

RCW 48.37.070 Access to records and information—Commissioner's authority—Depositions, subpoena, and oaths. (1) Except as otherwise provided by law, market conduct oversight personnel shall have free, convenient, and full access to all books, records, employees, officers, and directors, as practicable, of the insurer during regular business hours.

(2) An insurer using a third-party model or product for any of the activities under examination shall cause, upon the request of market conduct oversight personnel, the details of such models or products to be made available to such personnel.

(3) Each officer, director, employee, and agent of an insurer shall facilitate and aid in a market conduct action or examination.

(4) No waiver of any applicable privilege or claim of confidentiality in the documents, materials, or information shall occur as a result of disclosure to the commissioner, any employee of the office of the insurance commissioner, or any agent retained by the office of the insurance commissioner to assist in the market conduct examination under this chapter.

(5) (a) The commissioner may take depositions, subpoena witnesses or documentary evidence, administer oaths, and examine under oath any individual relative to the affairs of any person being examined, or relative to the subject of any hearing or investigation: PROVIDED, That the provisions of RCW 34.05.446 shall apply in lieu of the provisions of this section as to subpoenas relative to hearings in rule-making and adjudicative proceedings.

(b) The subpoena shall be effective if served within the state of Washington and shall be served in the same manner as if issued from a court of record.

(c) Witness fees and mileage, if claimed, shall be allowed the same as for testimony in a court of record. Witness fees, mileage, and the actual expenses necessarily incurred in securing attendance of witnesses and their testimony shall be itemized, and shall be paid by the person as to whom the examination is being made, or by the person if other than the commissioner, at whose request the hearing is held.

(d) Enforcement of subpoenas shall be in accordance with RCW 34.05.588.

(6) In order to assist in the performance of the commissioner's duties, the commissioner may:

(a) Share documents, materials, market conduct examination reports, preliminary market conduct examination reports, and other matters related to such reports, or other information, including the confidential and privileged documents, materials, or information subject to subsection (1) of this section, with other state, federal, and international regulatory agencies and law enforcement authorities, and the NAIC and its affiliates and subsidiaries, provided that the recipient agrees to and asserts that it has the legal authority to maintain the confidentiality and privileged status of the document, material, communication, or other information;

(b) Receive documents, materials, communications, or information, including otherwise confidential and privileged documents, materials, or information, from the NAIC and its affiliates or subsidiaries, and from regulatory and law enforcement officials of other foreign or domestic jurisdictions, and shall maintain as confidential or privileged any document, material, or information received with notice or the understanding that it is confidential or privileged under the

laws of the jurisdiction that is the source of the document, material, or information; and

(c) Enter into agreements governing the sharing and use of information consistent with this subsection. [2007 c 82 s 9.]