Definitions

Administrative Procedure Act (APA): A law that establishes requirements for rule making, adjudicative proceedings, and appeal of Department of Health enforcement decisions to courts of law. Refer to Chapter 34.05 RCW.

Agreed Order (AO): A document issued by the PQAC that is negotiated by the healthcare professional and their attorney, if represented, and representatives from the Department of Health. Any sanctions or conditions regarding practice are agreed upon. The order is presented to the PQAC and, if approved, becomes final. The document is usually called a Stipulated Finding of Facts, Conclusion of Law and Agreed Order.

Pharmaceutical Firm: Applicants or holders of facility licensees or registrations issued to facilities under RCW 18.64 that includes, but is not limited to: pharmacies, manufacturers, wholesalers, nonresident pharmacies, health care entities, and hospital pharmacy associated clinics.

Notice of Intent (NOI): A document that is served on a pharmaceutical firm notifying it of allegations of violations of the laws and rules governing the pharmaceutical firm or other laws and rules that pertain to the pharmaceutical firm.

Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission (PQAC) Panel: At least three members of the PQAC.

PQAC Quorum: At least 8 of the 15 PQAC members.

Prompt Hearing: A hearing that a pharmaceutical firm can request when a summary suspension or restriction is placed on their credential pursuant to RCW 34.05.479.

Show Cause Hearing: A hearing that a licensee can request when a summary suspension or restriction is placed on his/her credential. The hearing is limited to the issues of whether the summary action should remain in place pending a full hearing on the charges. The show cause hearing must be held within 14 days of the request.

Statement of Allegations (SOA) and Stipulation to Informal Disposition (STID): The document that initiates an informal enforcement against healthcare professionals. The Statement of Allegations (SOA) sets forth the factual allegations against the healthcare professional and the potential violations of the Uniform Disciplinary Act. An SOA is resolved through a Stipulation to informal Disposition (STID) if the healthcare professional agrees to the STID. An SOA/STID may be offered prior to serving a formal Statement of Charges if the case involves minimal risk of potential or actual patient harm, and no pattern of violations.

Statement of Charges (SOC): A document that is served on a healthcare professional notifying them of allegations of violations of Chapter 18.130 RCW, Uniform Disciplinary Act or other laws or rules that pertain to healthcare professionals.
Summary Suspension or Restriction: A sanction that the PQAC can impose when there is immediate danger to the public if the healthcare professional continues to practice without limitation. Until a full hearing is held, the healthcare professional may continue to practice but only to the extent allowed by the limitation.

Uniform Disciplinary Act (UDA): This is a chapter in Washington State law that provides standardized procedures for reviewing and acting on applicants for credentials and for taking enforcement action against healthcare professionals. The purpose is to ensure the competency and safety of healthcare professionals. The Uniform Disciplinary Act is found in Chapter 18.130 RCW.