




Discipline in Washington State

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Introduction

Washington State Department of Health – Health Systems Quality Assurance

- 404,000 health professionals
- 83 health professions

Athletic Trainers in Washington State

- Credential established by legislature in 2007
- First credentials issued in 2008
- 1,100 credentials issued
 - 675 currently active
- 30 complaints since inception
 - 3 instances of informal action taken
 - Criminal Background (2)
 - Action in another state (1)
- 1 investigated and closed no action





Profession Regulation


Health Profession Regulation:

- Program: Laws, rules, policies
- Credentialing: Licensing continuity, background checks
- Enforcement: Compliant driven process, focus on allegations
 - (Legal, Investigations, Compliance, Adjudication)

Disciplinary Authority:

- Secretary of Health
 - Case Manager, Executive Director, Chief Investigator, Supervising Staff Attorney
- Committee Members as expert witness if necessary
- Boards / Commissions
 - Appointed by Governor
 - Quorum of at least 3 members




 **Disciplinary Process**


Complaint Process:

- Intake (written complaint or Washington State Patrol Report)
- Assessment – 21 days
- Investigation – 170 days
- Case disposition – 140 days
- Adjudication – case by case

Examples of Complaints Investigated:


- Scope of Practice
- Unlicensed Practice
- Criminal Conviction
- Drug or alcohol abuse
- Sexual misconduct




 **Complaint Process for Secretary Professions**

Secretary Professions:

1. Complaint received
2. Preliminary review (determine severity / imminent harm)
3. Presented to disciplinary authority (investigate or close complaint)
4. Investigation (complainant and credential holder notified)
5. Present to disciplinary authority (open or close complaint)
6. Notice of Correction, Agreement to Practice, Stipulation to Informal Disposition, Statement of Charges
7. Hearing
8. Compliance



 **Complaint Examples / Closing**

Complaint Example:

1. No Violation
2. Below Threshold
3. Open

Current Athletic Training Challenges:

- Newly added CE Requirement
- Authorized volunteer

