

**WAC 182-526-0215 Authority of the administrative law judge when conducting a hearing.** (1) The administrative law judge (ALJ) must hear and decide the issues de novo (anew) based on the evidence presented and admitted into the record during the hearing.

(2) As needed, the ALJ may:

(a) Determine the order for presenting evidence;

(b) Issue subpoenas or orders directing witnesses to appear or bring documents;

(c) Rule on objections, motions, and procedural matters;

(d) Rule on an offer of proof made to admit evidence;

(e) Admit relevant evidence;

(f) Impartially question witnesses to develop the record;

(g) Call additional witnesses and request exhibits to complete the record;

(h) Give the parties an opportunity to cross-examine witnesses or present more evidence against the witnesses or exhibits;

(i) Keep order during the hearing;

(j) Allow or require oral or written argument and set the deadlines for the parties to submit argument or evidence;

(k) Permit others to attend, photograph, or electronically record hearings, but may place conditions to preserve confidentiality or prevent disruption;

(l) Allow a party to waive rights given by chapters 34.05 RCW or 182-526 WAC, unless another law prevents it;

(m) Decide whether a party has a right to a hearing;

(n) Issue protective orders;

(o) Consider granting a stay if authorized by law or HCA rule; and

(p) Take any other action necessary and authorized under these or other rules.

(3) The ALJ administers oaths or affirmations and takes testimony.

(4) The ALJ enters an initial order after the hearing. Initial orders become final orders under WAC 182-526-0525.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021 and 41.05.160. WSR 17-05-066, § 182-526-0215, filed 2/13/17, effective 3/16/17. Statutory Authority: 2011 1st sp.s. c 15 § 53, chapters 74.09, 34.05 RCW, and 10-08 WAC. WSR 13-02-007, § 182-526-0215, filed 12/19/12, effective 2/1/13.]