

**WAC 192-35-120 Objections to brief adjudicative proceedings and conversion to formal adjudicative hearings.** (1) At least five working days before the scheduled brief adjudicative proceeding, any party, including the department, may file a written objection to resolution of a matter by a brief adjudicative proceeding and may request that a matter be converted to a formal adjudicative hearing. Upon receiving a timely written objection, the presiding officer shall determine whether the matter should be converted. Regardless of whether any party files a timely objection, the presiding officer may convert any brief adjudicative proceeding to a formal adjudicative hearing whenever it appears that a brief adjudicative proceeding is insufficient to determine the issues pending before the agency.

(2) In determining whether to convert a proceeding, the presiding officer may consider the following factors:

(a) Whether witness testimony will aid the presiding officer in resolving contested issues of fact;

(b) Whether the legal or factual issues are sufficiently complex to warrant a formal adjudicative proceeding, including whether there are multiple issues of fact or law;

(c) Whether a brief adjudicative proceeding will establish an adequate record for further agency or judicial review;

(d) Whether the legal issues involved in the proceeding present questions of legal significance or are being raised for the first time before the agency;

(e) Whether conversion of the proceeding will cause unnecessary delay in resolving the issues; and

(f) Any other factors that the presiding officer deems relevant in reaching a determination.

(3) The written order of the formal adjudicative hearing shall be the department's final decision.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 50.12.040. WSR 05-02-094, § 192-35-120, filed 1/5/05, effective 2/5/05.]