RULE-MAKING ORDER

CR-103E (July 2011)
(Implements RCW 34.05.350)

Agency: Office of Administrative Hearings

Emergency Rule Only

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:

Citation of existing rules affected by this order:
Repealed:
Amended: WAC 10-08-150
Suspended:

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 34.12.030, RCW 34.05.020, RCW 34.250

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.
☐ That in order to implement the requirements or reductions in appropriations enacted in any budget for fiscal year 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, or 2013, which necessitates the need for the immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the fiscal needs or requirements of the agency.

Reasons for this finding: The Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) is required by state law to use interpreter services during the administrative hearing process only from providers who have been properly selected by the state contracting process. In order to be compliant with state law and to ensure that limited English speaking parties receive timely and qualified interpretive and translation services, OAH must amend the existing rule. The contracted-for services are able to provide a qualified translator for the hearings and for the post-hearing sight translations, but those persons may not be the same person. These amendments to the OAH interpreter regulation will allow for the use of properly qualified interpreters under both state and OAH master contracts consistent with the technology and processes now available.

Date adopted: June 8, 2016

NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)
Lorraine Lee

SIGNATURE

TITLE
Chief Administrative Law Judge

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: June 08, 2016
TIME: 3:20 PM

WSR 16-13-047

(COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE)

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	_____	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 in the agency's own initiative:

New _____ Amended 1 Repealed _____

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

New _____ 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	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 99-20-115, filed 10/6/99, effective 11/6/99)

WAC 10-08-150 Adjudicative proceedings—Interpreters. (1) When an impaired person as defined in chapter 2.42 RCW or a non-English-speaking person as defined in chapter 2.43 RCW is a party or witness in an adjudicative proceeding, the presiding officer shall appoint an interpreter to assist the party or witness throughout the proceeding. Appointment, qualifications, waiver, compensation, visual recording, and ethical standards of interpreters in adjudicative proceedings are governed by the provisions of chapters 2.42 and 2.43 RCW.

(2) Relatives of any participant in a proceeding and employees of the agency involved in a proceeding shall not be appointed as interpreters in the proceeding. This subsection shall not prohibit the office of administrative hearings from hiring an employee whose ((~~sole~~)) function is to interpret at administrative hearings.

(3) The presiding officer shall make a preliminary determination that an interpreter is able in the particular proceeding to interpret accurately all communication to and from the impaired or non-English-speaking person. This determination shall be based upon the testimony or stated needs of the impaired or non-English-speaking person, the interpreter's education, certifications, and experience in interpreting for contested cases or adjudicative proceedings, the interpreter's understanding of the basic vocabulary and procedure involved in the proceeding, and the interpreter's impartiality. The parties or their representatives may question the interpreter as to his or her qualifications and impartiality.

(4) If at any time during the proceeding, in the opinion of the impaired or non-English-speaking person, the presiding officer or a qualified observer, the interpreter does not provide accurate and effective communication with the impaired or non-English-speaking person, the presiding officer shall appoint another interpreter.

(5) Mode of interpretation.

(a) The administrative office of the courts (AOC) recognizes three spoken language interpreting modes: Consecutive, simultaneous, and sight translation. Sight translation means the act of reading a written text out loud.

(b) Interpreters for non-English-speaking persons shall use the simultaneous mode of interpretation where the presiding officer and interpreter agree that simultaneous interpretation will advance fairness and efficiency; otherwise, the consecutive mode of foreign language interpretation shall be used.

((~~(b)~~)) (c) Interpreters for hearing impaired persons shall use the simultaneous mode of interpretation unless an intermediary interpreter is needed. If an intermediary interpreter is needed, interpreters shall use the mode that the interpreter considers to provide the most accurate and effective communication with the hearing impaired person.

((~~(c)~~)) (d) When an impaired or non-English-speaking person is a party to a proceeding, the interpreter shall translate all statements made by other hearing participants. The presiding officer shall ensure that sufficient extra time is provided to permit translation and the presiding officer shall ensure that the interpreter translates the entire proceeding to the party to the extent that the party has the same opportunity to understand all statements made during the proceeding as

a nonimpaired or English-speaking party listening to uninterpreted statements would have.

(6) An interpreter shall not, without the written consent of the parties to the communication, be examined as to any communication the interpreter interprets under circumstances where the communication is privileged by law. An interpreter shall not, without the written consent of the parties to the communication, be examined as to any information the interpreter obtains while interpreting pertaining to any proceeding then pending.

(7) The presiding officer shall explain to the non-English-speaking party that a written decision or order will be issued in English, and that ((~~the party may contact the interpreter for an oral translation~~)) a visual translation or sight translation of the decision ((~~and that the translation itself~~)) is available at no cost to the party. ((~~The interpreter shall provide to the presiding officer and the party the interpreter's telephone number. The telephone number shall be attached to the decision or order mailed to the party. A copy of~~)) The presiding officer shall attach to or include in the decision or order ((~~shall also be mailed to the interpreter for use in~~)) a telephone number to request a visual translation or sight translation.

(8) If the party has a right to review of the order or decision, the presiding officer shall orally inform the party during the hearing of the right and of the time limits to request review.

(9) The agency involved in the hearing shall pay interpreter fees and expenses.