



# RULE-MAKING ORDER EMERGENCY RULE ONLY

## CR-103E (December 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.350 and 34.05.360)

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

DATE: April 07, 2021

TIME: 3:09 PM

WSR 21-09-003

**Agency:** Department of Social and Health Services, Economic Services Administration

**Effective date of rule:**

**Emergency Rules**

- Immediately upon filing.
- Later (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?**

- Yes
  - No
- If Yes, explain:

**Purpose:** Due to the ongoing national and state emergency relating to COVID-19, the United States Postal Service (USPS) has made temporary changes to its certified mail signature gathering procedures to limit direct contact with recipients. This emergency WAC clarifies that these temporary procedures employed by USPS are acceptable for purposes of certified mail service. The Division of Child Support (DCS) has filed a CR-101 Preproposal Statement of Inquiry under WSR 20-09-148 and is currently working with internal and external stakeholders on permanent rulemaking on this subject.

**Citation of rules affected by this order:**

New: WAC 388-14A-2210  
 Repealed: None  
 Amended: None  
 Suspended: None

**Statutory authority for adoption:** RCW 26.23.110, RCW 34.05.220, RCW 74.08.090, RCW 74.20A.055.

**Other authority:**

**EMERGENCY RULE**

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds:

- That immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.
- That state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

**Reasons for this finding:** United Postal Service certified mail delivery procedures have already been changed. This has had an immediate effect on our ability to serve notices by certified mail. This emergency rule will ensure child support enforcement actions can continue, providing crucial financial resources to clients.

**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.  
No descriptive text.**

**Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.  
A section may be counted in more than one category.**

**The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:**

Federal statute:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Federal rules or standards:	New	1	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___

**The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:**

New \_\_\_\_ Amended \_\_\_\_ Repealed \_\_\_\_

**The number of sections adopted on the agency's own initiative:**

New \_\_\_\_ Amended \_\_\_\_ Repealed \_\_\_\_

**The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:**

New 1 Amended \_\_\_\_ Repealed \_\_\_\_

**The number of sections adopted using:**

Negotiated rule making:	New	____	Amended	____	Repealed	____
Pilot rule making:	New	____	Amended	____	Repealed	____
Other alternative rule making:	New	<u>1</u>	Amended	____	Repealed	____

**Date Adopted:** April 7, 2021

**Name:** Katherine I. Vasquez

**Title:** DSHS Rules Coordinator

**Signature:**



NEW SECTION

**WAC 388-14A-2210 What is the procedure for service by certified mail during the COVID-19 emergency?** (1) Due to the ongoing national and state emergency relating to COVID-19, the united states postal service has made temporary changes to its certified mail signature gathering procedures to limit direct contact with recipients. As long as these special signature gathering procedures remain in effect, the division of child support (DCS) will consider service by certified mail, return receipt requested when required under chapter 388-14A WAC to be successful ten days after the following requirements are satisfied:

(a) The notice is sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, with restricted delivery to the noncustodial or custodial parent DCS is serving; and

(b) The postal service employee signs the receipt on behalf of the individual taking delivery as required by current postal service restricted delivery procedures.

(2) The individual taking delivery under section (1)(b) of this section is presumed to be the subject of service or the authorized agent of the subject.