

WAC 148-120-930 Evidence. The introduction and consideration of evidence by the decision maker is subject to the following procedures and restrictions:

(1) Relevance: The decision maker shall review all questions for relevance and shall explain to the party proposing the questions any decision to exclude a question as not relevant.

(2) Relevance means that information elicited by the question makes facts in dispute more or less likely to be true.

(3) Questions or evidence about a complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant and must be excluded, unless such question or evidence:

(a) Is asked or offered to prove someone other than the respondent committed the alleged misconduct; or

(b) Concerns specific incidents of prior sexual behavior between the complainant and the respondent, which are asked or offered on the issue of consent.

(4) No negative inference: The decision maker may not make an inference regarding responsibility solely on a witness's or party's absence from a hearing or refusal to answer questions.

(5) Privileged evidence: The decision maker shall not consider legally privileged information unless the holder has effectively waived the privilege. Privileged information includes, but is not limited to, information protected by the following:

(a) Spousal/domestic partner privilege;

(b) Attorney-client and attorney work product privileges;

(c) Privileges applicable to members of the clergy and priests;

(d) Privileges applicable to medical providers, mental health therapists, and counselors;

(e) Privileges applicable to sexual assault and domestic violence advocates; and

(f) Other legal privileges identified in RCW 5.60.060.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 34.05 RCW, RCW 72.42.041(2), 72.40.0191(12), 72.40.0191(17), and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq. WSR 25-22-092, s 148-120-930, filed 11/4/25, effective 12/5/25.]