

**WAC 390-37-071 Enforcement procedures—Initial hearing (case status review prior to ninety days).** (1) After initiating an investigation pursuant to WAC 390-37-060, the executive director will conduct a case status review, referred to as an initial hearing in RCW 42.17A.755. The case status review is not an adjudicative proceeding conducted pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act (chapter 34.05 RCW). Its purpose is to ensure the investigation, is being conducted expeditiously and to provide an opportunity to discuss possible alternative resolutions.

(2) The case status review will be conducted within ninety days of the complaint being filed in the matter, and may be held by telephone conference or in-person at a time and place specified by PDC staff. Notice of the case status review will be delivered electronically whenever possible.

(3) Participation in the case status review by the respondent is not mandatory. The failure to participate in the hearing will not prejudice any rights of the respondent with respect to the investigation or potential adjudication of the matter.

(4) The case status review shall have a set time limit as determined by the executive director.

(5) At the case status review, the executive director shall have the authority to:

(a) Provide the respondent with a brief opportunity to explain the respondent's view of the matter, including why further investigation may not be warranted;

(b) Identify any available options to resolve the matter;

(c) When appropriate, encourage the parties to enter into a stipulated agreement as authorized by RCW 42.17A.755 and WAC 390-37-062; and

(d) Consider such other matters as may aid in the investigation, disposition or resolution of the matter.

(6) Following the case status review, the executive director shall direct PDC staff to update the PDC's public case-tracking database pursuant to WAC 390-37-005.

(7) The executive director shall report to the commission, no later than the next regular commission meeting, any case status reviews held. The executive director's report shall include an overview of matters addressed and any review outcomes.

(8) Nothing in this section shall limit the authority of the commission or its staff to resolve a complaint or refer a matter to the attorney general at any time.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 42.17A.110(1) and 2018 c 304. WSR 18-24-074, § 390-37-071, filed 11/30/18, effective 12/31/18.]