or multiple window panes are broken and unrepaired;

(v) Doors on the residence are substantially damaged, broken off, unhinged, or conspicuously open;

(vi) The property has been stripped of copper or other materials, or interior fixtures have been removed;

(vii) Law enforcement officials have received at least one report within the immediately preceding six months of trespassing or vandalism or other illegal activities by persons who enter unlawfully on the property;

(viii) The property has been declared unfit for occupancy and ordered to remain vacant and unoccupied pursuant to an order issued by a municipal or county authority or a court of competent jurisdiction;

(ix) Construction was initiated on the property and was discontinued before completion, leaving a building unsuitable for occupancy, and construction has not taken place for at least six months;

(x) Newspapers, circulars, flyers, or mail has accumulated on the property or the United States postal service has discontinued delivery to the property;

(xi) Rubbish, trash, debris, neglected vegetation, or natural overgrowth has accumulated on the property;

(xii) Hazardous, noxious, or unhealthy substances or materials have accumulated on the property;

(xiii) Other credible evidence exists indicating the intent to vacate and abandon the property.

(b) Property is in "mid-foreclosure" when, pursuant to chapter 61.24 RCW, a notice of default or notice of preforeclosure options has been issued or a notice of trustee's sale has been recorded in the office of the county auditor.

(c) Property is a "nuisance" when so determined by a county, city, or town pursuant to its authority under chapter 7.48 RCW or RCW 35.22.280, 35.23.440, 35.27.410, or 36.32.120. [2018 c 306 § 10.]

7.100.020 Notice to mortgage servicer of nuisance. (1) A county, city, or town may notify a mortgage servicer that a property has been determined to be abandoned, in mid-foreclosure, and a nuisance.

(2) A notice issued pursuant to this section must:

(a) Be accompanied by an affidavit or a declaration made under penalty of perjury by a county, city, or town official that a property is abandoned, in mid-foreclosure, and a nuisance, and the affidavit or declaration must outline at least three indicators of abandonment and be supported with time and date stamped photographs, a finding that the property is a nuisance, and a copy of the notice of default, notice of preforeclosure options, or notice of trustee's sale; and

(b) Be sent to the mortgage servicer by certified mail. [2018 c 306 § 11.]

7.100.030 Request by mortgage servicer for determination of abandonment and nuisance. (1) A mortgage servicer may contact a county, city, or town regarding a property it believes to be abandoned, and a nuisance and request that a county, city, or town official visit the property and make a determination as to whether the residential real property is abandoned and a nuisance. When making such a request, the mortgage servicer must furnish a copy of a notice of default, notice of preforeclosure options, or notice of trustee's sale applicable to the property.

(2) A county, city, or town shall respond to such a request within fifteen calendar days of receipt and notify the mortgage servicer:

(a) That a county, city, or town official has visited the property and determined that the property is not abandoned, or not a nuisance;

(b) That a county, city, or town official has visited the property and determined that the property is abandoned, in mid-foreclosure, and a nuisance. In this case, the notification shall be accompanied by an affidavit or a declaration made under penalty of perjury by a county, city, or town official that a property is abandoned, mid-foreclosure, and a nuisance, and the affidavit or declaration must outline at least three indicators of abandonment and be supported with time and date stamped photographs, a finding that the property is a nuisance, and a copy of the notice of default or notice of trustee's sale supplied by the mortgage servicer; or

(c) That the county, city, or town does not have adequate resources or is otherwise unable to make the requested determination. [2018 c 306 § 12.]

7.100.040 Abatement of nuisance by mortgage servicer. (1) Upon receipt from a county, city, or town of an affidavit or declaration under penalty of perjury that a property is abandoned, in mid-foreclosure, and a nuisance, a mortgage servicer or its designee may enter the property for the purposes of abating the identified nuisance, preserving property, or preventing waste and may take steps to secure the property, including but not limited to:

(a) Installing missing locks on exterior doors. If any locks are changed the mortgage servicer must provide a lock box. Working locks may not be removed or replaced unless all doors are secured and there is no means of entry, and in such cases only one working lock may be removed and replaced;

(b) Replacing or boarding broken or missing windows;

(c) Winterizing, including draining pipes and disconnecting or turning on utilities;

(d) Eliminating building code or other code violations;

(e) Securing exterior pools and spas;

(f) Performing routine yard maintenance on the exterior of the residence; and

(g) Performing pest and insect control services.

(2) The mortgage servicer or its designee must make a record of entry by means of dated and time-stamped photographs showing the manner of entry and personal items visible within the residence upon entry.

(3) Neither the mortgage servicer nor its designee may remove personal items from the property unless the items are hazardous or perishable, and in case of such removal must inventory the items removed.

(4) Prior to each entry, a mortgage servicer or its designee must ensure that a notice is posted on the front door that includes the following:

(a) A statement that, pursuant to RCW 7.28.230, until foreclosure and sale is complete the property owner or occupant authorized by the owner has the right to possession;

(b) A statement that the property owner or occupant authorized by the owner has the right to request that any locks

installed by the mortgage servicer or its designee be removed within twenty-four hours and replaced with new locks accessible by the property owner or occupant authorized by the owner only;

(c) A toll-free, twenty-four hour number that the property owner or occupant authorized by the owner may call in order to gain timely entry, which entry must be provided no later than the next business day; and

(d) The phone number of the statewide foreclosure hotline recommended by the housing finance commission and the statewide civil legal aid hotline, together with a statement that the property owner may have the right to participate in foreclosure mediation pursuant to RCW 61.24.163.

(5) Records of entry onto property pursuant to this section must be maintained by the mortgage servicer or its designee for at least four years from the date of entry.

(6) If, upon entry, the property is found to be occupied, the mortgage servicer or its designee must leave the property immediately, notify the county, city, or town, and thereafter neither the mortgage servicer nor its designee may enter the property regardless of whether the property constitutes a nuisance or complies with local code enforcement standards.

(7) In the event a mortgage servicer is contacted by the borrower and notified that the property is not abandoned, the mortgage servicer must so notify the county, city, or town and thereafter neither the mortgage servicer nor its designee may enter the property regardless of whether the property constitutes a nuisance or complies with local code enforcement standards.

(8) A county, city, or town is not liable for any damages caused by any act or omission of the mortgage servicer or its designee. [2018 c 306 § 13.]

7.100.050 Failure of mortgage servicer to abate nuisance. Except in circumstances governed by RCW 7.100.040 (6) and (7), if a mortgage servicer receives notice from a county, city, or town pursuant to RCW 7.100.020 or 7.100.030(2)(b) that a property is abandoned, in mid-foreclosure, and a nuisance, and the mortgage servicer does not abate the nuisance within the time prescribed by local ordinance, a county, city, or town may exercise its authority under chapter 7.48 RCW, RCW 35.22.280, 35.23.440, 35.27.410, 36.32.120, or any other applicable law to abate the nuisance and recover associated costs as set forth in RCW 7.100.070. [2018 c 306 § 14.]

7.100.060 Notice to grantee of trustee's deed or sheriff's deed of nuisance—Failure to abate. (1) When a property has been the subject of foreclosure, a county, city or town may notify the grantee of the trustee's deed or sheriff's deed, via certified mail, that a property is a nuisance. Upon receipt of such a notice, the grantee of the trustee's deed or sheriff's deed shall respond within fifteen calendar days and provide one of the following responses:

(a) That the grantee of the trustee's deed or sheriff's deed will abate the nuisance within the time prescribed by local ordinance; or

(b) That the grantee of the trustee's deed or sheriff's deed does not have adequate resources to abate the nuisance within the time limits required by local ordinance.

(2) If the grantee of the trustee's deed or sheriff's deed is notified and does not abate the nuisance within the time prescribed by local ordinance, a county, city, or town may exercise its authority under chapter 7.48 RCW, RCW 35.22.280, 35.23.440, 35.27.410, 36.32.120, or any other applicable law to abate the nuisance and recover associated costs as set forth in RCW 7.100.070. [2018 c 306 § 15.]

7.100.070 Recovery of costs by county, city, or town—Assessment. Except in circumstances governed by RCW 7.100.040 (6) and (7), if, after issuance of a notice pursuant to RCW 7.100.020, 7.100.030(2)(b), or 7.100.060, a nuisance has not been abated within the time prescribed by local ordinance and the county, city, or town has exercised its authority under chapter 7.48 RCW, RCW 35.22.280, 35.23.440, 35.27.410, 36.32.120, or any other applicable law to abate the nuisance, the county, city, or town may recover its costs by levying an assessment on the real property on which the nuisance is situated to reimburse the county, city, or town for the costs of abatement, excluding any associated fines or penalties. This assessment constitutes a lien against the property, and is binding upon successors in title only from the date the lien is recorded in the county in which the real property is located. This assessment is of equal rank with state, county, and municipal taxes and is assessed against the real property upon which cost was incurred unless such amount is previously paid. [2018 c 306 § 16.]

7.100.900 Chapter supplemental to other law. The authority provided pursuant to this chapter is in addition to, and not in limitation of, any other authority provided by law. [2018 c 306 § 17.]

Chapter 7.105 RCW
CIVIL PROTECTION ORDERS

Sections

GENERAL PROVISIONS

7.105.010 Definitions. The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Abandonment" means action or inaction by a person or entity with a duty of care for a vulnerable adult that leaves the vulnerable adult without the means or ability to obtain necessary food, clothing, shelter, or health care.

(2) "Abuse," for the purposes of a vulnerable adult protection order, means intentional, willful, or reckless action or inaction that inflicts injury, unreasonable confinement, intimidation, or punishment on a vulnerable adult. In instances of abuse of a vulnerable adult who is unable to express or demonstrate physical harm, pain, or mental anguish, the abuse is presumed to cause physical harm, pain, or mental anguish. "Abuse" includes sexual abuse, mental abuse, physical abuse, personal exploitation, and improper use of restraint against a vulnerable adult, which have the following meanings:

(a) "Improper use of restraint" means the inappropriate use of chemical, physical, or mechanical restraints for convenience or discipline, or in a manner that: (i) Is inconsistent with federal or state licensing or certification requirements for facilities, hospitals, or programs authorized under chapter 71A.12 RCW; (ii) is not medically authorized; or (iii) otherwise constitutes abuse under this section.

(b) "Mental abuse" means an intentional, willful, or reckless verbal or nonverbal action that threatens, humiliates, harasses, coerces, intimidates, isolates, unreasonably confines, or punishes a vulnerable adult. "Mental abuse" may include ridiculing, yelling, swearing, or withholding or tampering with prescribed medications or their dosage.

(c) "Personal exploitation" means an act of forcing, compelling, or exerting undue influence over a vulnerable adult causing the vulnerable adult to act in a way that is inconsistent with relevant past behavior, or causing the vulnerable adult to perform services for the benefit of another.

(d) "Physical abuse" means the intentional, willful, or reckless action of inflicting bodily injury or physical mistreatment. "Physical abuse" includes, but is not limited to, striking with or without an object, slapping, pinching, strangulation, suffocation, kicking, shoving, or prodding.

(e) "Sexual abuse" means any form of nonconsensual sexual conduct including, but not limited to, unwanted or inappropriate touching, rape, molestation, indecent liberties, sexual coercion, sexually explicit photographing or recording, voyeurism, indecent exposure, and sexual harassment. "Sexual abuse" also includes any sexual conduct between a staff person, who is not also a resident or client, of a facility or a staff person of a program authorized under chapter 71A.12 RCW, and a vulnerable adult living in that facility or receiving service from a program authorized under chapter 71A.12 RCW, whether or not the sexual conduct is consensual.

(3) "Chemical restraint" means the administration of any drug to manage a vulnerable adult's behavior in a way that reduces the safety risk to the vulnerable adult or others, has the temporary effect of restricting the vulnerable adult's freedom of movement, and is not standard treatment for the vulnerable adult's medical or psychiatric condition.

(4)(a) "Coercive control" means a pattern of behavior that is used to cause another to suffer physical, emotional, or psychological harm, and in purpose or effect unreasonably interferes with a person's free will and personal liberty. In determining whether the interference is unreasonable, the court shall consider the context and impact of the pattern of behavior from the perspective of a similarly situated person. Examples of coercive control include, but are not limited to, engaging in any of the following:

(i) Intimidation or controlling or compelling conduct by:

(A) Damaging, destroying, or threatening to damage or destroy, or forcing the other party to relinquish, goods, property, or items of special value;

(B) Using technology to threaten, humiliate, harass, stalk, intimidate, exert undue influence over, or abuse the other party, including by engaging in cyberstalking, monitoring, surveillance, impersonation, manipulation of electronic media, or distribution of or threats to distribute actual or fabricated intimate images;

(C) Carrying, exhibiting, displaying, drawing, or threatening to use, any firearm or any other weapon apparently capable of producing bodily harm, in a manner, under circumstances, and at a time and place that either manifests an intent to intimidate the other party or that warrants alarm by the other party for their safety or the safety of other persons;

(D) Driving recklessly with the other party or minor children in the vehicle;

(E) Communicating, directly or indirectly, the intent to:

(I) Harm the other party's children, family members, friends, or pets, including by use of physical forms of violence;

(II) Harm the other party's career;

(III) Attempt suicide or other acts of self-harm; or

(IV) Contact local or federal agencies based on actual or suspected immigration status;

(F) Exerting control over the other party's identity documents;

(G) Making, or threatening to make, private information public, including the other party's sexual orientation or gender identity, medical or behavioral health information, or other confidential information that jeopardizes safety; or

(H) Engaging in sexual or reproductive coercion;

(ii) Causing dependence, confinement, or isolation of the other party from friends, relatives, or other sources of support, including schooling and employment, or subjecting the other party to physical confinement or restraint;

(iii) Depriving the other party of basic necessities or committing other forms of financial exploitation;

(iv) Controlling, exerting undue influence over, interfering with, regulating, or monitoring the other party's movements, communications, daily behavior, finances, economic resources, or employment, including but not limited to interference with or attempting to limit access to services for children of the other party, such as health care, medication, child care, or school-based extracurricular activities;

(v) Engaging in vexatious litigation or abusive litigation as defined in RCW 26.51.020 against the other party to harass, coerce, or control the other party, to diminish or exhaust the other party's financial resources, or to compromise the other party's employment or housing; or

(vi) Engaging in psychological aggression, including inflicting fear, humiliating, degrading, or punishing the other party.

(b) "Coercive control" does not include protective actions taken by a party in good faith for the legitimate and lawful purpose of protecting themselves or children from the risk of harm posed by the other party.

(5) "Consent" in the context of sexual acts means that at the time of sexual contact, there are actual words or conduct indicating freely given agreement to that sexual contact. Consent must be ongoing and may be revoked at any time. Conduct short of voluntary agreement does not constitute consent as a matter of law. Consent cannot be freely given when a person does not have capacity due to disability, intoxication, or age. Consent cannot be freely given when the other party has authority or control over the care or custody of a person incarcerated or detained.

(6)(a) "Course of conduct" means a pattern of conduct composed of a series of acts over a period of time, however short, evidencing a continuity of purpose. "Course of conduct" includes any form of communication, contact, or conduct, including the sending of an electronic communication, but does not include constitutionally protected free speech. Constitutionally protected activity is not included within the meaning of "course of conduct."

(b) In determining whether the course of conduct serves any legitimate or lawful purpose, a court should consider whether:

(i) Any current contact between the parties was initiated by the respondent only or was initiated by both parties;

(ii) The respondent has been given clear notice that all further contact with the petitioner is unwanted;

(iii) The respondent's course of conduct appears designed to alarm, annoy, or harass the petitioner;

(iv) The respondent is acting pursuant to any statutory authority including, but not limited to, acts which are reasonably necessary to:

(A) Protect property or liberty interests;

(B) Enforce the law; or

(C) Meet specific statutory duties or requirements;

(v) The respondent's course of conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the petitioner's privacy or the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive living environment for the petitioner; or

(vi) Contact by the respondent with the petitioner or the petitioner's family has been limited in any manner by any previous court order.

(7) "Court clerk" means court administrators in courts of limited jurisdiction and elected court clerks.

(8) "Dating relationship" means a social relationship of a romantic nature. Factors that the court may consider in making this determination include: (a) The length of time the relationship has existed; (b) the nature of the relationship; and (c) the frequency of interaction between the parties.

(9) "Domestic violence" means:

(a) Physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or the infliction of fear of physical harm, bodily injury, or assault; nonconsensual sexual conduct or nonconsensual sexual penetration; coercive control; unlawful harassment; or stalking of one intimate partner by another intimate partner; or

(b) Physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or the infliction of fear of physical harm, bodily injury, or assault; nonconsensual sexual conduct or nonconsensual sexual penetration; coercive control; unlawful harassment; or stalking of one family or household member by another family or household member.

(10) "Electronic monitoring" has the same meaning as in RCW 9.94A.030.

(11) "Essential personal effects" means those items necessary for a person's immediate health, welfare, and livelihood. "Essential personal effects" includes, but is not limited to, clothing, cribs, bedding, medications, personal hygiene items, cellular phones and other electronic devices, and documents, including immigration, health care, financial, travel, and identity documents.

(12) "Facility" means a residence licensed or required to be licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW, assisted living facilities; chapter 18.51 RCW, nursing homes; chapter 70.128 RCW, adult family homes; chapter 72.36 RCW, soldiers' homes; chapter 71A.20 RCW, residential habilitation centers; or any other facility licensed or certified by the department of social and health services.

(13) "Family or household members" means: (a) Persons related by blood, marriage, domestic partnership, or adoption; (b) persons who currently or formerly resided together; (c) persons who have a biological or legal parent-child relationship, including stepparents and stepchildren and grandparents and grandchildren, or a parent's intimate partner and children; and (d) a person who is acting or has acted as a legal guardian.

(14) "Financial exploitation" means the illegal or improper use of, control over, or withholding of, the property, income, resources, or trust funds of the vulnerable adult by any person or entity for any person's or entity's profit or advantage other than for the vulnerable adult's profit or advantage. "Financial exploitation" includes, but is not limited to:

(a) The use of deception, intimidation, or undue influence by a person or entity in a position of trust and confidence with a vulnerable adult to obtain or use the property, income, resources, government benefits, health insurance benefits, or trust funds of the vulnerable adult for the benefit of a person or entity other than the vulnerable adult;

(b) The breach of a fiduciary duty, including, but not limited to, the misuse of a power of attorney, trust, or a guardianship or conservatorship appointment, that results in the unauthorized appropriation, sale, or transfer of the property, income, resources, or trust funds of the vulnerable adult for the benefit of a person or entity other than the vulnerable adult; or

(c) Obtaining or using a vulnerable adult's property, income, resources, or trust funds without lawful authority, by a person or entity who knows or clearly should know that the vulnerable adult lacks the capacity to consent to the release or use of the vulnerable adult's property, income, resources, or trust funds.

(15) "Firearm" means a weapon or device from which a projectile or projectiles may be fired by an explosive such as gunpowder. "Firearm" does not include a flare gun or other pyrotechnic visual distress signaling device, or a powder-actuated tool or other device designed solely to be used for construction purposes. "Firearm" also includes parts that can be assembled to make a firearm.

(16) "Full hearing" means a hearing where the court determines whether to issue a full protection order.

(17) "Full protection order" means a protection order that is issued by the court after notice to the respondent and where the parties had the opportunity for a full hearing by the court. "Full protection order" includes a protection order entered by the court by agreement of the parties to resolve the petition for a protection order without a full hearing.

(18) "Hospital" means a facility licensed under chapter 70.41 or 71.12 RCW or a state hospital defined in chapter 72.23 RCW and any employee, agent, officer, director, or independent contractor thereof.

(19) "Interested person" means a person who demonstrates to the court's satisfaction that the person is interested in the welfare of a vulnerable adult, that the person has a good faith belief that the court's intervention is necessary, and that the vulnerable adult is unable, due to incapacity, undue influence, or duress at the time the petition is filed, to protect his or her own interests.

(20) "Intimate partner" means: (a) Spouses or domestic partners; (b) former spouses or former domestic partners; (c) persons who have a child in common regardless of whether they have been married or have lived together at any time, unless the child is conceived through sexual assault; or (d) persons who have or have had a dating relationship where both persons are at least 13 years of age or older.

(21)(a) "Isolate" or "isolation" means to restrict a person's ability to communicate, visit, interact, or otherwise associate with persons of his or her choosing. Isolation may be evidenced by acts including, but not limited to:

(i) Acts that prevent a person from sending, making, or receiving his or her personal mail, electronic communications, or telephone calls; or

(ii) Acts that prevent or obstruct a person from meeting with others, such as telling a prospective visitor or caller that the person is not present or does not wish contact, where the statement is contrary to the express wishes of the person.

(b) The term "isolate" or "isolation" may not be construed in a manner that prevents a guardian or limited guardian from performing his or her fiduciary obligations under *chapter 11.92 RCW or prevents a hospital or facility from providing treatment consistent with the standard of care for delivery of health services.

(22) "Judicial day" means days of the week other than Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays.

(23) "Mechanical restraint" means any device attached or adjacent to a vulnerable adult's body that the vulnerable adult cannot easily remove that restricts freedom of movement or normal access to the vulnerable adult's body. "Mechanical restraint" does not include the use of devices, materials, or equipment that are (a) medically authorized, as required, and (b) used in a manner that is consistent with federal or state licensing or certification requirements for facilities, hospitals, or programs authorized under chapter 71A.12 RCW.

(24) "Minor" means a person who is under 18 years of age.

(25) "Neglect" means: (a) A pattern of conduct or inaction by a person or entity with a duty of care that fails to pro-

vide the goods and services that maintain the physical or mental health of a vulnerable adult, or that fails to avoid or prevent physical or mental harm or pain to a vulnerable adult; or (b) an act or omission by a person or entity with a duty of care that demonstrates a serious disregard of consequences of such a magnitude as to constitute a clear and present danger to the vulnerable adult's health, welfare, or safety including, but not limited to, conduct prohibited under RCW 9A.42.100.

(26) "Nonconsensual" means a lack of freely given consent.

(27) "Nonphysical contact" includes, but is not limited to, written notes, mail, telephone calls, email, text messages, contact through social media applications, contact through other technologies, or contact through third parties.

(28) "Petitioner" means any named petitioner or any other person identified in the petition on whose behalf the petition is brought.

(29) "Physical restraint" means the application of physical force without the use of any device, for the purpose of restraining the free movement of a vulnerable adult's body. "Physical restraint" does not include (a) briefly holding, without undue force, a vulnerable adult in order to calm or comfort him or her, or (b) holding a vulnerable adult's hand to safely escort him or her from one area to another.

(30) "Possession" means having an item in one's custody or control. Possession may be either actual or constructive. Actual possession occurs when the item is in the actual physical custody of the person charged with possession. Constructive possession occurs when there is no actual physical possession, but there is dominion and control over the item.

(31) "Respondent" means the person who is identified as the respondent in a petition filed under this chapter.

(32) "Sexual conduct" means any of the following:

(a) Any intentional or knowing touching or fondling of the genitals, anus, or breasts, directly or indirectly, including through clothing;

(b) Any intentional or knowing display of the genitals, anus, or breasts for the purposes of arousal or sexual gratification of the respondent;

(c) Any intentional or knowing touching or fondling of the genitals, anus, or breasts, directly or indirectly, including through clothing, that the petitioner is forced to perform by another person or the respondent;

(d) Any forced display of the petitioner's genitals, anus, or breasts for the purposes of arousal or sexual gratification of the respondent or others;

(e) Any intentional or knowing touching of the clothed or unclothed body of a child under the age of 16, if done for the purpose of sexual gratification or arousal of the respondent or others; or

(f) Any coerced or forced touching or fondling by a child under the age of 16, directly or indirectly, including through clothing, of the genitals, anus, or breasts of the respondent or others.

(33) "Sexual penetration" means any contact, however slight, between the sex organ or anus of one person by an object, the sex organ, mouth, or anus of another person, or any intrusion, however slight, of any part of the body of one person or of any animal or object into the sex organ or anus of another person including, but not limited to, cunnilingus, fellatio, or anal penetration. Evidence of emission of semen is not required to prove sexual penetration.

(34) "Stalking" means any of the following:

(a) Any act of stalking as defined under RCW 9A.46.110;

(b) Any act of cyber harassment as defined under RCW 9A.90.120; or

(c) Any course of conduct involving repeated or continuing contacts, attempts to contact, monitoring, tracking, surveillance, keeping under observation, disrupting activities in a harassing manner, or following of another person that:

(i) Would cause a reasonable person to feel intimidated, frightened, under duress, significantly disrupted, or threatened and that actually causes such a feeling;

(ii) Serves no lawful purpose; and

(iii) The respondent knows, or reasonably should know, threatens, frightens, or intimidates the person, even if the respondent did not intend to intimidate, frighten, or threaten the person.

(35) "Temporary protection order" means a protection order that is issued before the court has decided whether to issue a full protection order. "Temporary protection order" includes ex parte temporary protection orders, as well as temporary protection orders that are reissued by the court pending the completion of a full hearing to decide whether to issue a full protection order. An "ex parte temporary protection order" means a temporary protection order that is issued without prior notice to the respondent.

(36) "Unlawful harassment" means:

(a) A knowing and willful course of conduct directed at a specific person that seriously alarms, annoys, harasses, or is detrimental to such person, and that serves no legitimate or lawful purpose. The course of conduct must be such as would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress, and must actually cause substantial emotional distress to the petitioner; or

(b) A single act of violence or threat of violence directed at a specific person that seriously alarms, annoys, harasses, or is detrimental to such person, and that serves no legitimate or lawful purpose, which would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress, and must actually cause substantial emotional distress to the petitioner. A single threat of violence must include: (i) A malicious and intentional threat as described in RCW 9A.36.080(1)(c); or (ii) the presence of a firearm or other weapon.

(37) "Vulnerable adult" includes a person:

(a) Sixty years of age or older who has the functional, mental, or physical inability to care for himself or herself; or

(b) Subject to a guardianship under RCW 11.130.265 or adult subject to conservatorship under RCW 11.130.360; or

(c) Who has a developmental disability as defined under RCW 71A.10.020; or

(d) Admitted to any facility; or

(e) Receiving services from home health, hospice, or home care agencies licensed or required to be licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW; or

(f) Receiving services from a person under contract with the department of social and health services to provide services in the home under chapter 74.09 or 74.39A RCW; or

(g) Who self-directs his or her own care and receives services from a personal aide under chapter 74.39 RCW. [2022 c 268 § 1; 2022 c 231 § 8; 2021 c 215 § 2.]

Reviser's note: *(1) Chapter 11.92 RCW was repealed in its entirety by 2020 c 312 § 904.

(2) This section was amended by 2022 c 231 § 8 and by 2022 c 268 § 1, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

(3) The definitions in this section have been alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k).

Effective dates—2022 c 268: "(1) Except for sections 9 through 14, 37, and 47 of this act, this act takes effect July 1, 2022.

(2) Section 37 of this act takes effect July 1, 2023.

(3) Sections 9 through 14 and 47 of this act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and take effect immediately [March 31, 2022]." [2022 c 268 § 49.]

Effective date—2022 c 231 §§ 8, 9, 11, 13, and 15: "Sections 8, 9, 11, 13, and 15 of this act take effect July 1, 2022." [2022 c 231 § 19.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

7.105.050 Jurisdiction—Domestic violence protection orders, sexual assault protection orders, stalking protection orders, and antiharassment protection orders. (1) The superior and district courts have jurisdiction over domestic violence protection order proceedings, sexual assault protection order proceedings, stalking protection order proceedings, and antiharassment protection order proceedings under this chapter, except that such proceedings must be transferred from district court to superior court when:

(a) A superior court has exercised or is exercising jurisdiction over a proceeding involving the parties;

(b) The action would have the effect of interfering with a respondent's care, control, or custody of the respondent's minor child;

(c) The action would affect the use or enjoyment of real property for which the respondent has a cognizable claim or would exclude a party from a shared dwelling;

(d) The petitioner, victim, or respondent to the petition is under 18 years of age; or

(e) The district court is unable to verify whether there are potentially conflicting or related orders involving the parties as required by RCW 7.105.105 or 7.105.555.

(2)(a) When the jurisdiction of a district court is limited to the issuance and enforcement of a temporary protection order, the district court shall set the full hearing in superior court and transfer the case, indicating in the transfer order the circumstances and findings supporting transfer to the superior court.

(b) If the notice and order are not served on the respondent in time for the full hearing, the issuing court shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the superior court to extend the temporary protection order. The superior court to which the case is being transferred shall determine whether to grant any request for a continuance.

(3) Transfer procedures, court calendars, and judicial officer assignment must further the goals of this chapter to: Minimize delay; make the system less complex; provide sufficient victim support, consistency, safety, timeliness, and procedural fairness; enable comprehensive use of electronic filing, case tracking, and records management systems; provide for judicial officers with expertise and training in protection orders and trauma-informed practices and continuity of judicial officers at each hearing so the judicial officer will have greater familiarity with the parties, history, and allegations; and help ensure that there is compliance with timely and comprehensive firearms relinquishment to reduce risk of harm. Courts shall make publicly available in print and online information about their transfer procedures, court calendars, and judicial officer assignment. [2022 c 268 § 2; 2021 c 215 § 4.]

Effective dates—2022 c 268: See note following RCW 7.105.010.

Review of existing court jurisdiction—2021 c 215: "The legislature finds that there are inconsistencies and differing approaches within existing provisions governing the jurisdictional division of authority and responsibility among superior courts and courts of limited jurisdiction for protection order proceedings addressed by this act. This act retains those jurisdictional differences only as an interim measure, and creates an approach in section 12 of this act to review the existing jurisdictional division, assess the benefits and ramifications of modifying or consolidating jurisdiction for protection orders consistent with the goals of this act of improving efficacy and accessibility, and propose to the legislature provisions to address jurisdiction." [2021 c 215 § 3.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.065 Jurisdiction—Vulnerable adult protection orders. The superior courts have jurisdiction over vulnerable adult protection order proceedings under this chapter. [2021 c 215 § 7.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.070 Jurisdiction—Extreme risk protection orders. The superior courts have jurisdiction over extreme risk protection order proceedings under this chapter. The juvenile court may hear an extreme risk protection order proceeding under this chapter if the respondent is under the age of 18 years. Additionally, district courts have limited jurisdiction over the issuance and enforcement of temporary extreme risk protection orders issued under RCW 7.105.330. The district court shall set the full hearing in superior court and transfer the case. If the notice and order are not served on the respondent in time for the full hearing, the issuing court has concurrent jurisdiction with the superior court to extend the temporary extreme risk protection order. The superior court to which the case is being transferred shall determine whether to grant any request for a continuance. [2022 c 268 § 3; 2021 c 215 § 8.]

Effective dates—2022 c 268: See note following RCW 7.105.010.

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.075 Venue. An action for a protection order should be filed in the county where the petitioner resides. The petitioner may also file in:

(1) The county where an act giving rise to the petition for a protection order occurred;

(2) The county where a child to be protected by the order primarily resides;

(3) The county where the petitioner resided prior to relocating if relocation was due to the respondent's conduct; or

(4) The court nearest to the petitioner's residence or former residence under subsection (3) of this section. [2022 c 268 § 4; 2021 c 215 § 9.]

Effective dates—2022 c 268: See note following RCW 7.105.010.

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.080 Personal jurisdiction over nonresidents. (1) In a proceeding in which a petition for a protection order under this chapter is sought, a court of this state may exercise personal jurisdiction over a nonresident individual if:

(a) The individual is personally served with a petition within this state;

(b) The individual submits to the jurisdiction of this state by consent, entering a general appearance, or filing a responsive document having the effect of waiving any objection to consent to personal jurisdiction;

(c) The act or acts of the individual or the individual's agent giving rise to the petition or enforcement of a protection order occurred within this state;

(d)(i) The act or acts of the individual or the individual's agent giving rise to the petition or enforcement of a protection order occurred outside this state and are part of an ongoing pattern that has an adverse effect on the petitioner or a member of the petitioner's family or household and the petitioner resides in this state; or

(ii) As a result of the acts giving rise to the petition or enforcement of a protection order, the petitioner or a member of the petitioner's family or household has sought safety or protection in this state and currently resides in this state; or

(e) There is any other basis consistent with RCW 4.28.185 or with the Constitutions of this state and the United States.

(2) For jurisdiction to be exercised under subsection (1)(d) of this section, the individual must have communicated with the petitioner or a member of the petitioner's family, directly or indirectly, or made known a threat to the safety of the petitioner or member of the petitioner's family, while the petitioner or member of the petitioner's family resides in this state.

(3) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Communicated" or "made known" includes the following means: In person, through publication, by mail, telephonically, through an electronic communication site or medium, by text, or through other social media. Communication on any electronic medium that is generally available to any individual residing in the state is sufficient to exercise jurisdiction under subsection (1)(d) of this section.

(b) An act or acts that "occurred within this state" include an oral or written statement made or published by a person outside of this state to any person in this state by means included in (a) of this subsection, or by means of interstate commerce or foreign commerce. [2021 c 215 § 10.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.085 Out-of-state child custody jurisdictional issues. Jurisdictional issues regarding out-of-state proceedings involving the custody or residential placement of any child of the parties are governed by the uniform child custody jurisdiction and enforcement act, chapter 26.27 RCW. [2021 c 215 § 11.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

FILING

7.105.100 Filing—Types of petitions. (1) There exists an action known as a petition for a protection order. The following types of petitions for a protection order may be filed:

(a) A petition for a domestic violence protection order, which must allege the existence of domestic violence committed against the petitioner or petitioners by an intimate partner or a family or household member. The petitioner may petition for relief on behalf of himself or herself and on behalf of family or household members who are minors or vulnerable adults. A petition for a domestic violence protection order must specify whether the petitioner and the respondent are intimate partners or family or household members. A petitioner who has been sexually assaulted or stalked by an intimate partner or a family or household member should, but is not required to, seek a domestic violence protection order, rather than a sexual assault protection order or a stalking protection order.

(b) A petition for a sexual assault protection order, which must allege the existence of nonconsensual sexual conduct or nonconsensual sexual penetration that was committed against the petitioner by the respondent. A petitioner who has been sexually assaulted by an intimate partner or a family or household member should, but is not required to, seek a domestic violence protection order, rather than a sexual assault protection order. A single incident of nonconsensual sexual conduct or nonconsensual sexual penetration is sufficient grounds for a petition for a sexual assault protection order. The petitioner may petition for a sexual assault protection order on behalf of:

(i) Himself or herself;

(ii) A minor child, where the petitioner is the parent, legal guardian, or custodian;

(iii) A vulnerable adult, where the petitioner is an interested person; or

(iv) Any other adult for whom the petitioner demonstrates to the court's satisfaction that the petitioner is interested in the adult's well-being, the court's intervention is necessary, and the adult cannot file the petition because of age, disability, health, or inaccessibility.

(c) A petition for a stalking protection order, which must allege the existence of stalking committed against the petitioner or petitioners by the respondent. A petitioner who has been stalked by an intimate partner or a family or household member should, but is not required to, seek a domestic violence protection order, rather than a stalking protection order. The petitioner may petition for a stalking protection order on behalf of:

(i) Himself or herself;

(ii) A minor child, where the petitioner is the parent, legal guardian, or custodian;

(iii) A vulnerable adult, where the petitioner is an interested person; or

(iv) Any other adult for whom the petitioner demonstrates to the court's satisfaction that the petitioner is inter-

ested in the adult's well-being, the court's intervention is necessary, and the adult cannot file the petition because of age, disability, health, or inaccessibility.

(d) A petition for a vulnerable adult protection order, which must allege that the petitioner, or person on whose behalf the petition is brought, is a vulnerable adult and that the petitioner, or person on whose behalf the petition is brought, has been abandoned, abused, financially exploited, or neglected, or is threatened with abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect, by the respondent.

(e) A petition for an extreme risk protection order, which must allege that the respondent poses a significant danger of causing personal injury to self or others by having in the respondent's custody or control, purchasing, possessing, accessing, receiving, or attempting to purchase or receive, a firearm. The petition must also identify information the petitioner is able to provide about the firearms, such as the number, types, and locations of any firearms the petitioner believes to be in the respondent's current ownership, possession, custody, access, or control. A petition for an extreme risk protection order may be filed by (i) an intimate partner or a family or household member of the respondent; or (ii) a law enforcement agency.

(f) A petition for an antiharassment protection order, which must allege the existence of unlawful harassment committed against the petitioner or petitioners by the respondent. If a petitioner is seeking relief based on domestic violence, nonconsensual sexual conduct, nonconsensual sexual penetration, or stalking, the petitioner may, but is not required to, seek a domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking protection order, rather than an antiharassment order. The petitioner may petition for an antiharassment protection order on behalf of:

(i) Himself or herself;

(ii) A minor child, where the petitioner is the parent, legal guardian, or custodian;

(iii) A vulnerable adult, where the petitioner is an interested person; or

(iv) Any other adult for whom the petitioner demonstrates to the court's satisfaction that the petitioner is interested in the adult's well-being, the court's intervention is necessary, and the adult cannot file the petition because of age, disability, health, or inaccessibility.

(2) With the exception of vulnerable adult protection orders, a person under 18 years of age who is 15 years of age or older may seek relief under this chapter as a petitioner and is not required to seek relief through a petition filed on his or her behalf. He or she may also petition on behalf of a family or household member who is a minor if chosen by the minor and capable of pursuing the minor's stated interest in the action.

(3) A person under 15 years of age who is seeking relief under this chapter is required to seek relief by a person authorized as a petitioner under this section.

(4) If a petition for a protection order is filed by an interested person, the affidavit or declaration must also include a statement of why the petitioner qualifies as an interested person.

(5) A petition for any type of protection order must not be dismissed or denied on the basis that the conduct alleged by the petitioner would meet the criteria for the issuance of another type of protection order. If a petition meets the criteria for a different type of protection order other than the one sought by the petitioner, the court shall consider the petitioner's preference, and enter a temporary protection order or set the matter for a hearing as appropriate under the law. The court's decision on the appropriate type of order shall not be premised on alleviating any potential stigma on the respondent.

(6) The protection order petition must contain a section where the petitioner, regardless of petition type, may request specific relief provided for in RCW 7.105.310 that the petitioner seeks for himself or herself or for family or household members who are minors. The totality of selected relief, and any other relief the court deems appropriate for the petitioner, or family or household members who are minors, must be considered at the time of entry of temporary protection orders and at the time of entry of full protection orders.

(7) If a court reviewing the petition for a protection order or a request for a temporary protection order determines that the petition was not filed in the correct court, the court shall enter findings establishing the correct court, and direct the clerk to transfer the petition to the correct court and to provide notice of the transfer to all parties who have appeared.

(8) Upon filing a petition for a protection order, the petitioner may request that the court enter an ex parte temporary protection order and an order to surrender and prohibit weapons without notice until a hearing on a full protection order may be held. When requested, there shall be a rebuttable presumption to include the petitioner's minor children as protected parties in the ex parte temporary domestic violence protection order until the full hearing to reduce the risk of harm to children during periods of heightened risk, unless there is good cause not to include the minor children. If the court denies the petitioner's request to include the minor children, the court shall make written findings why the children should not be included, pending the full hearing. An ex parte temporary protection order shall be effective for a fixed period of time and shall be issued initially for a period not to exceed 14 days, which may be extended for good cause. [2022 c 268 § 5; 2021 c 215 § 13.]

Effective dates—2022 c 268: See note following RCW 7.105.010.

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.105 Filing—Provisions governing all petitions. The following apply to all petitions for protection orders under this chapter.

(1)(a) By January 1, 2023, county clerks on behalf of all superior courts and, by January 1, 2026, all courts of limited jurisdiction, must permit petitions for protection orders and all other filings in connection with the petition to be submitted as preferred by the petitioner either: (i) In person; (ii) remotely through an electronic submission process; or (iii) by mail for persons who are incarcerated or who are otherwise unable to file in person or remotely through an electronic system. The court or clerk must make available electronically to judicial officers any protection orders filed within the state. Judicial officers may not be charged for access to such documents. The electronic submission system must allow for petitions for protection orders and supportive documents to be submitted at any time of the day. When a petition and sup-

porting documents for a protection order are submitted to the clerk after business hours, they must be processed as soon as possible on the next judicial day. Petitioners and respondents should not incur additional charges for electronic submission for petitions and documents filed pursuant to this section.

(b) By January 1, 2023, all superior courts' systems and, by January 1, 2026, all limited jurisdiction courts' systems, should allow for the petitioner to electronically track the progress of the petition for a protection order. Notification may be provided by text messaging or email, and should provide reminders of court appearances and alert the petitioner when the following occur: (i) The petition has been processed and is under review by a judicial officer; (ii) the order has been signed; (iii) the order has been transmitted to law enforcement for entry into the Washington crime information center system; (iv) proof of service upon the respondent has been filed with the court or clerk; (v) a receipt for the surrender of firearms has been filed with the court or clerk; and (vi) the respondent has filed a motion for the release of surrendered firearms. Respondents, once served, should be able to sign up for similar electronic notification. Petitioners and respondents should not be charged for electronic notification.

(2) The petition must be accompanied by a confidential document to be used by the courts and law enforcement to fully identify the parties and serve the respondent. This record will be exempt from public disclosure at all times, and restricted access to this form is governed by general rule 22 provisions governing access to the confidential information form. The petitioner is required to fill out the confidential party information form to the petitioner's fullest ability. The respondent should be provided a blank confidential party information form at the time of service, and when the respondent first appears, the respondent must confirm with the court the respondent's identifying and current contact information, including electronic means of contact, and file this with the court.

(3) A petition must be accompanied by a declaration signed under penalty of perjury stating the specific facts and circumstances for which relief is sought. Parties, attorneys, and witnesses may electronically sign sworn statements in all filings.

(4) The petitioner and the respondent must disclose the existence of any other litigation or of any other restraining, protection, or no-contact orders between the parties, to the extent that such information is known by the petitioner and the respondent. To the extent possible, the court shall take judicial notice of any existing restraining, protection, or no-contact orders between the parties before entering a protection order. The court shall not include provisions in a protection order that would allow the respondent to engage in conduct that is prohibited by another restraining, protection, or no-contact order between the parties that was entered in a different proceeding. The obligation to disclose the existence of any other litigation includes, but is not limited to, the existence of any other litigation concerning the custody or residential placement of a child of the parties as set forth in RCW 26.27.281. The court administrator shall verify for the court the terms of any existing protection order governing the parties.

(5) The petition may be made regardless of whether or not there is a pending lawsuit, complaint, petition, or other action between the parties, except in cases where the court has realigned the parties in accordance with RCW 7.105.210.

(6) Relief under this chapter must not be denied or delayed on the grounds that the relief is available in another action. The court shall not defer acting on a petition for a protection order nor grant a petitioner less than the full relief that the petitioner is otherwise entitled to under this chapter because there is, or could be, another proceeding involving the parties including, but not limited to, any potential or pending family law matter or criminal matter.

(7) A person's right to petition for relief under this chapter is not affected by the person leaving his or her residence or household.

(8) A petitioner is not required to post a bond to obtain relief in any proceeding for a protection order.

(9)(a) No fees for service of process may be charged by a court or any public agency to petitioners seeking relief under this chapter. Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, courts may not charge petitioners any fees or surcharges the payment of which is a condition precedent to the petitioner's ability to secure access to relief under this chapter. Petitioners shall be provided the necessary number of certified copies, forms, and instructional brochures free of charge, including a copy of the service packet that consists of all documents that are being served on the respondent. A respondent who is served electronically with a protection order shall be provided a certified copy of the order free of charge upon request.

(b) A filing fee may be charged for a petition for an antiharassment protection order except as follows:

(i) No filing fee may be charged to a petitioner seeking an antiharassment protection order against a person who has engaged in acts of stalking as defined in RCW 9A.46.110, a hate crime under RCW 9A.36.080(1)(c), or a single act of violence or threat of violence under RCW 7.105.010(36)(b), or from a person who has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct or penetration or conduct that would constitute a sex offense as defined in RCW 9A.44.128, or from a person who is a family or household member or intimate partner who has engaged in conduct that would constitute domestic violence; and

(ii) The court shall waive the filing fee if the court determines the petitioner is not able to pay the costs of filing.

(10) If the petition states that disclosure of the petitioner's address or other identifying location information would risk harm to the petitioner or any member of the petitioner's family or household, that address may be omitted from all documents filed with the court. If the petitioner has not disclosed an address under this subsection, the petitioner shall designate an alternative address or email address at which the respondent may serve the petitioner.

(11) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, or as provided through alternative sources including, but not limited to, grants, local funding, or pro bono means, if the court deems it necessary, the court may appoint a guardian ad litem for a petitioner or a respondent who is under 18 years of age and who is not represented by counsel. If a guardian ad litem is appointed by the court for either or both parties, neither the petitioner nor the respondent shall be required by the court to pay any costs associated with the appointment.

(12) If a petitioner has requested an ex parte temporary protection order, because these are often emergent situations, the court shall prioritize review, either entering an order without a hearing or scheduling and holding an ex parte hearing in person, by telephone, by video, or by other electronic means on the day the petition is filed if possible. Otherwise, it must be heard no later than the following judicial day. The clerk shall ensure that the request for an ex parte temporary protection order is presented timely to a judicial officer, and signed orders will be returned promptly to the clerk for entry and to the petitioner as specified in this section.

(13) Courts shall not require a petitioner to file duplicative forms.

(14) The Indian child welfare act applies in the following manner.

(a) In a proceeding under this chapter where the petitioner seeks to protect a minor and the petitioner is not the minor's parent as defined by RCW 13.38.040, the petition must contain a statement alleging whether the minor is or may be an Indian child as defined in RCW 13.38.040. If the minor is an Indian child, chapter 13.38 RCW and the federal Indian child welfare act, 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1901 et seq., shall apply. A party should allege in the petition if these laws have been satisfied in a prior proceeding and identify the proceeding.

(b) Every order entered in any proceeding under this chapter where the petitioner is not a parent of the minor or minors protected by the order must contain a finding that the federal Indian child welfare act or chapter 13.38 RCW does or does not apply, or if there is insufficient information to make a determination, the court must make a finding that a determination must be made before a full protection order may be entered. If there is reason to know the child is an Indian child, but the court does not have sufficient evidence to determine that the child is or is not an Indian child, 25 C.F.R. Sec. 23.107(b) applies. Where there is a finding that the federal Indian child welfare act or chapter 13.38 RCW does apply, the order must also contain a finding that all notice, evidentiary requirements, and placement preferences under the federal Indian child welfare act and chapter 13.38 RCW have been satisfied, or a finding that removal or placement of the child is necessary to prevent imminent physical damage or harm to the child pursuant to 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1922 and RCW 13.38.140. Where there is a finding that the federal Indian child welfare act or chapter 13.38 RCW does not apply, the order must also contain a finding as to why there is no reason to know the child may be an Indian child. [2022 c 268 § 6; 2021 c 215 § 14.]

Effective dates—2022 c 268: See note following RCW 7.105.010.

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.110 Filing—Provisions applicable to specified orders. The following apply only to the specific type of protection orders referenced in each subsection.

(1) The department of social and health services, in its discretion, may file a petition for a vulnerable adult protection order or a domestic violence protection order on behalf of, and with the consent of, any vulnerable adult. When the department has reason to believe a vulnerable adult lacks the ability or capacity to consent, the department, in its discretion, may seek relief on behalf of the vulnerable adult. Neither the department nor the state of Washington is liable for seeking or failing to seek relief on behalf of any persons under this section. The vulnerable adult shall not be held responsible for any violations of the order by the respondent.

(2)(a) If the petitioner for an extreme risk protection order is a law enforcement agency, the petitioner shall make a good faith effort to provide notice to an intimate partner or family or household member of the respondent and to any known third party who may be at risk of violence. The notice must state that the petitioner intends to petition the court for an extreme risk protection order or has already done so, and include referrals to appropriate resources, including behavioral health, domestic violence, and counseling resources. The petitioner must attest in the petition to having provided such notice, or attest to the steps that will be taken to provide such notice.

(b) Recognizing that an extreme risk protection order may need to be issued outside of normal business hours, courts shall allow law enforcement petitioners to petition after hours for a temporary extreme risk protection order using an on-call, after-hours judge, as is done for approval of after-hours search warrants. [2021 c 215 § 15.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.115 Forms, instructions, etc.—Duties of the administrative office of the courts—Recommendations for filing and data collection. (1) By December 30, 2022, the administrative office of the courts shall:

(a) Develop and distribute standard forms for petitions and orders issued under this chapter, and facilitate the use of online forms for electronic filings.

(i) For all protection orders except extreme risk protection orders, the protection order must include, in a conspicuous location, a notice of criminal penalties resulting from a violation of the order, and the following statement: "You can be arrested even if the protected person or persons invite or allow you to violate the order. You alone are responsible for following the order. Only the court may change the order. Requests for changes must be made in writing."

(ii) For extreme risk protection orders, the protection order must include, in a conspicuous location, a notice of criminal penalties resulting from a violation of the order, and the following statement: "You have the sole responsibility to avoid or refrain from violating this order's provisions. Only the court may change the order. Requests for changes must be made in writing.";

(b) Develop and distribute instructions and informational brochures regarding protection orders and a court staff handbook on the protection order process, which shall be made available online to view and download at no cost. Developing additional methods to inform the public about protection orders in understandable terms and in languages other than English through videos and social media should also be considered. The instructions, brochures, forms, and handbook must be prepared in consultation with civil legal aid, culturally specific advocacy programs, and domestic violence and sexual assault advocacy programs. The instructions must be designed to assist petitioners in completing the petition, and must include a sample of standard petition and protection

order forms. The instructions and standard petition must include a means for the petitioner to identify, with only lay knowledge, the firearms the respondent may own, possess, receive, have access to, or have in the respondent's custody or control. The instructions must provide pictures of types of firearms that the petitioner may choose from to identify the relevant firearms, or an equivalent means to allow petitioners to identify firearms without requiring specific or technical knowledge regarding the firearms. The court staff handbook must allow for the addition of a community resource list by the court clerk. The informational brochure must describe the use of, and the process for, obtaining, renewing, modifying, terminating, and enforcing protection orders as provided under this chapter, as well as the process for obtaining, modifying, terminating, and enforcing an antiharassment no-contact order as provided under chapter 9A.46 RCW, a domestic violence no-contact order as provided under chapter 10.99 RCW, a restraining order as provided under chapters 26.09, 26.26A, 26.26B, and 26.44 RCW, a foreign protection order as defined in chapter 26.52 RCW, and a Canadian domestic violence protection order as defined in RCW 26.55.010;

(c) Determine the significant non-English-speaking or limited English-speaking populations in the state. The administrative office of the courts shall then arrange for translation of the instructions and informational brochures required by this section, which must contain a sample of the standard petition and protection order forms, into the languages spoken by at least the top five significant non-English-speaking populations, and shall distribute a master copy of the translated instructions and informational brochures to all court clerks and to the Washington supreme court's interpreter commission, minority and justice commission, and gender and justice commission. Such materials must be updated and distributed if needed due to relevant changes in the law;

(d)(i) Distribute a master copy of the petition and order forms, instructions, and informational brochures to all court clerks, and distribute a master copy of the petition and order forms to all superior, district, and municipal courts;

(ii) In collaboration with civil legal aid attorneys, domestic violence advocates, sexual assault advocates, elder abuse advocates, clerks, and judicial officers, develop and distribute a single petition form that a petitioner may use to file for any type of protection order authorized by this chapter, with the exception of extreme risk protection orders;

(iii) For extreme risk protection orders, develop and prepare:

(A) A standard petition and order form for an extreme risk protection order, as well as a standard petition and order form for an extreme risk protection order sought against a respondent under 18 years of age, titled "Extreme Risk Protection Order - Respondent Under 18 Years";

(B) Pattern forms to assist in streamlining the process for those persons who are eligible to seal records relating to an order under (d)(i) of this subsection, including:

(I) A petition and declaration the respondent can complete to ensure that requirements for public sealing have been met; and

(II) An order sealing the court records relating to that order; and

(C) An informational brochure to be served on any respondent who is subject to a temporary or full protection order under (d)(iii)(A) of this subsection;

(e) Create a new confidential party information form to satisfy the purposes of the confidential information form and the law enforcement information sheet that will serve both the court's and law enforcement's data entry needs without requiring a redundant effort for the petitioner, and ensure the petitioner's confidential information is protected for the purpose of safety. The form should be created with the presumption that it will also be used by the respondent to provide all current contact information needed by the court and law enforcement, and full identifying information for improved data entry. The form should also prompt the petitioner to disclose on the form whether the person who the petitioner is seeking to restrain has a disability, brain injury, or impairment requiring special assistance; and

(f) Update the instructions, brochures, standard petition and order for protection forms, and court staff handbook when changes in the law make an update necessary.

(2) By July 1, 2022, the administrative office of the courts, through the gender and justice commission of the Washington state supreme court, and with the support of the Washington state women's commission, shall work with representatives of superior, district, and municipal court judicial officers, court clerks, and administrators, including those with experience in protection order proceedings, as well as advocates and practitioners with expertise in each type of protection order, and others with relevant expertise, to develop for the courts:

(a) Standards for filing evidence in protection order proceedings in a manner that protects victim safety and privacy, including evidence in the form of text messages, social media messages, voice mails, and other recordings, and the development of a sealed cover sheet for explicit or intimate images and recordings; and

(b) Requirements for private vendors who provide services related to filing systems for protection orders, as well as what data should be collected. [2022 c 268 § 7; 2021 c 215 § 16.]

Effective dates—2022 c 268: See note following RCW 7.105.010.

7.105.120 Filing—Court clerk duties. (1) All court clerks' offices shall make available the standardized forms, instructions, and informational brochures required by this chapter, and shall keep current specific program names and telephone numbers for community resources, including civil legal aid and volunteer lawyer programs. Any assistance or information provided by clerks under this chapter, or any assistance or information provided by any person, including court clerks, employees of the department of social and health services, and other court facilitators, to complete the forms provided by the court, does not constitute the practice of law, and clerks are not responsible for incorrect information contained in a petition.

(2) All court clerks shall accept and provide community resource lists as described in (a) and (b) of this subsection, which the court shall make available as part of, or in addition to, the informational brochures described in RCW 7.105.115.

(a) The court clerk shall accept an appropriate community resource list from a domestic violence program and from

a sexual assault program serving the county in which the court is located. The community resource list must include the names, telephone numbers, and, as available, website links of domestic violence programs, sexual assault programs, and elder abuse programs serving the community in which the court is located, including law enforcement agencies, domestic violence agencies, sexual assault agencies, civil legal aid programs, elder abuse programs, interpreters, multicultural programs, and batterers' treatment programs. The list must be made available in print and online.

(b) The court clerk may create a community resource list of crisis intervention, behavioral health, interpreter, counseling, and other relevant resources serving the county in which the court is located. The clerk may also create a community resource list for respondents to include suicide prevention, treatment options, and resources for when children are involved in protection order cases. Any list must be made available in print and online.

(c) Courts may make the community resource lists specified in (a) and (b) of this subsection available as part of, or in addition to, the informational brochures described in subsection (1) of this section, and should accept from the programs that provided the resource lists translations of them into the languages spoken by the county's top five significant non-English-speaking populations.

(3) Court clerks should not make an assessment of the merits of a petitioner's petition for a protection order or refuse to accept for filing any petition that meets the basic procedural requirements. [2022 c 268 § 8; 2021 c 215 § 17.]

Effective dates—2022 c 268: See note following RCW 7.105.010.

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

SERVICE

7.105.150 Service—Methods of service. (1) To minimize delays and the need for more hearings, which can hinder access to justice and undermine judicial economy, to lessen costs, to guarantee actual notice to the respondent, and to simplify and modernize processes for petitioners, respondents, law enforcement, and the courts, the following methods of service are authorized for protection order proceedings, including petitions, temporary protection orders, reissuances of temporary protection orders, full protection orders, motions to renew protection orders, and motions to modify or terminate protection orders.

(a)(i) Except as provided in (a)(iii) and (b)(i) of this subsection, personal service, consistent with court rules for civil proceedings, is required in: (A) Cases requiring the surrender of firearms, such as extreme risk protection orders and protection orders with orders to surrender and prohibit weapons; (B) cases that involve transferring the custody of a child or children from the respondent to the petitioner; (C) cases involving vacating the respondent from the parties' shared residence; (D) cases involving a respondent who is incarcerated; and (E) cases where a petition for a vulnerable adult protection order is filed by someone other than the vulnerable adult.

(ii) Personal service in cases specified in (a)(i)(A) through (D) of this subsection must be made by law enforcement including, at a minimum, two timely attempts at personal service. To reduce risk of harm for cases requiring personal service, law enforcement should continue to attempt personal service up to the hearing date. Personal service for cases specified in (a)(i)(E) of this subsection and when used for other protection order cases must be made by law enforcement unless the petitioner elects to have the respondent served by a third party who is not a party to the action, is 18 years of age or older and competent to be a witness, and can provide sworn proof of service to the court as required.

(iii) In cases where personal service is required under this subsection, after two unsuccessful attempts at personal service, service shall be permitted by electronic means in accordance with (b) of this subsection.

(b)(i) Service by electronic means, including service by email, text message, social media applications, or other technologies, must be prioritized for all orders at the time of the issuance of temporary protection orders, except in cases where personal service is required under (a) of this subsection. For cases specified in (a)(i)(A) through (D) of this subsection, once firearms and concealed pistol licenses have been surrendered and verified by the court, or there is evidence the respondent does not possess firearms, the restrained party has been vacated from the shared residence, or the custody of the child or children has been transferred, per court order, or the respondent is no longer incarcerated, then subsequent motions and orders may be served electronically.

(ii) Service by electronic means must be made by a law enforcement agency, unless the petitioner elects to have the respondent served by any person who is not a party to the action, is 18 years of age or older and competent to be a witness, and can provide sworn proof of service to the court as required. Court authorization permitting electronic service is not required except in cases specified in (a)(i)(A) through (D) of this subsection. In those cases, either request of the petitioner, or good cause for granting an order for electronic service, such as two failed attempts at personal service, are required to authorize service by electronic means. No formal motion is necessary.

(iii) The respondent's email address, number for text messaging, and username or other identification on social media applications and other technologies, if known or available, must be provided by the petitioner to law enforcement in the confidential information form, and attested to by the petitioner as being the legitimate, current, or last known contact information for the respondent.

(iv) Electronic service must be effected by transmitting copies of the petition and any supporting materials filed with the petition, notice of hearing, and any orders, or relevant materials for motions, to the respondent at the respondent's electronic address or the respondent's electronic account associated with email, text messaging, social media applications, or other technologies. Verification of notice is required and may be accomplished through read-receipt mechanisms, a response, a sworn statement from the person who effected service verifying transmission and any follow-up communications such as email or telephone contact used to further verify, or an appearance by the respondent at a hearing. Sworn proof of service must be filed with the court by the person who effected service.

(c) Service by mail is permitted when: (i) Personal service was required, there have been two unsuccessful attempts at personal service, and electronic service is not possible; or (ii) personal service is not required and there have been two unsuccessful attempts at personal or electronic service. If electronic service and personal service are not successful, the court shall affirmatively order service by mail without requiring additional motions to be filed by the petitioner. Service by mail must be made by any person who is not a party to the action and is 18 years of age or older and competent to be a witness, by mailing copies of the materials to be served to the party to be served at the party's last known address or any other address determined by the court to be appropriate. Two copies must be mailed, postage prepaid, one by ordinary first-class mail and the other by a form of mail requiring a tracking or certified information showing when and where it was delivered. The envelopes must bear the return address where the petitioner may receive legal mail. Service is complete 10 calendar days after the mailing of two copies as prescribed in this section. Where service by mail is provided by a third party, the clerk shall forward proof of service by mail to the law enforcement agency in the county or municipality where the respondent resides.

(d) Service by publication is permitted only in those cases where all other means of service have been unsuccessful or are not possible due to lack of any known physical or electronic address of the respondent. Publication must be made in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the petition was brought and in the county of the last known address of the respondent once a week for three consecutive weeks. The newspaper selected must be one of the three most widely circulated papers in the county. The publication of summons must not be made until the court orders service by publication under this section. Service of the summons is considered complete on the date of the third publication when publication has been made for three consecutive weeks. The summons must be signed by the petitioner. The summons must contain the date of the first publication, and shall require the respondent upon whom service by publication is desired to appear and answer the petition on the date set for the hearing. The summons must also contain a brief statement of the reason for the petition and a summary of the provisions under the temporary protection order. The summons must be essentially in the following form:

In the . . . . . court of the state of Washington for the county of . . . . . .

. . . . . ., Petitioner

vs. No. . . . . .

. . . . . ., Respondent

The state of Washington to . . . . . (respondent):

You are hereby summoned to appear on the . . . . day of . . . . . ., (year) . . . ., at . . . . a.m./p.m., and respond to the petition. If you fail to respond, a protection order will be issued against you pursuant to the provisions of chapter 7.105 RCW, for a minimum of one year from the date you are required to appear. A temporary protection order has been issued against you, restraining you from the following: (Insert a brief statement of the provisions of the temporary protection order). A copy of the petition, notice of hearing, and temporary protection order has been filed with the clerk of this court.

. . . . . .

Petitioner . . . . . .

(2) The court may authorize multiple methods of service permitted by this section and may consider use of any address determined by the court to be appropriate in order to authorize service that is reasonably probable to provide actual notice. The court shall favor speedy and cost-effective methods of service to promote prompt and accessible resolution of the merits of the petition.

(3) To promote judicial economy and reduce delays, for respondents who are able to be served electronically, the respondent, or the parent or guardian of the respondent for respondents under the age of 18 or the guardian or conservator of an adult respondent, shall be required to provide his or her electronic address or electronic account associated with an email, text messaging, social media application, or other technology by filing the confidential party information form referred to in RCW 7.105.115(1). This must occur at the earliest point at which the respondent, parent, guardian, or conservator is in contact with the court so that electronic service can be effected for all subsequent motions, orders, and hearings.

(4) If an order entered by the court recites that the respondent appeared before the court, either in person or remotely, the necessity for further service is waived and proof of service of that order is not necessary, including in cases where the respondent leaves the hearing before a final ruling is issued or signed. The court's order, entered after a hearing, need not be served on a respondent who fails to appear before the court for the hearing, if material terms of the order have not changed from those contained in the temporary order, and it is shown to the court's satisfaction that the respondent has previously been served with the temporary order.

(5) When the respondent for a protection order is under the age of 18 or is an individual subject to a guardianship or conservatorship under Title 11 RCW:

(a) When the respondent is a minor, service of a petition for a protection order, modification, or renewal, shall be completed, as defined in this chapter, upon both the respondent and the respondent's parent or legal guardian.

(b) A copy of the protection order must be served on a parent, guardian, or conservator of the respondent at any address where the respondent resides, or the department of children, youth, and families in the case where the respondent is the subject of a dependency or court approved out-of-home placement. A minor respondent shall not be served at the minor respondent's school unless no other address for service is known.

(c) For extreme risk protection orders, the court shall also provide a parent, guardian, or conservator of the respondent with written notice of the legal obligation to safely secure any firearm on the premises and the potential for criminal prosecution if a prohibited person were to obtain access to any firearm. This notice may be provided at the time the

parent, guardian, or conservator of the respondent appears in court or may be served along with a copy of the order, whichever occurs first.

(6) When a petition for a vulnerable adult protection order is filed by someone other than the vulnerable adult, notice of the petition and hearing must be personally served upon the vulnerable adult. In addition to copies of all pleadings filed by the petitioner, the petitioner shall provide a written notice to the vulnerable adult using a standard notice form developed by the administrative office of the courts. The standard notice form must be designed to explain to the vulnerable adult in clear, plain language the purpose and nature of the petition and that the vulnerable adult has the right to participate in the hearing and to either support or object to the petition.

(7) The court shall not dismiss, over the objection of a petitioner, a petition for a protection order or a motion to renew a protection order based on the inability of law enforcement or the petitioner to serve the respondent, unless the court determines that all available methods of service have been attempted unsuccessfully or are not possible. [2022 c 268 § 9; 2021 c 215 § 18.]

Effective dates—2022 c 268: See note following RCW 7.105.010.

7.105.155 Service—Completion by law enforcement officer. When service is to be completed under this chapter by a law enforcement officer:

(1) The clerk of the court shall have a copy of any order issued under this chapter, the confidential information form, as well as the petition for a protection order and any supporting materials, electronically forwarded on or before the next judicial day to the law enforcement agency in the county or municipality where the respondent resides, as specified in the order, for service upon the respondent. If the respondent has moved from that county or municipality and personal service is not required, the law enforcement agency specified in the order may serve the order;

(2) Service of an order issued under this chapter must take precedence over the service of other documents by law enforcement unless they are of a similar emergency nature;

(3) Where personal service is required, the first attempt at service must occur within 24 hours of receiving the order from the court whenever practicable, but not more than five days after receiving the order. If the first attempt is not successful, no fewer than two additional attempts should be made to serve the order, particularly for respondents who present heightened risk of lethality or other risk of physical harm to the petitioner or petitioner's family or household members. All attempts at service must be documented on a proof of service form and submitted to the court in a timely manner;

(4) If service cannot be completed within 10 calendar days, the law enforcement officer shall notify the petitioner. The petitioner shall provide information sufficient to permit notification. Law enforcement shall continue to attempt to complete service unless otherwise directed by the court. In the event that the petitioner does not provide a service address for the respondent or there is evidence that the respondent is evading service, the law enforcement officer shall use law enforcement databases to assist in locating the respondent;

(5) If the respondent is in a protected person's presence at the time of contact for service, the law enforcement officer should take reasonable steps to separate the parties when possible prior to completing the service or inquiring about or collecting firearms. When the order requires the respondent to vacate the parties' shared residence, law enforcement shall take reasonable steps to ensure that the respondent has left the premises and is on notice that his or her return is a violation of the terms of the order. The law enforcement officer shall provide the respondent with copies of all forms with the exception of the confidential information form completed by the protected party and the proof of service form;

(6) Any law enforcement officer who serves a protection order on a respondent with the knowledge that the respondent requires special assistance due to a disability, brain injury, or impairment shall make a reasonable effort to accommodate the needs of the respondent to the extent practicable without compromise to the safety of the petitioner;

(7) Proof of service must be submitted to the court on the proof of service form. The form must include the date and time of service and each document that was served in order for the service to be complete, along with any details such as conduct at the time of service, threats, or avoidance of service, as well as statements regarding possession of firearms, including any denials of ownership despite positive purchase history, active concealed pistol license, or sworn statements in the petition that allege the respondent's access to, or possession of, firearms; or

(8) If attempts at service were not successful, the proof of service form or the form letter showing that the order was not served, and stating the reason it was not served, must be returned to the court by the next judicial day following the last unsuccessful attempt at service. Each attempt at service must be noted and reflected in computer aided dispatch records, with the date, time, address, and reason service was not completed. [2022 c 268 § 10; 2021 c 215 § 19.]

Effective dates—2022 c 268: See note following RCW 7.105.010.

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.160 Service—Materials. The following materials must be served, depending on the type of relief sought.

(1) If the petitioner is seeking a hearing on a petition for a protection order, the respondent must be served with the petition for a protection order, any supporting declarations or other materials, the notice of hearing, any temporary protection order issued by the court, any temporary order to surrender and prohibit weapons issued by the court, and a blank confidential party information form as referred to in RCW 7.105.115(1). The respondent shall confirm with the court during his or her first appearance all necessary contact and identifying information, and file the form with the court.

(2) If the petitioner is seeking the renewal or reissuance of a protection order, the respondent must be served with the motion to renew or reissue the protection order, any supporting declarations or other materials, and the notice of hearing.

(3) If either party is seeking to modify or terminate a protection order, the other party must be served with the motion to modify or terminate the protection order, any supporting declarations or other materials, and the notice of hearing.

(4) For any other motion filed by a party with the court, the other party must be served with all materials the moving party submitted to the court and with any notice of hearing issued by the court related to the motion. [2021 c 215 § 20.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.165 Service—Timing. (1) Unless waived by the nonmoving party, service must be completed on the nonmoving party not less than five judicial days before the hearing date. If service cannot be made, the court shall set a new hearing date and shall either require an additional attempt at obtaining service or permit service by other means authorized in this chapter. The court shall not require more than two attempts at obtaining service before permitting service by other means authorized in this chapter unless the moving party requests additional time to attempt service.

(2) Service is completed on the day the respondent is served personally, on the date of transmission for electronic service, on the 10th calendar day after mailing for service by mail, or on the date of the third publication when publication has been made for three consecutive weeks for service by publication.

(3) If the nonmoving party was served before the hearing, but less than five judicial days before the hearing, it is not necessary to re-serve materials that the nonmoving party already received, but any new notice of hearing and reissued order must be served on the nonmoving party. This additional service may be made by mail as an alternative to other authorized methods of service under this chapter. If done by mail, this additional service is considered completed on the third calendar day after mailing.

(4) Where electronic service was not complete because there was no verification of notice, and service by mail or publication has been authorized, copies must also be sent by electronic means to any known electronic addresses. [2022 c 268 § 11; 2021 c 215 § 21.]

Effective dates—2022 c 268: See note following RCW 7.105.010.

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.175 Service—Development of best practices. Courts and law enforcement agencies shall adopt rules, protocols, and pattern forms to standardize and implement best practices for service, including mechanisms and verification options for electronic service and electronic returns of service, as well as best practices for efficient transmission of court documents to law enforcement for entry into criminal justice databases and returns of service or property. [2021 c 215 § 23.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

HEARINGS

7.105.200 Hearings—Procedure. In hearings under this chapter, the following apply:

(1) Hearings under this chapter are special proceedings. The procedures established under this chapter for protection order hearings supersede inconsistent civil court rules. Courts should evaluate the needs and procedures best suited to individual hearings based on consideration of the totality of the circumstances, including disparities that may be apparent in the parties' resources and representation by counsel.

(2)(a) Courts shall prioritize hearings on petitions for ex parte temporary protection orders over less emergent proceedings.

(b) For extreme risk protection order hearings where a law enforcement agency is the petitioner, the court shall prioritize scheduling because of the importance of immediate temporary removal of firearms in situations of extreme risk and the goal of minimizing the time law enforcement must otherwise wait for a particular case to be called, which can hinder their other patrol and supervisory duties. Courts also may allow a law enforcement petitioner to participate remotely, or allow another representative from that law enforcement agency or the prosecutor's office to present the information to the court if personal presence of the petitioning officer is not required for testimonial purposes.

(3) If the respondent does not appear for the full hearing and there is no proof of timely and proper service on the respondent, the court shall reissue any temporary protection order previously issued and reset the hearing date. If a temporary protection order is reissued, the court shall reset the hearing date not later than 14 days from the reissue date. If a temporary protection order is reissued and the court permits service by mail or by publication, the court shall reset the hearing date not later than 30 days from the date of the order authorizing such service. These time frames may be extended for good cause.

(4) When considering any request to stay, continue, or delay a hearing under this chapter because of the pendency of a parallel criminal investigation or prosecution of the respondent, courts shall apply a rebuttable presumption against such delay and give due recognition to the purpose of this chapter to provide victims quick and effective relief. Courts must consider on the record the following factors:

(a) The extent to which a defendant's Fifth Amendment rights are or are not implicated, given the special nature of protection order proceedings, which burden a defendant's Fifth Amendment privilege substantially less than do other civil proceedings;

(b) Similarities between the civil and criminal cases;

(c) Status of the criminal case;

(d) The interests of the petitioners in proceeding expeditiously with litigation and the potential prejudice and risk to petitioners of a delay;

(e) The burden that any particular aspect of the proceeding may impose on respondents;

(f) The convenience of the court in the management of its cases and the efficient use of judicial resources;

(g) The interests of persons not parties to the civil litigation; and

(h) The interest of the public in the pending civil and criminal litigation.

(5) Hearings may be conducted upon the information provided in the sworn petition, live testimony of the parties should they choose to testify, and any additional sworn declarations. Live testimony of witnesses other than the parties may be requested by a party, but shall not be permitted unless the court finds that live testimony of witnesses other than the parties is necessary and material. If either party requests a

continuance to allow for proper notice of witnesses or to afford a party time to seek counsel, the court may continue the hearing. In considering the request, the court should consider the rebuttable presumption against delay and the purpose of this chapter to provide victims quick and effective relief.

(6) If the court continues a hearing for any reason, the court shall reissue any temporary orders, including orders to surrender and prohibit weapons, issued with or without notice.

(7) Prehearing discovery under the civil court rules, including, but not limited to, depositions, requests for production, or requests for admission, is disfavored and only permitted if specifically authorized by the court for good cause shown upon written motion of a party filed six judicial days prior to the hearing and served prior to the hearing.

(8) The rules of evidence need not be applied, other than with respect to privileges, the requirements of the rape shield statute under RCW 9A.44.020, and evidence rules 412 and 413.

(9)(a) The prior sexual activity or the reputation of the petitioner is inadmissible except:

(i) As evidence concerning the past sexual conduct of the petitioner with the respondent when this evidence is offered by the respondent upon the issue of whether the petitioner consented to the sexual conduct alleged for the purpose of a protection order; or

(ii) When constitutionally required to be admitted.

(b) To determine admissibility, a written motion must be made six judicial days prior to the protection order hearing. The motion must include an offer of proof of the relevancy of the proposed evidence and reasonably specific information as to the date, time, and place of the past sexual conduct between the petitioner and the respondent. If the court finds that the offer of proof is relevant to the issue of the victim's consent, the court shall conduct a hearing in camera. The court may not admit evidence under this subsection unless it determines at the hearing that the evidence is relevant and the probative value of the evidence outweighs the danger of unfair prejudice. The evidence shall be admissible at the hearing to the extent an order made by the court specifies the evidence that may be admitted. If the court finds that the motion and related documents should be sealed pursuant to court rule and governing law, it may enter an order sealing the documents.

(10) When a petitioner has alleged incapacity to consent to sexual conduct or sexual penetration due to intoxicants, alcohol, or other condition, the court must determine on the record whether the petitioner had the capacity to consent.

(11) Courts shall not require parties to submit duplicate or working copies of pleadings or other materials filed with the court, unless the document or documents cannot be scanned or are illegible.

(12) Courts shall, if possible, have petitioners and respondents in protection order proceedings gather in separate locations and enter and depart the court room at staggered times. Where the option is available, for safety purposes, the court should arrange for petitioners to leave the court premises first and to have court security escort petitioners to their vehicles or transportation. [2022 c 268 § 12; 2021 c 215 § 24.]

Effective dates—2022 c 268: See note following RCW 7.105.010.

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.205 Hearings—Remote hearings. (1) Hearings on protection orders, including hearings concerning temporary protection orders, full protection orders, compliance, reissuance, renewal, modification, or termination, may be conducted in person or remotely in order to enhance access for all parties.

(2) In the court's discretion, parties, witnesses, and others authorized by this chapter to participate in protection order proceedings may attend a hearing on a petition for a protection order, or any hearings conducted pursuant to this chapter, in person or remotely, including by telephone, video, or other electronic means where possible. No later than three judicial days before the hearing, the parties may request to appear at the hearing, with witnesses, remotely by telephone, video, or other electronic means. The court shall grant any request for a remote appearance unless the court finds good cause to require in-person attendance or attendance through a specific means.

(3) Courts shall require assurances of the identity of persons who appear by telephone, video, or other electronic means. Courts may not charge fees for remote appearances.

(4) Courts shall not post or stream proceedings or recordings of protection order hearings online unless (a) a waiver has been received from all parties, or (b) the hearing is being conducted online and members of the public do not have in-person access to observe or listen to the hearing. Unless the court orders a hearing to be closed to the public consistent with the requirements of Washington law, courts should provide access to members of the public who wish to observe or listen to a hearing conducted by telephone, video, or other electronic means.

(5) If a hearing is held with any parties or witnesses appearing remotely, the following apply:

(a) Courts should include directions to access a hearing remotely in the order setting the hearing and in any order granting a party's request for a remote appearance. Such orders shall also include directions to request an interpreter and accommodations for disabilities;

(b) Courts should endeavor to give a party or witness appearing by telephone no more than a one-hour waiting time by the court for the hearing to begin. For remote hearings, if the court anticipates the parties or witnesses will need to wait longer than one hour to be called or connected, the court should endeavor to inform them of the estimated start time of the hearing;

(c) Courts should inform the parties before the hearing begins that the hearing is being recorded by the court, in what manner the public is able to view the hearing, how a party may obtain a copy of the recording of the hearing, and that recording or broadcasting any portion of the hearing by any means other than the court record is strictly prohibited without prior court approval;

(d) To minimize trauma, while allowing remote hearings to be observed by the public, courts should take appropriate measures to prevent members of the public or the parties from harassing or intimidating any party or witness to a case. Such practices may include, but are not limited to, disallow-

ing members of the public from communicating with the parties or with the court during the hearing, ensuring court controls over microphone and viewing settings, and announcing limitations on allowing others to record the hearing;

(e) Courts shall use technology that accommodates American sign language and other languages;

(f) To help ensure that remote access does not undermine personal safety or privacy, or introduce other risks, courts should protect the privacy of telephone numbers, emails, and other contact information for parties, witnesses, and others authorized by this chapter to participate in protection order proceedings, and inform them of these safety considerations. Materials available to persons appearing remotely should include warnings not to state their addresses or telephone numbers at the hearing, and that they should ensure that background surroundings do not reveal their location;

(g) Courts should provide the parties, in orders setting the hearing, with a telephone number and an email address for the court, which the parties may use to inform the court if they have been unable to appear remotely for a hearing. Before dismissing or granting a petition due to the petitioner or respondent not appearing for a remote hearing, or the court not being able to reach the party via telephone or video, the court shall check for any notifications to the court regarding issues with remote access or other technological difficulties. If any party has provided such notification to the court, the court shall not dismiss or grant the petition, but shall reset the hearing by continuing it and reissuing any temporary order in place. If a party was unable to provide the notification regarding issues with remote access or other technological difficulties on the day of the hearing prior to the court's ruling, that party may seek relief via a motion for reconsideration; and

(h) A party attending a hearing remotely who is unable to participate in the hearing outside the presence of others who reside with the party, but who are not part of the proceeding including, but not limited to, children, and who asserts that the presence of those individuals may hinder the party's testimony or the party's ability to fully and meaningfully participate in the hearing, may request a continuance on that basis. Such requests may be granted in the court's discretion. In considering the request, the court may consider the rebuttable presumption against delay and the purpose of this chapter to provide victims quick and effective relief. [2022 c 268 § 13; 2021 c 215 § 25.]

Effective dates—2022 c 268: See note following RCW 7.105.010.

7.105.210 Realignment of parties—Domestic violence and antiharassment protection order proceedings. In proceedings where the petitioner is seeking a domestic violence protection order or an antiharassment protection order, the court may realign the designation of the parties as "petitioner" and "respondent" where the court finds that the original petitioner is the abuser or harasser and the original respondent is the victim of domestic violence or unlawful harassment. The court may issue a temporary protection order in accordance with this chapter until the victim is able to prepare a petition for a protection order in accordance with this chapter. [2021 c 215 § 26.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.215 Hearings—Extreme risk protection orders. For extreme risk protection order hearings, the following also apply.

(1) The court may:

(a) Examine under oath the petitioner, the respondent, and any witnesses they may produce, or, in lieu of examination, consider sworn declarations of the petitioner, the respondent, and any witnesses they may produce; and

(b) Ensure that a reasonable search has been conducted for criminal history records and civil protection order history related to the respondent.

(2) During the hearing, the court shall consider whether a behavioral health evaluation is appropriate, and may order such evaluation if appropriate.

(3) In determining whether grounds for an extreme risk protection order exist, the court may consider any relevant evidence including, but not limited to, any of the following:

(a) A recent act or threat of violence by the respondent against self or others, whether or not such violence or threat of violence involves a firearm;

(b) A pattern of acts or threats of violence by the respondent within the past 12 months including, but not limited to, acts or threats of violence by the respondent against self or others;

(c) Any behaviors that present an imminent threat of harm to self or others;

(d) A violation by the respondent of a protection order or a no-contact order issued;

(e) A previous or existing extreme risk protection order issued against the respondent;

(f) A violation of a previous or existing extreme risk protection order issued against the respondent;

(g) A conviction of the respondent for a crime that constitutes domestic violence as defined in RCW 10.99.020;

(h) A conviction of the respondent under RCW 9A.36.080;

(i) The respondent's ownership of, access to, or intent to possess, firearms;

(j) The unlawful or reckless use, display, or brandishing of a firearm by the respondent;

(k) The history of use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force by the respondent against another person, or the respondent's history of stalking another person;

(l) Any prior arrest of the respondent for a felony offense or violent crime;

(m) Corroborated evidence of the abuse of controlled substances or alcohol by the respondent; and

(n) Evidence of recent acquisition of firearms by the respondent. [2021 c 215 § 27.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.220 Hearings—Vulnerable adult protection orders. For vulnerable adult protection order hearings, the following also apply.

(1) When a petition for a vulnerable adult protection order is filed by someone other than the vulnerable adult or the vulnerable adult's guardian, conservator, or person acting under a protective arrangement, or both, and the vulnerable adult for whom protection is sought advises the court at the hearing that the vulnerable adult does not want all or part of

the protection sought in the petition, then the court may dismiss the petition or the provisions that the vulnerable adult objects to and any existing vulnerable adult protection order, or the court may take additional testimony or evidence, or order additional evidentiary hearings to determine whether the vulnerable adult is unable, due to incapacity, undue influence, or duress, to protect his or her person or estate in connection with the issues raised in the petition or order. If an additional evidentiary hearing is ordered and the court determines that there is reason to believe that there is a genuine issue about whether the vulnerable adult is unable to protect his or her person or estate in connection with the issues raised in the petition or order, the court may issue a temporary protection order of the vulnerable adult pending a decision after the evidentiary hearing.

(2) Pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, an evidentiary hearing on the issue of whether the vulnerable adult is unable, due to incapacity, undue influence, or duress, to protect his or her person or estate in connection with the issues raised in the petition or order, must be held within 14 days of entry of the temporary protection order. If the court did not enter a temporary protection order, the evidentiary hearing must be held within 14 days of the prior hearing on the petition. Notice of the time and place of the evidentiary hearing must be served upon the vulnerable adult and the respondent not less than five judicial days before the hearing. If timely service cannot be made, the court may set a new hearing date. A hearing under this subsection is not necessary if the vulnerable adult has been determined to be subject to a guardianship, conservatorship, or other protective arrangement under chapter 11.130 RCW. If a hearing is scheduled under this subsection, the protection order must remain in effect pending the court's decision at the subsequent hearing.

(3) At the hearing held pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, the court shall give the vulnerable adult, the respondent, the petitioner, and, in the court's discretion, other interested persons, the opportunity to testify and submit relevant evidence.

(4) If the court determines that the vulnerable adult is capable of protecting his or her person or estate in connection with the issues raised in the petition, and the vulnerable adult continues to object to the protection order, the court shall dismiss the order or may modify the order if agreed to by the vulnerable adult. If the court determines that the vulnerable adult is not capable of protecting his or her person or estate in connection with the issues raised in the petition or order, and that the vulnerable adult continues to need protection, the court shall order relief consistent with this chapter as it deems necessary for the protection of the vulnerable adult. In the entry of any order that is inconsistent with the expressed wishes of the vulnerable adult, the court's order is governed by the legislative findings contained in RCW 7.105.900. [2021 c 215 § 28.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.225 Grant of order, denial of order, and improper grounds. (1) The court shall issue a protection order if it finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the petitioner has proved the required criteria specified in (a) through (f) of this subsection for obtaining a protection order under this chapter.

(a) For a domestic violence protection order, that the petitioner has been subjected to domestic violence by the respondent.

(b) For a sexual assault protection order, that the petitioner has been subjected to nonconsensual sexual conduct or nonconsensual sexual penetration by the respondent.

(c) For a stalking protection order, that the petitioner has been subjected to stalking by the respondent.

(d) For a vulnerable adult protection order, that the petitioner has been abandoned, abused, financially exploited, or neglected, or is threatened with abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect by the respondent.

(e) For an extreme risk protection order, that the respondent poses a significant danger of causing personal injury to self or others by having in the respondent's custody or control, purchasing, possessing, accessing, receiving, or attempting to purchase or receive, a firearm.

(f) For an antiharassment protection order, that the petitioner has been subjected to unlawful harassment by the respondent.

(2) The court may not deny or dismiss a petition for a protection order on the grounds that:

(a) The petitioner or the respondent is a minor, unless provisions in this chapter specifically limit relief or remedies based upon a party's age;

(b) The petitioner did not report the conduct giving rise to the petition to law enforcement;

(c) A no-contact order or a restraining order that restrains the respondent's contact with the petitioner has been issued in a criminal proceeding or in a domestic relations proceeding;

(d) The relief sought by the petitioner may be available in a different action or proceeding, or criminal charges are pending against the respondent;

(e) The conduct at issue did not occur recently or because of the passage of time since the last incident of conduct giving rise to the petition; or

(f) The respondent no longer lives near the petitioner.

(3) In proceedings where the petitioner alleges that the respondent engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct or nonconsensual sexual penetration, the court shall not require proof of physical injury on the person of the petitioner or any other forensic evidence. Denial of a remedy to the petitioner may not be based, in whole or in part, on evidence that:

(a) The respondent was voluntarily intoxicated;

(b) The petitioner was voluntarily intoxicated; or

(c) The petitioner engaged in limited consensual sexual touching.

(4) In proceedings where the petitioner alleges that the respondent engaged in stalking, the court may not require proof of the respondent's intentions regarding the acts alleged by the petitioner.

(5) If the court declines to issue a protection order, the court shall state in writing the particular reasons for the court's denial. If the court declines a request to include one or more of the petitioner's family or household member who is a minor or a vulnerable adult in the order, the court shall state the reasons for that denial in writing. The court shall also explain from the bench:

(a) That the petitioner may refile a petition for a protection order at any time if the petitioner has new evidence to present that would support the issuance of a protection order;

(b) The parties' rights to seek revision, reconsideration, or appeal of the order; and

(c) The parties' rights to have access to the court transcript or recording of the hearing.

(6) A court's ruling on a protection order must be filed by the court in writing and must be made by the court on the mandatory form developed by the administrative office of the courts. [2021 c 215 § 29.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.230 Judicial information system consultation. (1) Before ruling on an order under this chapter, the court shall consult the judicial information system to determine the criminal history, history of criminal victimization, history of being a respondent or petitioner in a protection order proceeding, or pendency of other proceedings involving the parties. The court may take judicial notice of a parallel criminal proceeding for the related conduct involving the same parties, including whether the defendant in that action waived speedy trial.

(2) Before granting an order under this chapter directing residential placement of a child or restraining or limiting a party's contact with his or her child, the court shall consult the judicial information system, if available, to determine the pendency of other proceedings involving the residential placement of any child of the parties for whom residential placement has been requested.

(3) When the court proposes to consider information from the judicial information system or another criminal or civil database, the court shall: Disclose the information to each party present at the hearing; on timely request, provide each party with an opportunity to be heard; and take appropriate measures to alleviate safety concerns of the parties. The court has discretion not to disclose information that the court does not propose to consider. [2021 c 215 § 30.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.235 Compliance hearings. For compliance hearings:

(1) Only the respondent is required to appear if the court is reviewing compliance with any conditions of the order. The petitioner may appear at such hearing and provide evidence to the court regarding the respondent's compliance with the order. The petitioner may also file a declaration in response to the respondent's representation of compliance with any conditions of the order. After reviewing such a declaration by the petitioner, the court may ask the petitioner to appear at the hearing or provide additional declaration or documentation to address disputed issues.

(2) Any orders entered by the court pursuant to a compliance hearing must be served on the respondent if the respondent failed to appear at the hearing at which the court entered the orders.

(3) The court shall use its best efforts to notify the petitioner of the outcome of the compliance hearing including, but not limited to, informing the petitioner on whether the respondent is found to be out of compliance with an order to surrender and prohibit weapons. Such notice should be provided to the petitioner by electronic means if possible, but may also be made by telephone or another method that allows notification to be provided without unnecessary delay. [2021 c 215 § 31.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.240 Appointment of counsel for petitioner. Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, or as provided through alternative sources including, but not limited to, grants, local funding, or pro bono means, the court may appoint counsel to represent the petitioner if the respondent is represented by counsel. [2021 c 215 § 32.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.245 Interpreters. (1) Pursuant to chapter 2.42 RCW, in order to ensure that parties have meaningful access to the court, an interpreter shall be appointed for any party who is deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, or has a speech impairment and cannot readily understand or communicate in spoken language. Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 2.42 RCW, the court shall not:

(a) Appoint an interpreter who is not credentialed or duly qualified by the court to provide interpretation services; or

(b) Appoint a person to provide interpretation services if that person is serving as an advocate for the party.

(2) Pursuant to chapter 2.43 RCW, in order to ensure that parties have meaningful access to the court, an interpreter shall be appointed for any party who cannot readily speak or understand the English language. Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 2.43 RCW, the court shall not:

(a) Appoint an interpreter who is not credentialed or duly qualified by the court to provide interpretation services; or

(b) Appoint a person to provide interpretation services if that person is serving as an advocate for the party.

(3) Once an interpreter has been appointed for a party, the party shall no longer be required to make further requests for the appointment of an interpreter for subsequent hearings or proceedings. The clerk shall identify the party as a person who needs interpreter services and the clerk or the court administrator shall be responsible for ensuring that an interpreter is available for every subsequent hearing.

(4) The interpreter shall interpret for the party meeting with either counsel or court staff, or both, for the purpose of preparing forms and participating in the hearing and court-ordered assessments, and the interpreter shall sight translate any orders.

(5) The same interpreter shall not serve parties on both sides of the proceeding when not on the record, nor shall the interpreter appointed by the court for the proceeding be the same interpreter appointed for any court-ordered assessments, unless the court finds good cause on the record to do so because it is not possible to obtain more than one interpreter for the proceeding, or the safety of the litigants is not compromised, or any other reasons identified by the court.

(6) Courts shall make a private space available for parties, counsel, and/or court staff and interpreters to sight translate any written documents or to meet and confer.

(7) When a hearing is conducted through telephone, video, or other electronic means, the court must make appropriate arrangements to permit interpreters to serve the parties and the court as needed. [2021 c 215 § 33.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.250 Protection order advocates and support persons. (1) Whether or not the petitioner has retained an attorney, a sexual assault or domestic violence advocate, as defined in RCW 5.60.060, shall be allowed to accompany the petitioner, or appear remotely with the petitioner, and confer with the petitioner during court proceedings. The sexual assault or domestic violence advocate shall not provide legal representation nor interpretation services. Court administrators shall allow sexual assault and domestic violence advocates to assist petitioners with their protection orders. Sexual assault and domestic violence advocates are not engaged in the unauthorized practice of law when providing assistance of the types specified in this section. Unless the sexual assault or domestic violence advocate seeks to speak directly to the court, advocates shall not be required to be identified on the record beyond stating their role as a sexual assault or domestic violence advocate and identifying the program for which they work or volunteer for. Communications between the petitioner and a sexual assault and domestic violence advocate are protected as provided by RCW 5.60.060.

(2) Whether or not the petitioner has retained an attorney, a protection order advocate must be allowed to accompany the petitioner to any legal proceeding including, but not limited to, sitting or standing next to the petitioner, appearing remotely with the petitioner, and conferring with the petitioner during court proceedings, or addressing the court when invited to do so.

(a) For purposes of this section, "protection order advocate" means any employee or volunteer from a program that provides, as some part of its services, information, advocacy, counseling, or support to persons seeking protection orders.

(b) The protection order advocate shall not provide legal representation nor interpretation services.

(c) Unless a protection order advocate seeks to speak directly to the court, protection order advocates shall not be required to be identified on the record beyond stating his or her role as a protection order advocate and identifying the program for which he or she works or volunteers.

(d) A protection order advocate who is not employed by, or under the direct supervision of, a law enforcement agency, a prosecutor's office, the child protective services section of the department of children, youth, and families as defined in RCW 26.44.020, or other governmental entity, has the same privileges, rights, and responsibilities as a sexual assault advocate and domestic violence advocate under RCW 5.60.060.

(3) Whether or not the petitioner has retained an attorney or has an advocate, the petitioner shall be allowed a support person to accompany the petitioner to any legal proceeding including, but not limited to, sitting or standing next to the petitioner, appearing remotely with the petitioner, and conferring with the petitioner during court proceedings. The support person may be any third party of the petitioner's choosing, provided that:

(a) The support person shall not provide legal representation nor interpretation services; and

(b) A support person who is not employed by, or under the direct supervision of, a law enforcement agency, a prosecutor's office, the child protective services section of the department of children, youth, and families as defined in RCW 26.44.020, or other government entity, may not, without the consent of the petitioner, be examined as to any communication between the petitioner and the support person regarding the petition. [2022 c 268 § 14; 2021 c 215 § 34.]

Effective dates—2022 c 268: See note following RCW 7.105.010.

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.255 Judicial officer training. To help ensure familiarity with the unique nature of protection order proceedings, and an understanding of trauma-informed practices and best practices in the use of new technologies for remote hearings, judicial officers, including persons who serve as judicial officers pro tempore, should receive evidence-based training on procedural justice, trauma-informed practices, gender-based violence dynamics, coercive control, elder abuse, juvenile sex offending, teen dating violence, and requirements for the surrender of weapons before presiding over protection order hearings. Trainings should be provided on an ongoing basis as best practices, research on trauma, and legislation continue to evolve. As a method of continuous training, court commissioners, including pro tempore commissioners, shall be notified by the presiding judge or court administrator upon revision of any decision made under this chapter. [2022 c 268 § 15; 2021 c 215 § 35.]

Effective dates—2022 c 268: See note following RCW 7.105.010.

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

ORDERS, DURATION, RELIEF, AND REMEDIES

7.105.300 Application—RCW 7.105.305 through 7.105.325. RCW 7.105.305 through 7.105.325 apply to all orders other than extreme risk protection orders. [2021 c 215 § 37.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.305 Ex parte temporary protection orders—Other than for extreme risk protection orders. (1) Where it appears from the petition and any additional evidence that the respondent has engaged in conduct against the petitioner that serves as a basis for a protection order under this chapter, and the petitioner alleges that serious immediate harm or irreparable injury could result if an order is not issued immediately without prior notice to the respondent, the court may grant an ex parte temporary protection order, pending a full hearing. The court has broad discretion to grant such relief as the court deems proper, including the forms of relief listed in RCW 7.105.310, provided that the court shall not order a form of relief listed in RCW 7.105.310 if it would not be feasible or appropriate for the respondent to comply with such a

requirement before a full hearing may be held on the petition for a protection order. If the court does not order all the relief requested by the petitioner in an ex parte temporary protection order, the court shall still consider ordering such relief at the full hearing on the petition for a protection order. In issuing the order, the court shall consider the provisions of RCW 9.41.800, and order the respondent to surrender, and prohibit the respondent from accessing, having in his or her custody or control, possessing, purchasing, attempting to purchase or receive, or receiving, all firearms, dangerous weapons, and any concealed pistol license, as required in RCW 9.41.800.

(2) Any order issued under this section must contain the date, time of issuance, and expiration date.

(3) The court may issue an ex parte temporary protection order on the petition with or without a hearing. If an ex parte temporary protection order is denied, the court shall still set a full hearing unless the court determines the petition does not contain prima facie allegations to support the issuance of any type of protection order. If the court declines to issue an ex parte temporary protection order as requested or declines to set a hearing, the court shall state the reasons in writing. The court's denial of a motion for an ex parte temporary protection order shall be filed with the court.

(4) If a full hearing is set on a petition that is filed before close of business on a judicial day, the hearing must be set not later than 14 days from the date of the filing of the petition. If a full hearing is set on a petition that is submitted after close of business on a judicial day or is submitted on a nonjudicial day, the hearing must be set not later than 14 days from the first judicial day after the petition is filed, which may be extended for good cause.

(5) If the court does not set a full hearing, the petitioner may file an amended petition within 14 days of the court's denial. If the court determines the amended petition does not contain prima facie allegations to support the issuance of any type of protection order or if the petitioner fails to file an amended petition within the required time, the court may enter an order dismissing the petition.

(6) A petitioner may not obtain an ex parte temporary antiharassment protection order against a respondent if the petitioner has previously obtained two such ex parte orders against the same respondent, but has failed to obtain the issuance of a civil antiharassment protection order, unless good cause for such failure can be shown. [2022 c 268 § 16; 2021 c 215 § 38.]

Effective dates—2022 c 268: See note following RCW 7.105.010.

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.310 Relief for temporary and full protection orders—Other than for extreme risk protection orders. (1) In issuing any type of protection order, other than an ex parte temporary antiharassment protection order as limited by subsection (2) of this section, and other than an extreme risk protection order, the court shall have broad discretion to grant such relief as the court deems proper, including an order that provides relief as follows:

(a) Restrain the respondent from committing any of the following acts against the petitioner and other persons protected by the order: Domestic violence; nonconsensual sexual conduct or nonconsensual sexual penetration; sexual abuse; stalking; acts of abandonment, abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation against a vulnerable adult; and unlawful harassment;

(b) Restrain the respondent from making any attempts to have contact, including nonphysical contact, with the petitioner or the petitioner's family or household members who are minors or other members of the petitioner's household, either directly, indirectly, or through third parties regardless of whether those third parties know of the order;

(c) Exclude the respondent from the residence that the parties share;

(d) Exclude the respondent from the residence, workplace, or school of the petitioner; or from the day care or school of a minor child;

(e) Restrain the respondent from knowingly coming within, or knowingly remaining within, a specified distance from a specified location including, but not limited to, a residence, school, day care, workplace, the protected party's person, and the protected party's vehicle. The specified distance shall presumptively be at least 1,000 feet, unless the court for good cause finds that a shorter specified distance is appropriate;

(f) If the parties have children in common, make residential provisions with regard to their minor children on the same basis as is provided in chapter 26.09 RCW. However, parenting plans as specified in chapter 26.09 RCW must not be required under this chapter. The court may not delay or defer relief under this chapter on the grounds that the parties could seek a parenting plan or modification to a parenting plan in a different action. A protection order must not be denied on the grounds that the parties have an existing parenting plan in effect. A protection order may suspend the respondent's contact with the parties' children under an existing parenting plan, subject to further orders in a family law proceeding;

(g) Order the respondent to participate in a state-certified domestic violence perpetrator treatment program approved under RCW 43.20A.735 or a state-certified sex offender treatment program approved under RCW 18.155.070;

(h) Order the respondent to obtain a mental health or chemical dependency evaluation. If the court determines that a mental health evaluation is necessary, the court shall clearly document the reason for this determination and provide a specific question or questions to be answered by the mental health professional. The court shall consider the ability of the respondent to pay for an evaluation. Minors are presumed to be unable to pay. The parent or legal guardian is responsible for costs unless the parent or legal guardian demonstrates inability to pay;

(i) In cases where the petitioner and the respondent are students who attend the same public or private elementary, middle, or high school, the court, when issuing a protection order and providing relief, shall consider, among the other facts of the case, the severity of the act, any continuing physical danger, emotional distress, or educational disruption to the petitioner, and the financial difficulty and educational disruption that would be caused by a transfer of the respondent to another school. The court may order that the respondent not attend the public or private elementary, middle, or high school attended by the petitioner. If a minor respondent is prohibited attendance at the minor's assigned public school, the school district must provide the student comparable edu-

cational services in another setting. In such a case, the district shall provide transportation at no cost to the respondent if the respondent's parent or legal guardian is unable to pay for transportation. The district shall put in place any needed supports to ensure successful transition to the new school environment. The court shall send notice of the restriction on attending the same school as the petitioner to the public or private school the respondent will attend and to the school the petitioner attends;

(j) Require the respondent to pay the administrative court costs and service fees, as established by the county or municipality incurring the expense, and to reimburse the petitioner for costs incurred in bringing the action, including reasonable attorneys' fees or limited license legal technician fees when such fees are incurred by a person licensed and practicing in accordance with state supreme court admission and practice rule 28, the limited practice rule for limited license legal technicians. Minors are presumed to be unable to pay. The parent or legal guardian is responsible for costs unless the parent or legal guardian demonstrates inability to pay;

(k) Restrain the respondent from harassing, following, monitoring, keeping under physical or electronic surveillance, cyber harassment as defined in RCW 9A.90.120, and using telephonic, audiovisual, or other electronic means to monitor the actions, location, or communication of the petitioner or the petitioner's family or household members who are minors or other members of the petitioner's household. For the purposes of this subsection, "communication" includes both "wire communication" and "electronic communication" as defined in RCW 9.73.260;

(l) Other than for respondents who are minors, require the respondent to submit to electronic monitoring. The order must specify who shall provide the electronic monitoring services and the terms under which the monitoring must be performed. The order also may include a requirement that the respondent pay the costs of the monitoring. The court shall consider the ability of the respondent to pay for electronic monitoring;

(m) Consider the provisions of RCW 9.41.800, and order the respondent to surrender, and prohibit the respondent from accessing, having in his or her custody or control, possessing, purchasing, attempting to purchase or receive, or receiving, all firearms, dangerous weapons, and any concealed pistol license, as required in RCW 9.41.800;

(n) Order possession and use of essential personal effects. The court shall list the essential personal effects with sufficient specificity to make it clear which property is included. Personal effects may include pets. The court may order that a petitioner be granted the exclusive custody or control of any pet owned, possessed, leased, kept, or held by the petitioner, respondent, or minor child residing with either the petitioner or respondent, and may prohibit the respondent from interfering with the petitioner's efforts to obtain the pet. The court may also prohibit the respondent from knowingly coming within, or knowingly remaining within, a specified distance of specified locations where the pet is regularly found;

(o) Order use of a vehicle;

(p) Enter an order restricting the respondent from engaging in abusive litigation as set forth in chapter 26.51 RCW or in frivolous filings against the petitioner, making harassing or libelous communications about the petitioner to third parties, or making false reports to investigative agencies. A petitioner may request this relief in the petition or by separate motion. A petitioner may request this relief by separate motion at any time within five years of the date the protection order is entered even if the order has since expired. A stand-alone motion for an order restricting abusive litigation may be brought by a party who meets the requirements of chapter 26.51 RCW regardless of whether the party has previously sought a protection order under this chapter, provided the motion is made within five years of the date the order that made a finding of domestic violence was entered. In cases where a finding of domestic violence was entered pursuant to an order under chapter 26.09, *26.26, or 26.26A RCW, a motion for an order restricting abusive litigation may be brought under the family law case or as a stand-alone action filed under this chapter, when it is not reasonable or practical to file under the family law case;

(q) Restrain the respondent from committing acts of abandonment, abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation against a vulnerable adult;

(r) Require an accounting by the respondent of the disposition of the vulnerable adult's income or other resources;

(s) Restrain the transfer of either the respondent's or vulnerable adult's property, or both, for a specified period not exceeding 90 days;

(t) Order financial relief and restrain the transfer of jointly owned assets;

(u) Restrain the respondent from possessing or distributing intimate images, as defined in RCW 9A.86.010, depicting the petitioner including, but not limited to, requiring the respondent to: Take down and delete all intimate images and recordings of the petitioner in the respondent's possession or control; and cease any and all disclosure of those intimate images. The court may also inform the respondent that it would be appropriate to ask third parties in possession or control of the intimate images of this protection order to take down and delete the intimate images so that the order may not inadvertently be violated; or

(v) Order other relief as it deems necessary for the protection of the petitioner and other family or household members who are minors or vulnerable adults for whom the petitioner has sought protection, including orders or directives to a law enforcement officer, as allowed under this chapter.

(2) In an antiharassment protection order proceeding, the court may grant the relief specified in subsection (1)(c), (f), and (t) of this section only as part of a full antiharassment protection order.

(3) The court in granting a temporary antiharassment protection order or a civil antiharassment protection order shall not prohibit the respondent from exercising constitutionally protected free speech. Nothing in this section prohibits the petitioner from utilizing other civil or criminal remedies to restrain conduct or communications not otherwise constitutionally protected.

(4) The court shall not take any of the following actions in issuing a protection order.

(a) The court may not order the petitioner to obtain services including, but not limited to, drug testing, victim support services, a mental health assessment, or a psychological evaluation.

(b) The court shall not issue a full protection order to any party except upon notice to the respondent and the opportunity for a hearing pursuant to a petition or counter-petition filed and served by the party seeking relief in accordance with this chapter. Except as provided in RCW 7.105.210, the court shall not issue a temporary protection order to any party unless the party has filed a petition or counter-petition for a protection order seeking relief in accordance with this chapter.

(c) Under no circumstances shall the court deny the petitioner the type of protection order sought in the petition on the grounds that the court finds that a different type of protection order would have a less severe impact on the respondent.

(5) The order shall specify the date the order expires, if any. For permanent orders, the court shall set the date to expire 99 years from the issuance date. The order shall also state whether the court issued the protection order following personal service, service by electronic means, service by mail, or service by publication, and whether the court has approved service by mail or publication of an order issued under this section. [2022 c 268 § 17; 2022 c 231 § 9; 2021 c 215 § 39.]

Reviser's note: *(1) The majority of chapter 26.26 RCW was repealed by 2018 c 6 § 907. For later enactment of the uniform parentage act, see chapter 26.26A RCW.

(2) This section was amended by 2022 c 231 § 9 and by 2022 c 268 § 17, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

Effective dates—2022 c 268: See note following RCW 7.105.010.

Effective date—2022 c 231 §§ 8, 9, 11, 13, and 15: See note following RCW 7.105.010.

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.315 Duration of full protection orders—Other than for extreme risk protection orders. (1) When issuing an order after notice to the respondent and a hearing, the court may either grant relief for a fixed period of time or enter a permanent order of protection. Other than for antiharassment orders, the court shall not grant relief for less than one year unless the petitioner has specifically requested relief for a shorter period of time.

(2)(a) If a protection order restrains the respondent from contacting the respondent's minor children, the restraint must be for a fixed period not to exceed one year. This limitation is not applicable to protection orders issued under chapter 26.09, 26.26A, or 26.26B RCW.

(b) If the petitioner has petitioned for relief on behalf of the respondent's minor children, the court shall advise the petitioner that if the petitioner wants to continue protection for a period beyond one year, the petitioner may either petition for renewal pursuant to the provisions of this chapter or may seek relief pursuant to the provisions of chapter 26.09, 26.26A, or 26.26B RCW. [2021 c 215 § 40.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.320 Law enforcement stand-by to recover possessions—Other than for extreme risk protection orders. (1) When an order is issued under this chapter upon request of the petitioner, the court may order a law enforcement officer to accompany the petitioner and assist in placing the petitioner in possession of those items indicated in the order or to otherwise assist in the execution of the order of protection. The order must list all items that are to be included with sufficient specificity to make it clear which property is included. Orders issued under this chapter must include a designation of the appropriate law enforcement agency to execute, serve, or enforce the order. Any appropriate law enforcement agency should act where assistance is needed, even if the agency is not specifically named in the order, including assisting with the recovery of firearms as ordered.

(2) Upon order of a court, a law enforcement officer shall accompany the petitioner and assist in placing the petitioner in possession of all items listed in the order and to otherwise assist in the execution of the order.

(3) When the respondent is ordered to vacate the residence or other shared property, the respondent may be permitted by the court to remove personal clothing, personal items needed during the duration of the order, and any other items specified by the court, while a law enforcement officer is present.

(4) Where orders involve surrender of firearms, dangerous weapons, and concealed pistol licenses, those items must be secured and accounted for in a manner that prioritizes safety and compliance with court orders. [2022 c 268 § 18; 2021 c 215 § 41.]

Effective dates—2022 c 268: See note following RCW 7.105.010.

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.325 Entry of protection order data—Other than for extreme risk protection orders. (1) The clerk of the court shall enter any protection order, including temporary protection orders, issued under this chapter into a statewide judicial information system on the same day such order is issued, if possible, but no later than the next judicial day.

(2) A copy of a protection order granted under this chapter, including temporary protection orders, must be forwarded immediately by the clerk of the court, by electronic means if possible, to the law enforcement agency specified in the order. Upon receipt of the order, the law enforcement agency shall immediately enter the order into any computer-based criminal intelligence information system available in this state used by law enforcement agencies to list outstanding warrants. The order must remain in the computer until the expiration date specified on the order. If the court has entered an order that prohibits the respondent from possessing or purchasing a firearm, the law enforcement agency shall also enter the order into the national instant criminal background check system and any other federal or state computer-based systems used by law enforcement or others to identify prohibited purchasers of firearms. The order must remain in each system for the period stated in the order, and the law enforcement agency shall only expunge orders from the systems that have expired or terminated. Entry into the computer-based criminal intelligence information system constitutes notice to all law enforcement agencies of the existence of the order. The order is fully enforceable in any county in the state.

(3) The information entered into the computer-based criminal intelligence information system must include notice to law enforcement on whether the order was personally

served, served by electronic means, served by publication, or served by mail.

(4) If a law enforcement agency receives a protection order for entry or service, but the order falls outside the agency's jurisdiction, the agency may enter and serve the order or may immediately forward it to the appropriate law enforcement agency for entry and service, and shall provide documentation back to the court verifying which law enforcement agency has entered and will serve the order. [2021 c 215 § 42.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.330 Temporary protection orders—Extreme risk protection orders. (1) In considering whether to issue a temporary extreme risk protection order, the court shall consider all relevant evidence, including the evidence described in RCW 7.105.215.

(2) If a court finds there is reasonable cause to believe that the respondent poses a significant danger of causing personal injury to self or others in the near future by having in the respondent's custody or control, purchasing, possessing, accessing, receiving, or attempting to purchase or receive, a firearm, the court shall issue a temporary extreme risk protection order.

(3) A temporary extreme risk protection order must include:

(a) A statement of the grounds asserted for the order;

(b) The date and time the order was issued;

(c) The date and time the order expires;

(d) The address of the court in which any responsive pleading should be filed;

(e) The date and time of the scheduled hearing;

(f) A description of the requirements for the surrender of firearms under RCW 7.105.340; and

(g) The following statement: "To the subject of this protection order: This order is valid until the date and time noted above. You are required to surrender all firearms in your custody, control, or possession. You may not have in your custody or control, access, possess, purchase, receive, or attempt to purchase or receive, a firearm, or a concealed pistol license, while this order is in effect. You must surrender to the (insert name of local law enforcement agency) all firearms in your custody, control, or possession, and any concealed pistol license issued to you under RCW 9.41.070 immediately. A hearing will be held on the date and at the time noted above to determine if an extreme risk protection order should be issued. Failure to appear at that hearing may result in a court making an order against you that is valid for one year. You may seek the advice of an attorney as to any matter connected with this order."

(4) A temporary extreme risk protection order issued expires upon the full hearing on the petition for an extreme risk protection order, unless reissued by the court.

(5) A temporary extreme risk protection order must be served by a law enforcement officer in the same manner as provided for in RCW 7.105.155 for service of the notice of hearing and petition, and must be served concurrently with the notice of hearing and petition.

(6) If the court declines to issue a temporary extreme risk protection order, the court shall state the particular reasons for the court's denial. [2021 c 215 § 43.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.335 Full orders—Extreme risk protection orders. (1) An extreme risk protection order issued after notice and a hearing must include:

(a) A statement of the grounds supporting the issuance of the order;

(b) The date and time the order was issued;

(c) The date and time the order expires;

(d) Whether a behavioral health evaluation of the respondent is required;

(e) The address of the court in which any responsive pleading should be filed;

(f) A description of the requirements for the surrender of firearms under RCW 7.105.340; and

(g) The following statement: "To the subject of this protection order: This order will last until the date and time noted above. If you have not done so already, you must surrender to the (insert name of local law enforcement agency) all firearms in your custody, control, or possession, and any concealed pistol license issued to you under RCW 9.41.070 immediately. You may not have in your custody or control, access, possess, purchase, receive, or attempt to purchase or receive, a firearm, or a concealed pistol license, while this order is in effect. You have the right to request one hearing to terminate this order every 12-month period that this order is in effect, starting from the date of this order and continuing through any renewals. You may seek the advice of an attorney as to any matter connected with this order."

(2) When the court issues an extreme risk protection order, the court shall inform the respondent that the respondent is entitled to request termination of the order in the manner prescribed by RCW 7.105.505. The court shall provide the respondent with a form to request a termination hearing. [2021 c 215 § 44.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.340 Surrender of firearms—Extreme risk protection orders. (1) Upon the issuance of any extreme risk protection order under this chapter, including a temporary extreme risk protection order, the court shall:

(a) Order the respondent to surrender to the local law enforcement agency all firearms in the respondent's custody, control, or possession, and any concealed pistol license issued under RCW 9.41.070; and

(b) Other than for ex parte temporary protection orders, direct law enforcement to revoke any concealed pistol license issued to the respondent.

(2) The law enforcement officer serving any extreme risk protection order under this chapter, including a temporary extreme risk protection order, shall request that the respondent immediately surrender all firearms in his or her custody, control, or possession, and any concealed pistol license issued under RCW 9.41.070, and conduct any search permitted by law for such firearms. The law enforcement officer shall take possession of all firearms belonging to the respon-

dent that are surrendered, in plain sight, or discovered pursuant to a lawful search. If the order is entered in open court and the respondent appears in person, the respondent must be provided a copy and further service is not required. If the respondent refuses to accept a copy, an agent of the court may indicate on the record that the respondent refused to accept a copy of the order. If the respondent appears remotely for the hearing, or leaves the hearing before a final ruling is issued or order signed, and the court believes the respondent has sufficient notice such that additional service is not necessary, the order must recite that the respondent appeared before the court, has actual notice of the order, the necessity for further service is waived, and proof of service of the order is not necessary. The court shall enter the service and receipt into the record. A copy of the order and service must be transmitted immediately to law enforcement. The respondent must immediately surrender all firearms and any concealed pistol license, not previously surrendered, in a safe manner to the control of the local law enforcement agency on the day of the hearing at which the respondent was present in person or remotely. If the respondent is in custody, arrangements to recover the firearms must be made prior to release. Alternatively, if personal service by a law enforcement officer is not possible, and the respondent did not appear in person or remotely at the hearing, the respondent shall surrender the firearms in a safe manner to the control of the local law enforcement agency within 24 hours of being served with the order by alternate service.

(3) At the time of surrender, a law enforcement officer taking possession of a firearm or concealed pistol license shall issue a receipt identifying all firearms that have been surrendered and provide a copy of the receipt to the respondent. Within 72 hours after service of the order, the officer serving the order shall file the original receipt with the court and shall ensure that his or her law enforcement agency retains a copy of the receipt.

(4) Upon the sworn statement or testimony of the petitioner or of any law enforcement officer alleging that the respondent has failed to comply with the surrender of firearms as required by an order issued under this chapter, the court shall determine whether probable cause exists to believe that the respondent has failed to surrender all firearms in his or her possession, custody, or control. If probable cause for a violation of the order exists, the court shall issue a warrant describing the firearms and authorizing a search of the locations where the firearms are reasonably believed to be and the seizure of any firearms discovered pursuant to such search.

(5) If a person other than the respondent claims title to any firearms surrendered pursuant to this section, and that person is determined by the law enforcement agency to be the lawful owner of the firearm, the firearm must be returned to that person, provided that:

(a) The firearm is removed from the respondent's custody, control, or possession, and the lawful owner provides written verification to the court regarding how the lawful owner will safely store the firearm in a manner such that the respondent does not have access to, or control of, the firearm for the duration of the order;

(b) The court advises the lawful owner of the penalty for failure to do so; and

(c) The firearm is not otherwise unlawfully possessed by the owner.

(6) Upon the issuance of a one-year extreme risk protection order, the court shall order a new compliance review hearing date and require the respondent to appear not later than three judicial days from the issuance of the order. The court shall require a showing that the respondent has surrendered any firearms in the respondent's custody, control, or possession, and any concealed pistol license issued under RCW 9.41.070 to a law enforcement agency. The compliance review hearing is not required upon a satisfactory showing on which the court can otherwise enter findings on the record that the respondent has timely and completely surrendered all firearms in the respondent's custody, control, or possession, and any concealed pistol license issued under RCW 9.41.070 to a law enforcement agency, and is in compliance with the order. If the court does not have a sufficient record before it on which to make such a finding, the court must set a review hearing to occur as soon as possible, at which the respondent must be present and provide proof of compliance with the court's order.

(7)(a) If a court finds at the compliance review hearing, or any other hearing where compliance with the order is addressed, that there is probable cause to believe the respondent was aware of, and failed to fully comply with, the order, failed to appear at the compliance review hearing, or violated the order after the court entered findings of compliance, pursuant to its authority under chapter 7.21 RCW, the court may initiate a contempt proceeding on its own motion, or upon the motion of the prosecutor, city attorney, or the petitioner's counsel, to impose remedial sanctions, and issue an order requiring the respondent to appear, provide proof of compliance with the order, and show cause why the respondent should not be held in contempt of court.

(b) If the respondent is not present in court at the compliance review hearing or if the court issues an order to appear and show cause after a compliance review hearing, the clerk of the court shall electronically transmit a copy of the order to show cause to the law enforcement agency where the respondent resides for personal service or service in the manner provided in the civil rules of superior court or applicable statute.

(c) The order to show cause served upon the respondent shall state the date, time, and location of the hearing, and shall include a warning that the respondent may be held in contempt of court if the respondent fails to promptly comply with the terms of the extreme risk protection order and a warning that an arrest warrant could be issued if the respondent fails to appear on the date and time provided in the order to show cause.

(d)(i) At the show cause hearing, the respondent must be present and provide proof of compliance with the extreme risk protection order and demonstrate why the relief requested should not be granted.

(ii) The court shall take judicial notice of the receipt filed with the court by the law enforcement agency pursuant to subsection (3) of this section. The court shall also provide sufficient notice to the law enforcement agency of the hearing. Upon receiving notice pursuant to this subsection, a law enforcement agency must:

(A) Provide the court with a complete list of firearms surrendered by the respondent or otherwise belonging to the

respondent that are in the possession of the law enforcement agency; and

(B) Provide the court with verification that any concealed pistol license issued to the respondent has been surrendered and that a law enforcement agency with authority to revoke the license has been notified.

(iii) If the law enforcement agency has a reasonable suspicion that the respondent is not in full compliance with the terms of the order, the law enforcement agency must submit the basis for its belief to the court, and may do so through the filing of an affidavit.

(e) If the court finds the respondent in contempt, the court may impose remedial sanctions designed to ensure swift compliance with the order to surrender and prohibit weapons.

(f) The court may order a respondent found in contempt of the order to pay for any losses incurred by a party in connection with the contempt proceeding, including reasonable attorneys' fees, service fees, and other costs. The costs of the proceeding must not be borne by the petitioner.

(8)(a) To help ensure that accurate and comprehensive information about firearms compliance is provided to judicial officers, a representative from either the prosecuting attorney's office or city attorney's office, or both, from the relevant jurisdiction may appear and be heard at any hearing that concerns compliance with an extreme risk protection order.

(b) Either the prosecuting attorney's office or city attorney's office, or both, from the relevant jurisdiction may designate an advocate or a staff person from their office who is not an attorney to appear on behalf of their office. Such appearance does not constitute the unauthorized practice of law.

(9)(a) An extreme risk protection order must state that the act of voluntarily surrendering firearms, or providing testimony relating to the surrender of firearms, pursuant to such an order, may not be used against the respondent in any criminal prosecution under this chapter, chapter 9.41 RCW, or RCW 9A.56.310.

(b) To provide relevant information to the court to determine compliance with the order, the court may allow the prosecuting attorney or city attorney to question the respondent regarding compliance.

(10) All law enforcement agencies must develop and implement policies and procedures regarding the acceptance, storage, and return of firearms required to be surrendered under this chapter. Any surrendered firearms must be handled and stored properly to prevent damage or degradation in appearance or function, and the condition of the surrendered firearms documented, including by digital photograph. A law enforcement agency holding any surrendered firearm or concealed pistol license shall comply with the provisions of RCW 9.41.340 and 9.41.345 before the return of the firearm or concealed pistol license to the owner or individual from whom it was obtained. [2022 c 268 § 19; 2021 c 215 § 45.]

Effective dates—2022 c 268: See note following RCW 7.105.010.

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.345 Firearms return and disposal—Extreme risk protection orders. (1) If an extreme risk protection order is terminated or expires without renewal, a law enforcement agency holding any firearm that has been surrendered pursuant to this chapter shall return any surrendered firearm requested by a respondent only after confirming, through a background check, that the respondent is currently eligible to own or possess firearms under federal and state law, and after confirming with the court that the extreme risk protection order has terminated or has expired without renewal.

(2) A law enforcement agency must, if requested, provide prior notice of the return of a firearm to a respondent to family or household members and to an intimate partner of the respondent in the manner provided in RCW 9.41.340 and 9.41.345.

(3) Any firearm surrendered by a respondent pursuant to RCW 7.105.340 that remains unclaimed by the lawful owner shall be disposed of in accordance with the law enforcement agency's policies and procedures for the disposal of firearms in police custody. [2021 c 215 § 46.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.350 Reporting of orders—Extreme risk protection orders. (1) The clerk of the court shall enter any extreme risk protection order, including temporary extreme risk protection orders, issued under this chapter into a statewide judicial information system on the same day such order is issued, if possible, but no later than the next judicial day.

(2) A copy of an extreme risk protection order granted under this chapter, including temporary extreme risk protection orders, must be forwarded immediately by the clerk of the court, by electronic means if possible, to the law enforcement agency specified in the order. Upon receipt of the order, the law enforcement agency shall immediately enter the order into the national instant criminal background check system, any other federal or state computer-based systems used by law enforcement or others to identify prohibited purchasers of firearms, and any computer-based criminal intelligence information system available in this state used by law enforcement agencies to list outstanding warrants. The order must remain in each system for the period stated in the order, and the law enforcement agency shall only expunge orders from the systems that have expired or terminated. Entry into the computer-based criminal intelligence information system constitutes notice to all law enforcement agencies of the existence of the order. The order is fully enforceable in any county in the state.

(3) The information entered into the computer-based criminal intelligence information system must include notice to law enforcement whether the order was personally served, served by electronic means, served by publication, or served by mail.

(4) If a law enforcement agency receives a protection order for entry or service, but the order falls outside the agency's jurisdiction, the agency may enter and serve the order or may immediately forward it to the appropriate law enforcement agency for entry and service, and shall provide documentation back to the court verifying which law enforcement agency has entered and will serve the order.

(5) The issuing court shall, within three judicial days after the issuance of any extreme risk protection order, including a temporary extreme risk protection order, forward a copy of the respondent's driver's license or identicard, or

comparable information, along with the date of order issuance, to the department of licensing. Upon receipt of the information, the department of licensing shall determine if the respondent has a concealed pistol license. If the respondent does have a concealed pistol license, the department of licensing shall immediately notify a law enforcement agency that the court has directed the revocation of the license. The law enforcement agency, upon receipt of such notification, shall immediately revoke the license.

(6) If an extreme risk protection order is terminated before its expiration date, the clerk of the court shall forward on the same day a copy of the termination order to the department of licensing and the law enforcement agency specified in the termination order. Upon receipt of the order, the law enforcement agency shall promptly remove the order from any computer-based system in which it was entered pursuant to subsection (2) of this section. [2021 c 215 § 47.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.355 Sealing of records—Extreme risk protection orders. (1) A respondent under the age of 18, or a respondent whose extreme risk protection order was based solely on threats of self-harm by the respondent, may petition the court to have the court records sealed from public view at the time of the issuance of the full order, at any time during the life of the order, or at any time after its expiration.

(2) The court shall seal the court records from public view if there are no other active protection orders against the restrained party, there are no pending violations of the order, and there is evidence of full compliance with the surrender of firearms as ordered by the extreme risk protection order.

(3) Nothing in this section changes the requirement for the order to be entered into, and maintained in, computer-based systems as required in RCW 7.105.350. [2021 c 215 § 48.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.360 Certain findings and information in orders. (1) Orders issued by the court following a hearing must identify the persons who participated in the hearing and whether each person appeared in person, by telephone, by video, or by other electronic means. If the respondent appeared at the hearing, the order must identify that the respondent has knowledge of the court's order.

(2) Courts shall not accept agreed orders unless there are findings indicating whether the respondent is a credible threat to the physical safety of the protected person or child.

(3) The court shall ensure that in issuing protection orders, including, but not limited to, orders to reissue temporary protection orders and orders to renew protection orders, the court specifies whether the respondent is ordered to surrender, and prohibited from possessing, firearms and dangerous weapons.

(4) If the court issued a temporary protection order that included a temporary order to surrender and prohibit weapons, the temporary order to surrender and prohibit weapons must automatically reissue with the temporary protection order. If the court determines by a preponderance of the evidence that irreparable injury to the petitioner will not result through the modification or termination of the order to surrender and prohibit weapons as originally entered, then the court must make specific findings.

(5) If the court has information regarding any of the respondent's known aliases, that information must be included in the protection order. [2021 c 215 § 49.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.365 Errors in protection orders. After a protection order is issued, the court may correct clerical or technical errors in the order at any time. The court may correct errors either on the court's own initiative or upon notice to the court of an error. If the court corrects an error in an order, the court shall provide notice of the correction to the parties and the person who notified the court of the error, and shall provide a copy of the corrected order. The court shall direct the clerk to forward the corrected order on or before the next judicial day to the law enforcement agency specified in the order. [2021 c 215 § 50.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.370 Sealing of records—Recommendations. The judicial information system committee's data dissemination committee shall develop recommendations on best practices for courts to consider for whether and when the sealing of records in protection order cases is appropriate or necessary under this chapter. The committee shall also consider methods to ensure compliance with the provisions of the federal violence against women act under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 2265(d)(3) that prohibit internet publication of filing or registration information of protection orders when such publication is likely to reveal the identity or location of the person protected by the order. [2021 c 215 § 51.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.375 Dismissal or suspension of criminal prosecution in exchange for protection order. The practice of dismissing or suspending a criminal prosecution in exchange for the issuance of a protection order undermines the purposes of this chapter. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as encouraging that practice. [2021 c 215 § 52.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

REISSUANCE AND RENEWAL

7.105.400 Reissuance of temporary protection orders. (1) A temporary protection order issued under this chapter may be reissued for the following reasons:

(a) Agreement of the parties;

(b) To provide additional time to effect service of the temporary protection order on the respondent; or

(c) If the court, in writing, finds good cause to reissue the order.

(2) Any temporary orders to surrender and prohibit weapons must also be automatically reissued with the temporary protection order.

(3) To ensure that a petitioner is not delayed in receiving a hearing on a petition for a protection order, there is a rebut-

table presumption that a temporary protection order should not be reissued more than once or for more than 30 days at the request of the respondent, absent agreement of the parties, good cause, or the need to provide additional time to effect service.

(4) When considering any request to stay, continue, or delay a hearing under this chapter because of the pendency of a parallel criminal investigation or prosecution of the respondent, courts shall apply a rebuttable presumption against such delay and give due recognition to the purpose of this chapter to provide victims quick and effective relief. Courts must consider on the record the following factors:

(a) The extent to which a defendant's Fifth Amendment rights are or are not implicated, given the special nature of protection order proceedings which burden a defendant's Fifth Amendment privilege substantially less than do other civil proceedings;

(b) Similarities between the civil and criminal cases;

(c) Status of the criminal case;

(d) The interests of the petitioners in proceeding expeditiously with litigation and the potential prejudice and risk to petitioners of a delay;

(e) The burden that any particular aspect of the proceeding may impose on respondents;

(f) The convenience of the court in the management of its cases and the efficient use of judicial resources;

(g) The interests of persons not parties to the civil litigation; and

(h) The interest of the public in the pending civil and criminal litigation.

(5) Courts shall not require a petitioner to complete a new confidential information form when a temporary protection order is reissued or when a full order for a fixed time period is entered, unless the petitioner indicates that the information needs to be updated or amended. The clerk shall transmit the order to the law enforcement agency identified in the order for service, along with a copy of the confidential party information form received from the respondent, if available, or the petitioner's confidential party information form to assist law enforcement in serving the order. [2022 c 268 § 20; 2021 c 215 § 53.]

Effective dates—2022 c 268: See note following RCW 7.105.010.

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.405 Renewal of protection orders—Other than extreme risk protection orders. The following provisions apply to the renewal of all full protection orders issued under this chapter, with the exception of the renewal of extreme risk protection orders.

(1) If the court grants a protection order for a fixed time period, the petitioner may file a motion to renew the order at any time within the 90 days before the order expires. The motion for renewal must state the reasons the petitioner seeks to renew the protection order. Upon receipt of a motion for renewal, the court shall order a hearing, which must be not later than 14 days from the date of the order. Service must be made on the respondent not less than five judicial days before the hearing, as provided in RCW 7.105.150.

(2) If the motion for renewal is uncontested and the petitioner seeks no modification of the order, the order may be renewed on the basis of the petitioner's motion and statement of the reason for the requested renewal.

(3) The petitioner bears no burden of proving that he or she has a current reasonable fear of harm by the respondent.

(4) The court shall grant the motion for renewal unless the respondent proves by a preponderance of the evidence that there has been a substantial change in circumstances and the following:

(a) For a domestic violence protection order, that the respondent proves that the respondent will not resume acts of domestic violence against the petitioner or the petitioner's family or household members who are minors or vulnerable adults when the order expires;

(b) For a sexual assault protection order, that the respondent proves that the respondent will not engage in, or attempt to engage in, physical or nonphysical contact with the petitioner when the order expires;

(c) For a stalking protection order, that the respondent proves that the respondent will not resume acts of stalking against the petitioner or the petitioner's family or household members when the order expires;

(d) For a vulnerable adult protection order, that the respondent proves that the respondent will not resume acts of abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect against the vulnerable adult when the order expires; or

(e) For an antiharassment protection order, that the respondent proves that the respondent will not resume harassment of the petitioner when the order expires.

(5) In determining whether there has been a substantial change in circumstances, the court may consider the following unweighted factors, and no inference is to be drawn from the order in which the factors are listed:

(a) Whether the respondent has committed or threatened sexual assault; domestic violence; stalking; abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect of a vulnerable adult; or other harmful acts against the petitioner or any other person since the protection order was entered;

(b) Whether the respondent has violated the terms of the protection order and the time that has passed since the entry of the order;

(c) Whether the respondent has exhibited suicidal ideation or attempts since the protection order was entered;

(d) Whether the respondent has been convicted of criminal activity since the protection order was entered;

(e) Whether the respondent has either: Acknowledged responsibility for acts of sexual assault, domestic violence, or stalking, or acts of abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect of a vulnerable adult, or behavior that resulted in the entry of the protection order; or successfully completed state-certified perpetrator treatment or counseling since the protection order was entered;

(f) Whether the respondent has a continuing involvement with drug or alcohol abuse, if such abuse was a factor in the protection order; and

(g) Other factors relating to a substantial change in circumstances.

(6) The court shall not deny a motion to renew a protection order for any of the following reasons:

(a) The respondent has not violated the protection order previously issued by the court;

(b) The petitioner or the respondent is a minor;

(c) The petitioner did not report the conduct giving rise to the protection order, or subsequent violations of the protection order, to law enforcement;

(d) A no-contact order or a restraining order that restrains the respondent's contact with the petitioner has been issued in a criminal proceeding or in a domestic relations proceeding;

(e) The relief sought by the petitioner may be available in a different action or proceeding;

(f) The passage of time since the last incident of conduct giving rise to the issuance of the protection order; or

(g) The respondent no longer lives near the petitioner.

(7) The terms of the original protection order must not be changed on a motion for renewal unless the petitioner has requested the change.

(8) The court may renew the protection order for another fixed time period of no less than one year, or may enter a permanent order as provided in this section.

(9) If the protection order includes the parties' children, a renewed protection order may be issued for more than one year, subject to subsequent orders entered in a proceeding under chapter 26.09, 26.26A, or 26.26B RCW.

(10) The court may award court costs, service fees, and reasonable attorneys' fees to the petitioner as provided in RCW 7.105.310.

(11) If the court declines to renew the protection order, the court shall state, in writing in the order, the particular reasons for the court's denial. If the court declines to renew a protection order that had restrained the respondent from having contact with children protected by the order, the court shall determine on the record whether the respondent and the children should undergo reunification therapy. Any reunification therapy provider should be made aware of the respondent's history of domestic violence and should have training and experience in the dynamics of intimate partner violence.

(12) In determining whether there has been a substantial change in circumstances for respondents under the age of 18, or in determining the appropriate duration for an order, the court shall consider the circumstances surrounding the respondent's youth at the time of the initial behavior alleged in the petition for a protection order. The court shall consider developmental factors, including the impact of time of a youth's development, and any information the minor respondent presents about his or her personal progress or change in circumstances. [2021 c 215 § 54.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.410 Renewal—Extreme risk protection orders. The following provisions apply to the renewal of extreme risk protection orders.

(1) The court must notify the petitioner of the impending expiration of an extreme risk protection order. Notice must be received by the petitioner 105 calendar days before the date the order expires.

(2) An intimate partner or family or household member of a respondent, or a law enforcement agency, may by motion request a renewal of an extreme risk protection order at any time within 90 days before the expiration of the order.

(a) Upon receipt of the motion to renew, the court shall order that a hearing be held not later than 14 days from the date the order issues.

(b) In determining whether to renew an extreme risk protection order issued under this section, the court shall consider all relevant evidence presented by the petitioner and follow the same procedure as provided in RCW 7.105.215.

(c) If the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the requirements for the issuance of an extreme risk protection order as provided in RCW 7.105.215 continue to be met, the court shall renew the order. However, if, after notice, the motion for renewal is uncontested and the petitioner seeks no modification of the order, the order may be renewed on the basis of the petitioner's motion and statement of the reason for the requested renewal.

(d) The renewal of an extreme risk protection order has a duration of one year, subject to termination as provided in RCW 7.105.505 or further renewal by order of the court. [2021 c 215 § 55.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

VIOLATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT

7.105.450 Enforcement and penalties—Other than antiharassment protection orders and extreme risk protection orders. (1)(a) Whenever a domestic violence protection order, a sexual assault protection order, a stalking protection order, or a vulnerable adult protection order is granted under this chapter, or an order is granted under chapter 9A.40, 9A.44, 9A.46, 9A.88, 9.94A, 10.99, 26.09, 26.26A, or 26.26B RCW, or there is a valid foreign protection order as defined in RCW 26.52.020, or there is a Canadian domestic violence protection order as defined in RCW 26.55.010, and the respondent or person to be restrained knows of the order, a violation of any of the following provisions of the order is a gross misdemeanor, except as provided in subsections (4) and (5) of this section:

(i) The restraint provisions prohibiting acts or threats of violence against, or stalking of, a protected party, or the restraint provisions prohibiting contact with a protected party;

(ii) A provision excluding the person from a residence, workplace, school, or day care;

(iii) A provision prohibiting the person from knowingly coming within, or knowingly remaining within, a specified distance of a location, a protected party's person, or a protected party's vehicle;

(iv) A provision prohibiting interfering with the protected party's efforts to remove a pet owned, possessed, leased, kept, or held by the petitioner, the respondent, or a minor child residing with either the petitioner or the respondent; or

(v) A provision of a foreign protection order or a Canadian domestic violence protection order specifically indicating that a violation will be a crime.

(b) Upon conviction, and in addition to any other penalties provided by law, the court:

(i) May require that the respondent submit to electronic monitoring. The court shall specify who must provide the electronic monitoring services and the terms under which the

monitoring must be performed. The order also may include a requirement that the respondent pay the costs of the monitoring. The court shall consider the ability of the convicted person to pay for electronic monitoring; and

(ii) Shall impose a fine of $15, in addition to any penalty or fine imposed, for a violation of a domestic violence protection order issued under this chapter. Revenue from the $15 fine must be remitted monthly to the state treasury for deposit in the domestic violence prevention account.

(2) A law enforcement officer shall arrest without a warrant and take into custody a person whom the law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe has violated a domestic violence protection order, a sexual assault protection order, a stalking protection order, or a vulnerable adult protection order, or an order issued under chapter 9A.40, 9A.44, 9A.46, 9A.88, 9.94A, 10.99, 26.09, 26.26A, or 26.26B RCW, or a valid foreign protection order as defined in RCW 26.52.020, or a Canadian domestic violence protection order as defined in RCW 26.55.010, that restrains the person or excludes the person from a residence, workplace, school, or day care, or prohibits the person from knowingly coming within, or knowingly remaining within, a specified distance of a location, a protected party's person, or a protected party's vehicle, if the person restrained knows of the order. Presence of the order in the law enforcement computer-based criminal intelligence information system is not the only means of establishing knowledge of the order.

(3) A violation of a domestic violence protection order, a sexual assault protection order, a stalking protection order, or a vulnerable adult protection order, or an order issued under chapter 9A.40, 9A.44, 9A.46, 9A.88, 9.94A, 10.99, 26.09, 26.26A, or 26.26B RCW, or a valid foreign protection order as defined in RCW 26.52.020, or a Canadian domestic violence protection order as defined in RCW 26.55.010, shall also constitute contempt of court, and is subject to the penalties prescribed by law.

(4) Any assault that is a violation of a domestic violence protection order, a sexual assault protection order, a stalking protection order, or a vulnerable adult protection order, or an order issued under chapter 9A.40, 9A.44, 9A.46, 9A.88, 9.94A, 10.99, 26.09, 26.26A, or 26.26B RCW, or a valid foreign protection order as defined in RCW 26.52.020, or a Canadian domestic violence protection order as defined in RCW 26.55.010, and that does not amount to assault in the first or second degree under RCW 9A.36.011 or 9A.36.021 is a class C felony, and any conduct in violation of such an order that is reckless and creates a substantial risk of death or serious physical injury to another person is a class C felony.

(5) A violation of a domestic violence protection order, a sexual assault protection order, a stalking protection order, or a vulnerable adult protection order, or a court order issued under chapter 9A.40, 9A.44, 9A.46, 9A.88, 9.94A, 10.99, 26.09, 26.26A, or 26.26B RCW, or a valid foreign protection order as defined in RCW 26.52.020, or a Canadian domestic violence protection order as defined in RCW 26.55.010, is a class C felony if the offender has at least two previous convictions for violating the provisions of a domestic violence protection order, a sexual assault protection order, a stalking protection order, or a vulnerable adult protection order, or an order issued under chapter 9A.40, 9A.44, 9A.46, 9A.88, 9.94A, 10.99, 26.09, 26.26A, or 26.26B RCW, or a valid foreign protection order as defined in RCW 26.52.020, or a Canadian domestic violence protection order as defined in RCW 26.55.010. The previous convictions may involve the same victim or other victims specifically protected by the orders the offender violated.

(6)(a) A defendant arrested for violating a domestic violence protection order, sexual assault protection order, stalking protection order, or vulnerable adult protection order, or an order granted under chapter 9A.40, 9A.44, 9A.46, 9A.88, 9.94A, 10.99, 26.09, 26.26A, or 26.26B RCW, or a valid foreign protection order as defined in RCW 26.52.020, or a Canadian domestic violence protection order as defined in RCW 26.55.010, is required to appear in person before a magistrate within one judicial day after the arrest. At the time of the appearance, the court shall determine the necessity of imposing a no-contact order or other conditions of pretrial release.

(b) A defendant who is charged by citation, complaint, or information with violating any protection order identified in (a) of this subsection and not arrested shall appear in court for arraignment in person as soon as practicable, but in no event later than 14 days after the next day on which court is in session following the issuance of the citation or the filing of the complaint or information.

(7) Upon the filing of an affidavit by the petitioner or any law enforcement officer alleging that the respondent has violated a domestic violence protection order, a sexual assault protection order, a stalking protection order, or a vulnerable adult protection order, or an order granted under chapter 9A.40, 9A.44, 9A.46, 9A.88, 9.94A, 10.99, 26.09, 26.26A, or 26.26B RCW, or a valid foreign protection order as defined in RCW 26.52.020, or a Canadian domestic violence protection order as defined in RCW 26.55.010, the court may issue an order to the respondent, requiring the respondent to appear and show cause within 14 days as to why the respondent should not be found in contempt of court and punished accordingly. The hearing may be held in the court of any county or municipality in which the petitioner or respondent temporarily or permanently resides at the time of the alleged violation.

(8) Appearances required under this section are mandatory and cannot be waived. [2022 c 268 § 21; 2021 c 215 § 56.]

Effective dates—2022 c 268: See note following RCW 7.105.010.

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.455 Enforcement and penalties—Antiharassment protection orders. (1) When the court issues an antiharassment protection order under this chapter, the court shall advise the petitioner that the respondent may not be subjected to the penalties set forth in this section for a violation of the order unless the respondent knows of the order.

(2) A willful disobedience by a respondent age 18 years or over of any of the following provisions of an antiharassment protection order issued under this chapter is a gross misdemeanor:

(a) The restraint provisions prohibiting acts or threats of violence against, or unlawful harassment or stalking of, a protected party, or restraint provisions prohibiting contact with a protected party;

(b) A provision excluding the person from a residence, workplace, school, or day care;

(c) A provision prohibiting the person from knowingly coming within, or knowingly remaining within, a specified distance of a location, a protected party's person, or a protected party's vehicle; or

(d) A provision prohibiting interfering with the protected party's efforts to remove a pet owned, possessed, leased, kept, or held by the petitioner, respondent, or a minor child residing with either the petitioner or the respondent.

(3) Any respondent age 18 years or over who willfully disobeys the terms of any antiharassment protection order issued under this chapter may also, in the court's discretion, be found in contempt of court and subject to penalties under chapter 7.21 RCW.

(4) Any respondent under the age of 18 years who willfully disobeys the terms of an antiharassment protection order issued under this chapter may, in the court's discretion, be found in contempt of court and subject to the sanction specified in RCW 7.21.030(4), provided that the sanction specified in RCW 7.21.030(4) may be imposed only for willful disobedience of the provisions listed in subsection (2) of this section.

(5) A defendant arrested for violating any antiharassment protection order issued under this chapter is required to appear in person before a magistrate within one judicial day after the arrest. At the time of the appearance, the court shall determine the necessity of imposing a no-contact order or other conditions of pretrial release in accordance with RCW 9A.46.050.

(6) A defendant who is charged by citation, complaint, or information with violating any antiharassment protection order issued under this chapter and not arrested shall appear in court for arraignment in accordance with RCW 9A.46.050.

(7) Appearances required under this section are mandatory and cannot be waived. [2021 c 215 § 57.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.460 Enforcement and penalties—Extreme risk protection orders—False petitions. (1) Any person who files a petition for an extreme risk protection order knowing the information in such petition to be materially false, or with the intent to harass the respondent, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

(2)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, any person who has in his or her custody or control, accesses, purchases, possesses, or receives, or attempts to purchase or receive, a firearm with knowledge that he or she is prohibited from doing so by an extreme risk protection order is guilty of a gross misdemeanor, and further is prohibited from having in his or her custody or control, accessing, purchasing, possessing, or receiving, or attempting to purchase or receive, a firearm for a period of five years from the date the existing order expires.

(b) A person is guilty of a class C felony for a violation under (a) of this subsection if the person has two or more previous convictions for violating an order issued under this chapter. [2022 c 268 § 22; 2021 c 215 § 58.]

Effective dates—2022 c 268: See note following RCW 7.105.010.

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.465 Enforcement and penalties—Knowledge of order. (1) When the court issues a protection order under this chapter, the court shall advise the petitioner that the respondent may not be subjected to the penalties set forth in this chapter for a violation of the order unless the respondent knows of the order.

(2) When a law enforcement officer investigates a report of an alleged violation of a protection order issued under this chapter, the officer shall attempt to determine whether the respondent knew of the existence of the protection order. If the law enforcement officer determines that the respondent did not, or probably did not, know about the protection order and the officer is provided a current copy of the order, the officer shall serve the order on the respondent if the respondent is present. If the respondent is not present, the officer shall make reasonable efforts to serve a copy of the order on the respondent. If the officer serves the respondent with the petitioner's copy of the order, the officer shall give the petitioner a receipt indicating that the petitioner's copy has been served on the respondent. After the officer has served the order on the respondent, the officer shall enforce prospective compliance with the order.

(3) Presentation of an unexpired, certified copy of a protection order with proof of service is sufficient for a law enforcement officer to enforce the order regardless of the presence of the order in the law enforcement computer-based criminal intelligence information system. [2021 c 215 § 59.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.470 Enforcement—Prosecutor assistance. When a party alleging a violation of a protection order issued under this chapter states that the party is unable to afford private counsel and asks the prosecuting attorney for the county or the attorney for the municipality in which the order was issued for assistance, the attorney shall initiate and prosecute a contempt proceeding if there is probable cause to believe that the violation occurred. In this action, the court may require the violator of the order to pay the costs incurred in bringing the action, including a reasonable attorney's fee. [2021 c 215 § 60.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

MODIFICATION AND TERMINATION

7.105.500 Modification or termination—Other than extreme risk protection orders and vulnerable adult protection orders. This section applies to modification or termination of domestic violence protection orders, sexual assault protection orders, stalking protection orders, and antiharassment protection orders.

(1) Upon a motion with notice to all parties and after a hearing, the court may modify the terms of an existing protection order or terminate an existing order.

(2) A respondent's motion to modify or terminate an existing protection order must include a declaration setting forth facts supporting the requested order for modification or termination. The nonmoving parties to the proceeding may

file opposing declarations. All motions to modify or terminate shall be based on the written materials and evidence submitted to the court. The court shall set a hearing only if the court finds that adequate cause is established. If the court finds that the respondent established adequate cause, the court shall set a date for hearing the respondent's motion, which must be at least 14 days from the date the court finds adequate cause.

(3) Upon the motion of a respondent, the court may not modify or terminate an existing protection order unless the respondent proves by a preponderance of the evidence that there has been a substantial change in circumstances such that the respondent will not resume, engage in, or attempt to engage in, the following acts against the petitioner or those persons protected by the protection order if the order is terminated or modified:

(a) Acts of domestic violence, in cases involving domestic violence protection orders;

(b) Physical or nonphysical contact, in cases involving sexual assault protection orders;

(c) Acts of stalking, in cases involving stalking protection orders; or

(d) Acts of unlawful harassment, in cases involving antiharassment protection orders.

The petitioner bears no burden of proving that he or she has a current reasonable fear of harm by the respondent.

(4) In determining whether there has been a substantial change in circumstances, the court may consider the following unweighted factors, and no inference is to be drawn from the order in which the factors are listed:

(a) Whether the respondent has committed or threatened sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, or other harmful acts against the petitioner or any other person since the protection order was entered;

(b) Whether the respondent has violated the terms of the protection order and the time that has passed since the entry of the order;

(c) Whether the respondent has exhibited suicidal ideation or attempts since the protection order was entered;

(d) Whether the respondent has been convicted of criminal activity since the protection order was entered;

(e) Whether the respondent has either acknowledged responsibility for acts of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, or behavior that resulted in the entry of the protection order, or successfully completed state-certified perpetrator treatment or counseling since the protection order was entered;

(f) Whether the respondent has a continuing involvement with drug or alcohol abuse, if such abuse was a factor in the protection order;

(g) Whether the petitioner consents to terminating the protection order, provided that consent is given voluntarily and knowingly; or

(h) Other factors relating to a substantial change in circumstances.

(5) In determining whether there has been a substantial change in circumstances, the court may not base its determination on the fact that time has passed without a violation of the order.

(6) Regardless of whether there is a substantial change in circumstances, the court may decline to terminate a protection order if it finds that the acts of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, unlawful harassment, and other harmful acts that resulted in the issuance of the protection order were of such severity that the order should not be terminated.

(7) A respondent may file a motion to modify or terminate an order no more than once in every 12-month period that the order is in effect, starting from the date of the order and continuing through any renewal period.

(8) If a person who is protected by a protection order has a child or adopts a child after a protection order has been issued, but before the protection order has expired, the petitioner may seek to include the new child in the order of protection on an ex parte basis if the child is already in the physical custody of the petitioner. If the restrained person is the legal or biological parent of the child, a hearing must be set and notice given to the restrained person prior to final modification of the full protection order.

(9) A court may require the respondent to pay the petitioner for costs incurred in responding to a motion to modify or terminate a protection order, including reasonable attorneys' fees. [2022 c 268 § 23; 2021 c 215 § 61.]

Effective dates—2022 c 268: See note following RCW 7.105.010.

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.505 Termination—Extreme risk protection orders. This section applies to the termination of extreme risk protection orders.

(1) The respondent may submit one written request for a hearing to terminate an extreme risk protection order issued under this chapter every 12-month period that the order is in effect, starting from the date of the order and continuing through any renewals.

(2) Upon receipt of the request for a hearing to terminate an extreme risk protection order, the court shall set a date for a hearing. The hearing must occur no sooner than 14 days and no later than 30 days from the date of service of the request upon the petitioner.

(3) The respondent shall have the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the respondent does not pose a significant danger of causing personal injury to self or others by having in his or her custody or control, accessing, possessing, purchasing, receiving, or attempting to purchase or receive, a firearm or other dangerous weapons. The court may consider any relevant evidence, including evidence of the considerations listed in RCW 7.105.215.

(4) If the court finds after the hearing that the respondent has met his or her burden, the court shall terminate the order. [2021 c 215 § 62.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.510 Modification or termination—Vulnerable adult protection orders. This section applies to the modification or termination of vulnerable adult protection orders.

(1) Any vulnerable adult who is not subject to an order under chapter 11.130 RCW may, at any time subsequent to the entry of a permanent protection order under this chapter, file a motion to modify or terminate the protection order. Where a vulnerable adult is subject to an order under chapter 11.130 RCW, the vulnerable adult, or the vulnerable adult's

guardian, conservator, or person acting on behalf of the vulnerable adult under a protective arrangement under chapter 11.130 RCW, may, if within the person's authority under the guardianship, conservatorship, or protective arrangement, file a motion to modify or terminate the protection order at any time subsequent to the entry of a permanent protection order under this chapter.

(2) In a hearing on a motion to modify or terminate the protection order, the court shall grant such relief consistent with RCW 7.105.310 as it deems necessary for the protection of the vulnerable adult, including modification or termination of the protection order. [2022 c 268 § 24; 2021 c 215 § 63.]

Effective dates—2022 c 268: See note following RCW 7.105.010.

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.515 Reporting of modification or termination of order. In any situation where a protection order issued under this chapter is modified or terminated before its expiration date, the clerk of the court shall forward on the same day a true copy of the modified order or the termination order to the law enforcement agency specified in the modified or termination order. Upon receipt of the order, the law enforcement agency shall promptly enter it in the computer-based criminal intelligence information system, or if the order is terminated, remove the order from the computer-based criminal intelligence information system. [2021 c 215 § 64.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

7.105.550 Orders under this and other chapters—Enforcement and consolidation—Validity and enforcement of orders under prior chapters. (1)(a) Any order available under this chapter, other than an extreme risk protection order, may be issued in actions under chapter 13.32A, 26.09, 26.26A, or 26.26B RCW. If a protection order is issued in an action under chapter 13.32A, 26.09, 26.26A, or 26.26B RCW, the order must be issued on the forms mandated by RCW 7.105.115. An order issued in accordance with this subsection (1)(a) is fully enforceable and must be enforced under the provisions of this chapter.

(b) If a party files an action under chapter 13.32A, 26.09, 26.26A, or 26.26B RCW, an order issued previously under this chapter between the same parties may be consolidated by the court under that action and cause number. Any order issued under this chapter after consolidation must contain the original cause number and the cause number of the action under chapter 13.32A, 26.09, 26.26A, or 26.26B RCW.

(2) Nothing in chapter 215, Laws of 2021 affects the validity of protection orders issued prior to July 1, 2022, under chapter 74.34 RCW or any of the former chapters 7.90, 7.92, 7.94, 10.14, and 26.50 RCW. Protection orders entered prior to July 1, 2022, under chapter 74.34 RCW or any of the former chapters 7.90, 7.92, 7.94, 10.14, and 26.50 RCW are subject to the provisions of chapter 215, Laws of 2021 and are fully enforceable under the applicable provisions of RCW 7.105.450 through 7.105.470 and may be modified or terminated in accordance with the applicable provisions of RCW 7.105.500 through 7.105.550. [2021 c 215 § 65.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.555 Judicial information system—Database. (1) To prevent the issuance of competing protection orders in different courts and to give courts needed information for the issuance of orders, the judicial information system or alternative databases must be available in each district, municipal, and superior court, and must include a database containing the following information:

(a) The names of the parties and the cause number for every order of protection issued under this chapter, protection orders provided by military and tribal courts, every criminal no-contact order issued under chapters 9A.46 and 10.99 RCW, every dissolution action under chapter 26.09 RCW, every parentage action under chapter 26.26A or 26.26B RCW, every restraining order issued on behalf of an abused child or adult dependent person under chapter 26.44 RCW, every foreign protection order filed under chapter 26.52 RCW, and every Canadian domestic violence protection order filed under chapter 26.55 RCW. When a guardian or the department of social and health services or department of children, youth, and families has petitioned for relief on behalf of an abused child, adult dependent person, or vulnerable adult, the name of the person on whose behalf relief was sought must be included in the database as a party rather than the guardian or appropriate department;

(b) A complete criminal history of the parties; and

(c) Other relevant information necessary to assist courts in issuing orders under this chapter as determined by the judicial information system committee.

(2) Information within the database must be easily accessible and accurately updated as soon as possible but no later than within one judicial day.

(3) A document viewing system must be available as part of the judicial information system or other databases used by the court, so that in addition to having access to the summary information in subsection (1) of this section, the court is able to view any protection order filed within the state. [2022 c 268 § 25; 2021 c 215 § 66.]

Effective dates—2022 c 268: See note following RCW 7.105.010.

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.560 Title to real estate—Effect of chapter. Nothing in this chapter may affect the title to real estate: PROVIDED, That a judgment for costs or fees awarded under this chapter constitutes a lien on real estate to the extent provided in chapter 4.56 RCW. [2021 c 215 § 67.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.565 Proceedings additional—Filing of criminal charges not required. (1) Any proceeding under this chapter is in addition to other civil or criminal remedies.

(2) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as requiring criminal charges to be filed as a condition of a protection order being issued. [2021 c 215 § 68.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.570 Other authority retained. This chapter does not affect the ability of a law enforcement officer to remove a firearm or concealed pistol license from any person or to conduct any search and seizure for firearms pursuant to other lawful authority. [2021 c 215 § 69.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.575 Liability. (1) Except as provided in RCW 7.105.460, this chapter does not impose criminal or civil liability on any person or entity for acts or omissions related to obtaining an extreme risk protection order or a temporary extreme risk protection order including, but not limited to, reporting, declining to report, investigating, declining to investigate, filing, or declining to file a petition under this chapter.

(2) No law enforcement officer may be held criminally or civilly liable for making an arrest under RCW 7.105.450 if the officer acts in good faith. [2021 c 215 § 70.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.580 Protection order commissioners—Appointment authorized. In each county, the superior court may appoint one or more attorneys to act as protection order commissioners pursuant to this chapter to exercise all powers and perform all duties of a court commissioner appointed pursuant to RCW 2.24.010, provided that such positions may not be created without prior consent of the county legislative authority. A person appointed as a protection order commissioner under this chapter may also be appointed to any other commissioner position authorized by law. Protection order commissioners should receive training as specified in RCW 7.105.255. [2021 c 215 § 71.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: See note following RCW 7.105.900.

7.105.900 Findings—2021 c 215. (1) Washington state has been a national leader in adopting legal protections to prevent and respond to abuse, violence, harassment, stalking, neglect, or other threatening behavior, through the enactment of different types of civil protection orders, which are intended to provide a fast, efficient means to obtain protection against perpetrators of these harms.

(2) Washington state has enacted six different types of civil protection orders: (a) Domestic violence protection orders, adopted by the legislature in 1984; (b) vulnerable adult protection orders, adopted by the legislature in 1986; (c) antiharassment protection orders, adopted by the legislature in 1987; (d) sexual assault protection orders, adopted by the legislature in 2006; (e) stalking protection orders, adopted by the legislature in 2013; and (f) extreme risk protection orders, enacted by a vote of the people through Initiative Measure No. 1491 in 2016.

(3) These civil protection orders are essential tools designed to address significant harms impacting individuals as well as communities. The legislature finds that:

(a) Domestic violence is a problem of immense proportions. About 15 percent of Washington adults report experiencing domestic violence in their lifetime, and women, low-income people, and black and indigenous communities experience higher rates of domestic violence. When domestic violence victims seek to separate from their abuser, they face increased risks. Forty-five percent of domestic violence homicides occur within 90 days of a recent separation, while 75 percent occur within the first six months of separation. Domestic violence victims also face increased risks when their abuser has access to firearms. Firearms are used to commit more than half of all intimate partner homicides in the United States. When an abusive partner has access to a gun, a domestic violence victim is 11 times more likely to be killed. Domestic violence has long been recognized as being at the core of other major social problems: Child abuse, other crimes of violence against persons or property, homelessness, and alcohol and drug abuse. Research has identified that adverse childhood experiences such as exposure to domestic violence have long-term negative impacts on health, well-being, and life outcomes, including criminal legal system involvement. Washington state studies have found that domestic violence is the most predictive of future violent crime by the perpetrator. Nationwide, domestic violence costs over $460,000,000,000 each year for health care, absence from work, services to children, and more. Adolescent dating violence is occurring at increasingly high rates, and preventing and confronting adolescent violence is important in preventing future violence in adult relationships. Domestic violence should not be minimized or dismissed based on any mental health diagnoses of the perpetrator or the victim. To the contrary, the presence of mental health concerns or substance use of either party increases the likelihood of serious injury and lethality. The legislature finds that it is in the public interest to improve the lives of persons being victimized by the acts and dynamics of domestic violence, to require reasonable, coordinated measures to prevent domestic violence from occurring, and to respond effectively to secure the safety of survivors of domestic violence;

(b) Sexual assault is the most heinous crime against another person short of murder. Sexual assault inflicts humiliation, degradation, and terror on victims. The perpetrator's age, gender, or relationship does not define the seriousness. According to the centers for disease control and prevention, one in six men, one in three women, and one in two nonbinary persons will experience sexual violence in their lifetime. Because of the stigma of a sexual assault and trauma, many victims are afraid or are not ready to report to law enforcement and go through the rigors of the criminal justice process. Individuals with disabilities; black and indigenous communities; and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and other individuals experience a higher rate of sexual violence. Experiencing a sexual assault is itself a reasonable basis for ongoing fear. Rape is recognized as the most underreported crime; estimates suggest that only one in seven rapes is reported to authorities. Victims who do not report the crime still may need to seek safety and protection from future interactions with the perpetrator and have a right to such safety and protection. Some cases where rape is reported are not prosecuted or do not lead to a conviction. A victim should be able to expediently seek a civil remedy requiring that the perpetrator stay away from the victim, independent of the criminal process and regardless of whether related criminal charges are pending;

(c) Stalking is a crime that affects 3,400,000 people over the age of 18 each year in the United States. Almost half of

victims experience at least one unwanted contact per week. 29 percent of stalking victims fear that the stalking will never stop. The prevalence of anxiety, insomnia, social dysfunction, and severe depression is much higher among stalking victims than among the general population. Research shows that stalking is a significant indication of future lethality. Increased access to technology has also increased methods of stalking. Stalking is distinct from common acts of harassment or nuisance covered by antiharassment orders, and law enforcement agencies need to be able to rely on orders that distinguish stalking from acts of harassment or nuisance. Victims who do not report the stalking behavior they are experiencing still may need safety and protection from future interactions with the perpetrator through expedient access to the civil court system, and this protection can be accomplished without infringing on constitutionally protected speech or activity;

(d) Serious, personal harassment through invasions of a person's privacy by an act, acts, or words showing an intent to coerce, intimidate, or humiliate the victim is increasing. The legislature finds the prevention of such harassment is an important governmental objective, and that victims should have access to a method to prevent further contact between the victim and perpetrator. A person may be targeted for harassing behavior due to his or her identity, such as age, gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, disability, or immigration status. The legislature finds that unlawful harassment directed at a child by a child is not acceptable and can have serious consequences, but that some negative interactions between young people, especially in schools, do not rise to the level of unlawful harassment. It is the intent of the legislature that a protection order sought by the parent or guardian of a child as provided for in this chapter be available only when the alleged behavior of the person under the age of 18 to be restrained rises to the level set forth in this chapter;

(e) Some adults are vulnerable and may be subject to abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, or abandonment by a family member, care provider, or other person who has a relationship with the vulnerable adult. A vulnerable adult may have physical disabilities, mobility issues, or be otherwise unable to represent himself or herself in court or to retain legal counsel in order to obtain the relief available under this chapter or other protections offered through the courts. A vulnerable adult may lack the ability to perform or obtain those services necessary to maintain his or her well-being because he or she lacks the capacity for consent, and may have health problems that place him or her in a dependent position. The legislature finds the legal tool of protection orders will help prevent abuse, neglect, exploitation, or abandonment of vulnerable adults; and

(f) Every year, over 100,000 persons in our country are victims of gunshot wounds and 38,000 individuals lose their lives from gun violence. On average, there are over 100 gun deaths each day, 61 percent of which are suicides. In Washington state, the suicide rate is on average 10 percent higher. Extreme risk protection orders allow for the temporary removal of the most lethal means of suicide from the situation, saving lives of those at risk. Studies show that individuals who engage in certain dangerous behaviors are significantly more likely to commit violence toward themselves or others in the near future. These behaviors, which can include other acts or threats of violence, self-harm, or the abuse of drugs or alcohol, are warning signs that the person may soon commit an act of violence. Individuals who pose a danger to themselves or others often exhibit signs that alert family, household members, or law enforcement to the threat. Restricting firearms access in these moments of crisis is an important way to prevent gun violence and save lives. Many mass shooters displayed warning signs prior to their killings, but federal and state laws provided no clear legal process to suspend the shooters' access to guns, even temporarily. In enacting the extreme risk protection order, the people intended to reduce gun deaths and injuries, while respecting constitutional rights, by providing a procedure for family, household members, and law enforcement to obtain a court order temporarily preventing individuals who are at high risk of harming themselves or others from accessing firearms when there is demonstrated evidence that the individuals pose a significant danger, including danger as a result of threatening or violent behavior. Additionally, extreme risk protection orders may provide protections from firearm risks for individuals who are not eligible to petition for other types of protection orders. Extreme risk protection orders are intended to be limited to situations in which individuals pose a significant danger of harming themselves or others by possessing a firearm, having immediate access to a firearm, or having expressed intent to obtain a firearm, and include standards and safeguards to protect the rights of respondents and due process of law. Temporarily removing firearms under these circumstances is an important tool to prevent suicide, homicide, and community violence.

(4) The legislature finds that all of these civil protection orders are essential tools that can increase safety for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, abuse of vulnerable adults, unlawful harassment, and threats of gun violence to obtain immediate protection for themselves apart from the criminal legal system. Victims are in the best position to know what their safety needs are and should be able to seek these crucial protections without having to rely on the criminal legal system process. The legislature further finds the surrender of firearms in civil protection orders is critical to public health. In keeping with the harm reduction approach of this lifesaving tool, the legislature finds that it is appropriate to allow for immunity from prosecution for certain offenses when appropriate to create a safe harbor from prosecution for certain offenses to increase compliance with orders to surrender and prohibit firearms.

(5) To better achieve these important public purposes, the legislature further finds the need to clarify and simplify these civil protection order statutes to make them more understandable and accessible to victims seeking relief and to respondents who are subject to the court process. An efficient and effective civil process can provide necessary relief many victims require in order to escape and prevent harm. Clarification and simplification of the statutes will aid petitioners, respondents, law enforcement, and judicial officers in their application, help to eliminate procedural inconsistencies, modernize practices, provide better access to justice for those most marginalized, increase compliance, and improve identified problem areas within the statutes. Those who participate in the protection order process often find it difficult to navigate the statutes, which were adopted at different times and

contain differing jurisdictional approaches, procedures, definitions, and types of relief offered, among other differences, all of which can create barriers and cause confusion. Harmonizing and standardizing provisions where there is not a need for a specific, different approach can provide more uniformity among the laws and significantly reduce these obstacles.

The legislature finds that these improvements are needed to help ensure that protection orders and corresponding court processes are more easily accessible to all litigants, particularly parties who may experience higher barriers to accessing justice.

(6) The legislature finds that advances in technology have made it increasingly possible to file petitions, effect service of process, and conduct hearings in protection order proceedings through more efficient and accessible means, while upholding constitutional due process requirements. These include using approaches such as online filing of petitions, electronic service of protection orders, and video and telephonic hearings to maintain and improve access to the courts. These alternatives can help make protection order processes more accessible, effective, timely, and procedurally just, particularly in situations where there are emergent risks. The legislature finds that it would be helpful for petitioners, respondents, judicial officers, court personnel, law enforcement, advocates, counsel, and others to have these new tools enacted into statute and made readily available in every court, with statewide best practices created for their use, specific to the context of civil protection orders. The legislature further finds that it is important to modernize other aspects of the civil protection order statutes to reflect current trends, and to provide for data collection and research in these areas of the law.

(7) The legislature further finds that in order to improve the efficacy of, accessibility to, and understanding of, civil protection orders, the six different civil protection orders in Washington state should be included in a single chapter of the Revised Code of Washington. [2021 c 215 § 1.]

Effective date—2022 c 268; 2021 c 215: "(1) Except for sections 12, 16, 18, 19, 21, 24, 25, 34, and 36 of this act, this act takes effect July 1, 2022.

(2) Sections 19, 21, 24, and 34, chapter 215, Laws of 2021 take effect March 31, 2022." [2022 c 268 § 47; 2021 c 215 § 87.]

7.105.902 Recommendations on improving protection order proceedings. ***(Expires October 1, 2022.)*** (1) The administrative office of the courts, through the gender and justice commission of the Washington state supreme court, and with the support of the Washington state women's commission, shall work with representatives of superior, district, and municipal court judicial officers, court clerks, and administrators, including those with experience in protection order proceedings, as well as advocates and practitioners with expertise in each type of protection order, and others with relevant expertise, to consider and develop recommendations regarding:

(a) Uses of technology to reduce administrative burdens in protection order proceedings;

(b) Improving access to unrepresented parties in protection order proceedings, including promoting access for pro bono attorneys for remote protection order proceedings, in consultation with the Washington state bar association;

(c) Developing best practices for courts when there are civil protection order and criminal proceedings that concern the same alleged conduct;

(d) Developing best practices in data collection and sharing, including demographic information, in order to promote research and study on protection orders and transparency of protection order data for the public, in partnership with the Washington state center for court research, the Washington state institute for public policy, the University of Washington, and the urban Indian health institute;

(e) Developing best practices, including proposed training and necessary forms, in partnership with the Washington tribal state court consortium, to address how:

(i) Washington state court judges of all levels can see the existence of, and parties to, tribal court, military, and other jurisdiction protection orders, in comity with similar state court orders;

(ii) Tribal courts can enter their protection orders into the judicial information system used by courts to check for conflicting orders and history; and

(iii) State courts can query the national crime information center to check for tribal, military, and other jurisdictions' protection orders prior to issuing protection orders;

(f) Developing best practices for minor respondents and petitioners in civil protection order proceedings, including what sanctions should be provided for in law, with input from legal advocates for children and youth, juvenile public defense, juvenile prosecutors, adolescent behavioral health experts, youth development experts, educators, judicial officers, victim advocates, restorative-informed or trauma-informed professionals, child advocacy centers, and professionals experienced in evidenced-based modalities for the treatment of trauma; and

(g) Assessing how the civil protection order law can more effectively address the type of abuse known as "coercive control" so that survivors can seek earlier protective intervention before abuse further escalates.

(2) The gender and justice commission may hire a consultant to assist with the requirements of this section with funds as appropriated.

(3) The gender and justice commission shall provide a brief report of its recommendations to the legislature for subsection (1)(e) through (g) of this section by December 1, 2021, and, for subsection (1)(a) through (d) of this section, provide recommendations to the courts by July 1, 2022.

(4) This section expires October 1, 2022. [2022 c 268 § 26; 2021 c 215 § 36.]

Effective dates—2022 c 268: See note following RCW 7.105.010.

7.105.903 Study on coercive control. ***(Expires January 1, 2028.)*** (1) The gender and justice commission, through its E2SHB 1320 stakeholder work groups, and in consultation with the Washington state center for court research, shall include in their 2022 work consideration of a study regarding how the inclusion of coercive control under chapter 268, Laws of 2022 helps to further realize the legislative intent of the law to increase safety for victims by obtaining effective legal protection apart from, or in addition to, the criminal legal system. The possible parameters for such a study would be as follows:

(a) The center for court research may engage or partner with other researchers with expertise in intimate partner violence, coercive control, civil protection order processes, and related research to conduct the study or help with study design, duration, methods, measurements, data collection, and analysis.

(b) The administrative office of the courts and superior and district courts shall provide the center for court research with necessary data to conduct the study, as requested by the center for court research.

(c) The study may include, if determined by the gender and justice commission's E2SHB 1320 stakeholder work groups and the center for court research to be empirically useful and readily measurable through available data, measurements such as:

(i) The ability of survivors to obtain protection orders that fully address the nature of the harm or threat of harm they are experiencing;

(ii) The frequency of inclusion of coercive control in protection order petitions and the nature of the harm or threatened harm articulated;

(iii) Whether the orders were granted and if so, the relief ordered by the court;

(iv) Whether the orders were denied, and if so, the reason for the denial; and

(v) In proceedings involving domestic violence where coercive control is part of the harm alleged:

(A) The frequency of conflicting protection orders, cross-petitions (where each party files a petition against the other), or realigned orders (where the court finds that the original petitioner is the abuser and the original respondent is the victim);

(B) Enforcement of protection order violations;

(C) Other legal proceedings involving either party, such as family, dependency, or criminal matters; and

(D) Whether the parties had legal representation or legal advocates in the protection order proceedings.

(d) The study shall also assess judicial officer training regarding protection orders, and coercive control in particular, and whether additional judicial officers are required to hear protection order proceedings.

(e) To the extent feasible, and considered best practice by the center for court research, the evaluation should also: Gather qualitative information from survivors of domestic violence, legal counsel, protection order advocates and court navigators, court clerks, and judicial officers; and include analysis of any disproportionate impact on survivors by race, immigration status, language, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.

(f) At the conclusion of any study conducted under this section, the center for court research shall report its findings to the legislature in compliance with RCW 43.01.036.

(2) By July 1, 2022, the gender and justice commission through its E2SHB 1320 work groups and the center for court research shall advise the chairs of the relevant policy committees of the legislature of their recommendations regarding need, timing, and design for such a study.

(3) This section expires January 1, 2028. [2022 c 268 § 27.]

Effective dates—2022 c 268: See note following RCW 7.105.010.