

# HCA Index of Significant Decisions

## Issued by the Board of Appeals (BOA)

Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 42.56.070(5)(b) directs the Health Care Authority (HCA) to establish and implement a system for identification and location of final orders issued in adjudicative proceedings that contain an analysis or decision of substantial importance to the HCA in carrying out its duties. The HCA Board of Appeals (BOA) has established such an index and it is entitled the HCA Index of Significant Decisions issued by the Board of Appeals. RCW 42.56.070(6) and Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 182-526-0221(1) give precedential value to decisions published on the Index of Significant Decisions (Index). This means that a party to an administrative hearing involving HCA can rely on, use, or cite to such a final order that has been published on the Index. The HCA Index is publicly available on the HCA's [Significant decisions webpage](https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/significant-decisions). (<https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/significant-decisions>)

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An individual may request a copy of the Index or inspect it by contacting the HCA BOA at:

### Mailing address

#### Health Care Authority Board of Appeals

P.O. Box 42700

Olympia, WA 98504-2700

**Phone:** 360-725-0910 or 844-728-5212

**Fax:** 360-507-9018

### Physical address

#### Health Care Authority Board of Appeals

Cherry Street Plaza, First floor reception desk

626 8th Ave SE

Olympia, WA 98501

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The HCA BOA may publish a final order to the Index on its own motion by completing the agency-approved process. Individuals may also ask the BOA to publish a final order on the Index by sending a written request with a copy of the final order and the requestor's contact information to the mailing address above. A completed copy of the nomination form (available on the [Significant decisions webpage](#)) may also be used to ask for Index publication of a final order.

Not all requests may be granted, but the HCA BOA will consider each nomination and determine whether to recommend it to the HCA Director for publication. The request should indicate whether the final order proposed for Index inclusion satisfies RCW 42.56.070(5)(b) and:

- (1) answers a question not already addressed in applicable procedural or substantive rules or statutes or in the Administrative Procedure Act at Chapter 34.05 RCW;
- (2) addresses issues arising frequently; or
- (3) was ultimately affirmed by a Court of Appeal or the Supreme Court and answers an unclear question or one that comes up often.

The HCA BOA generally will not recommend Index publication for final orders that:

- (1) address ambiguities or inconsistencies in emergency regulations because those rules are fluid and subject to frequent change;
- (2) are pending judicial review because the final outcome is uncertain;
- (3) are based on regulations or statutes that have been substantially changed; or
- (4) include potentially precedential issues overturned on judicial review.