



RULE-MAKING ORDER PERMANENT RULE ONLY

CR-103P (December 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.360)

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: June 16, 2020

TIME: 4:15 PM

WSR 20-13-090

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

Effective date of rule:

Permanent Rules

- 31 days after filing.
- Other (specify) August 1, 2020 (If less than 31 days after filing, a specific finding under RCW 34.05.380(3) is required and should be stated below)

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

- Yes
 - No
- If Yes, explain:

Purpose: Amendments to WAC 388-446-0015, What is an intentional program violation (IPV) and administrative disqualification hearing (ADH) for basic food?, and WAC 388-446-0020, What penalties will I receive if I break a food assistance rule on purpose?, will clarify that the waiver of administrative hearing and the disqualification consent agreement are separate documents.

Citation of rules affected by this order:

New: None
 Repealed: None
 Amended: WAC 388-446-0015, WAC 388-446-0020
 Suspended: None

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 74.04.050, RCW 74.04.055, RCW 74.04.057, RCW 74.04.510, RCW 74.04.770, RCW 74.08.090, RCW 74.08.580, RCW 74.12.260, RCW 9.91.14.

Other authority: 7 C.F.R. § 271.2, and 7 C.F.R. § 273.16.

PERMANENT RULE (Including Expedited Rule Making)

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 20-09-129 on April 21, 2020 (date).
 Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version: None

If a preliminary cost-benefit analysis was prepared under RCW 34.05.328, a final cost-benefit analysis is available by contacting:

Name:
 Address:
 Phone:
 Fax:
 TTY:
 Email:
 Web site:
 Other:

**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Federal statute:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___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	___	Amended	<u>2</u>	Repealed	___
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___

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

New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
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The number of sections adopted on the agency's own initiative:

New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
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The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:

New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
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The number of sections adopted using:

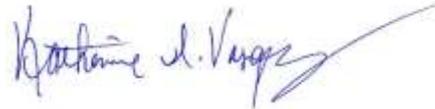
Negotiated rule making:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Pilot rule making:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Other alternative rule making:	New	___	Amended	<u>2</u>	Repealed	___

Date Adopted: June 16, 2020

Name: Katherine I. Vasquez

Title: DSHS Rules Coordinator

Signature:



WAC 388-446-0015 What is an intentional program violation (IPV) and administrative disqualification hearing (ADH) for basic food? (1)

An intentional program violation (IPV) is an act in which someone intentionally:

(a) Misrepresents, conceals, or withholds facts in order to be found eligible for benefits or to receive more benefits than their actual circumstances would allow including making a false statement regarding household circumstances;

(b) Acts in violation of the Food Nutrition Act of 2008, regulations for the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) under Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, any state statute, or WAC relating to the use, presentation, transfer, acquisition, receipt, trafficking, or possession of food assistance benefits including; or

(c) Attempts to buy, sell, steal, or trade food assistance benefits issued and accessed via electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards, EBT card numbers or personal identification numbers (PINs), for cash or anything other than eligible food, alone or acting with others.

(2) If we suspect someone has committed an IPV we refer their case for an administrative disqualification hearing (ADH), unless:

(a) The case is currently referred for prosecution; or

(b) A court or prosecutor already took action against the person for the same or related facts.

(3) An administrative disqualification hearing (ADH) is a formal hearing to determine if a person committed an IPV. ADHs are governed by the rules found in chapter 388-02 WAC. However, rules in this section are the overriding authority if there is a conflict.

(4) A person suspected of an IPV (~~can~~) may choose to waive their right to an ADH by signing a waiver of administrative disqualification hearing or a disqualification consent agreement that waives their right to the hearing and (~~accepts~~) accept the IPV penalty under WAC 388-446-0020.

(5) If someone commits one or more IPV's and is suspected of committing another, we refer them for an ADH when the act of suspected violation occurred:

(a) After we mailed the disqualification notice to the client for the most recent IPV; or

(b) After criminal proceedings for the most recent IPV are concluded.

(6) When we refer a case for an administrative disqualification hearing (ADH), the office of administrative hearings (OAH) sends the person notice of the ADH at least thirty days in advance of the hearing date. OAH sends the notice by certified mail, or personal service. The notice will contain the following information:

(a) The date, time, and place of the hearing;

(b) The charges against the person;

(c) A summary of the evidence, and how and where they may examine the evidence;

(d) A warning that a decision will be based entirely on the evidence the department provides if they fail to appear at the hearing;

(e) A statement that the person has ten days from the date of the scheduled hearing to show good cause for failing to attend the hearing and to ask for a new hearing date;

(f) A warning that a determination of IPV will result in a disqualification period; and

(g) A statement that if we schedule a telephone hearing, they may request an in-person hearing by filing a request with the administrative law judge one week or more prior to the date of the hearing.

(7) The department may combine an ADH and a regular hearing when the reason for both hearings is related.

(8) The person or a representative has the right to one continuance of up to thirty days if a request is filed ten days or more prior to the hearing date.

(9) The administrative law judge (ALJ) will conduct the ADH and render a decision even if the person or representative fails to appear, unless within ten days from the date of the scheduled hearing:

(a) The person can show good cause for failing to appear; and

(b) The person or representative requests the hearing be reinstated.

(10) We may change a scheduled telephone hearing to an in-person hearing if this is requested by the person or department representative at least one week in advance. The person requesting a change less than one week in advance must show good cause for the requested change.

(11) The ALJ issues a final decision as specified in WAC 388-02-0215 through 388-02-0525. The decision determines whether the department had established with clear and convincing evidence that the person committed and intended to commit an IPV.

(12) The department and the client each have the right to request a reconsideration of the decision as specified in WAC 388-02-0610 through 388-02-0635. The final order or the reconsideration decision is the final agency decision.

(13) We will not implement a disqualification and continue benefits at the current amount if:

(a) The client can show good cause for not attending the hearing within thirty days from the date the disqualification notice was mailed; and

(b) An administrative law judge determines the client had good cause; or

(c) The client requests reconsideration or files a petition for judicial review to appeal the disqualification as specified in WAC 388-02-0530 (1) or (4).

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 14-03-027, filed 1/8/14, effective 2/8/14)

WAC 388-446-0020 What penalties will I receive if I break a food assistance rule on purpose? (1) Breaking a rule on purpose for food assistance is known as an intentional program violation (IPV) under WAC 388-446-0015. These rules apply to all DSHS food assistance programs including:

(a) Washington Basic Food program or Basic Food;

(b) The Washington combined application project (WASHCAP) under chapter 388-492 WAC;

(c) Transitional food assistance (TFA) under chapter 388-489 WAC; and

(d) The state-funded food assistance program (FAP) for legal immigrants.

(2) You will have a disqualification period if we have shown that you have committed an IPV in any of the following three ways:

(a) We establish that you committed an IPV through an administrative disqualification hearing (ADH) under WAC 388-446-0015;

(b) You signed a waiver of administrative disqualification hearing or a disqualification consent agreement that waives your right to an administrative disqualification hearing and states you accept the IPV penalty; or

(c) A federal, state or local court found that you committed an IPV or found you guilty of a crime that breaks food assistance rules.

(3) **Special penalties for certain crimes** - If you are convicted in a court of law for crimes that are an intentional program violation, we disqualify you for the period of time set in the court order. If the court order does not state a disqualification period, we set a disqualification period based on the crime you were convicted of committing:

(a) **Drugs** - If you are convicted in a federal, state, or local court of trading or receiving food benefits for a controlled substance, we disqualify you:

(i) For a period of twenty-four months for a first offense; and

(ii) Permanently for a second offense.

(b) **Weapons** - If you are convicted in a federal, state, or local court of trading your food assistance benefits for firearms, ammunition, or explosives, we permanently disqualify you from receiving food assistance on the first offense.

(c) **Trafficking** - If you are convicted in a federal, state, or local court of knowingly buying, selling, trading, or presenting for redemption food assistance benefits totaling five hundred dollars or more, we permanently disqualify you from receiving food assistance on the first offense.

(d) **False identification** - If you are found to have provided false identification to receive benefits in more than one assistance unit, we disqualify you from receiving food assistance:

(i) For ten years on the first offense.

(ii) For ten years on the second offense.

(iii) Permanently for the third offense.

(e) **Receiving benefits in more than one state** - If you are found to have provided false residency information to receive benefits in more than one household or state, we disqualify you from receiving food assistance:

(i) For ten years on the first offense.

(ii) For ten years on the second offense.

(iii) Permanently for the third offense.

(4) In addition to penalties for crimes described in subsection (3), if you commit an IPV you will not be eligible for food assistance:

(a) For a period of twelve months for any first intentional program violation;

(b) For a period of twenty-four months for any second intentional program violation; and

(c) Permanently for any third intentional program violation.

(5) We only apply a disqualification penalty to the person or persons who have committed an intentional program violation.

(6) Start date of a disqualification. The date of a disqualification depends on how a person was disqualified. We will send you a letter telling you when your disqualification period will start((÷)).

(a) **ADH or consent agreement** - If you were found to have committed an IPV in an administrative disqualification hearing or you signed ((a)) an ADH or consent agreement waiving this hearing and accepting the disqualification, we start the disqualification period by the second month after we sent you a letter informing you of the disqualification.

(b) **Conviction in court** - If you are convicted in court of a crime that is an intentional program violation, your disqualification period in subsection (4) is in addition to any civil or criminal penalties. We disqualify you from food assistance within forty-five days of the court order unless this timing conflicts with the court order.

(7) **Disqualifications apply in all states** - If you have an IPV disqualification, this stays with you until the penalty period is over, even if you move to another state:

(a) If we disqualify you from food assistance, you are also disqualified from receiving supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) benefits in another state during the disqualification period.

(b) If you are disqualified from receiving SNAP benefits for an IPV from another state, you can't receive food assistance in Washington during the disqualification period.

(8) Even though we only disqualify the persons who have committed an IPV from receiving food assistance benefits, all adults in the assistance unit are responsible to repay any benefits you were overpaid as described under WAC 388-410-0020 and 388-410-0025.