Washington County (Oregon) Law Library
LEGAL RESEARCH GUIDE

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TOPIC: ADMINISTRATIVE LAW (includes information about government administrative agency proceedings)

1) BOOKS/PAMPHLETS/BROCHURES (TIP: Remember, not everything is online!)
   - Many legal research resources are not online. Oregon legal practice manuals on state and federal law and practice are published by the Oregon State Bar and are available for reference at your county law libraries (for example, Oregon Administrative Law). Ask at your county or state law library for titles. Locate your local county law library: Oregon Council of County Law Libraries directory (OCCLL).
   - Oregon public library links here and here and here.

2) ONLINE INFORMATION
   - Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS): search for key words including the agency or legal issue you are interested in; for example: the Construction Contractors Board, zoning, child support enforcement, Medicaid eligibility, discrimination investigation, and more. Also search under keyword “administrative procedures” to learn more about proceedings before agencies.
   - Check the Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) for applicable regulations, proceedings, and procedures. Find the latest updates on the particular agency websites and in the Oregon Bulletin.
   - Oregon State Archives is a good place to look for an overview of how agency rules are adopted in Oregon.
   - The Oregon Blue Book lists all of the Oregon Executive Department state agencies and key personnel. Links to state agency websites are also available at Oregon.gov.
   - Check the relevant agency’s website for information specific to the legal issue or proceeding being researched. For example, for zoning issues, go to the Oregon Land Use Appeals Board (LUBA) or for child support enforcement, go to the Department of Human Services Child Support Division.
   - Oregon State Bar (OSB) Public Info is a good place for basic information on administrative legal issues such as worker’s compensation, Medicaid or Social Security eligibility, unemployment compensation, special education rights, enforcing child support, and more.
   - Oregon Law Help is a good place to find information and forms for government benefit program issues or eligibility, fair housing, family law, employment, farmworkers, disability, and more.
   - Search the U.S. Code using keywords such as the applicable agency or legal issue, for example: Social Security, ERISA (for issues of employment and retirement benefits), Equal Employment Opportunity, and more. Search the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for applicable agency regulations and procedures. Find the latest updates in the Federal Register.

3) OTHER RESOURCES
   - Oregon State Bar (OSB) lawyer referral service (503-684-3763)
   - Oregon Law Center – Hillsboro regional office (503-640-4115)
   - Oregon State Law Library (503-986-5640)
   - A directory of Portland Metro Area Legal Services
   - How to Find a Lawyer in Oregon
   - Ask an Oregon law librarian a question via email: Oregon State Library/L-net
   - Oregon Legal Research blog
   - Oregon Legal Research website
   - Other Washington County Law Library legal research guides.

Keywords: administrative law, agency rulemaking, agency decisions, executive branch

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