

# Request for Rulemaking Authority Delegation: WAC 246-491-029



# Statutory Changes to Vital Records

- **2018 - Uniform Parentage Act**
  - Included surrogacy in the birth registration process
  - Recognized diversity of families and non-biological parent-child relationships
- **2019 - chapter 70.58A RCW, Vital Statistics**
  - Made clarifications
  - Added amendment process
  - Added administrative hearing
- **2021 - certification of birth resulting in stillbirth**



# Rulemaking Considerations

## Purpose of Rulemaking

- Update terms to reflect the current statute and gender-neutral language
- Add surrogacy terms
- Add homeless status to the confidential statistical items
- Align statistical items with the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) standards for birth and fetal death

## Potential Changes to the Rule

- Adding or removing statistical items in Tables 1 and 2
- Changing terms in Tables 1 and 2
- Non-substantive editorial changes to make the text easier to understand

# SBOH Delegation Considerations

- Alignment of WAC 246-491-029 with the 2014 NCHS statistical standards
- No expected controversy or opposition from interested parties
- Any changes made to WAC 246-491-029 will support policy and programmatic changes made to other sections of rule related to vital statistics
- DOH will notify all interested parties by email, provide the proposed rule language to interested parties, and post information about the rulemaking on the department's vital statistics web page

# Contact Information



For more information, please contact:

- Kelly Thomson, DCHS Policy Advisor  
[kelly.thomson@doh.wa.gov](mailto:kelly.thomson@doh.wa.gov)
- Katitza Holthaus, CHS Policy Advisor  
[katitza.holthaus@doh.wa.gov](mailto:katitza.holthaus@doh.wa.gov)

# 2022 – Working together for brighter tomorrow



To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email [civil.rights@doh.wa.gov](mailto:civil.rights@doh.wa.gov).

Visit [www.doh.wa.gov](http://www.doh.wa.gov)



@WaDeptHealth  
@WaHealthSec