

# Oregon Public Defense Commission

**Oregon Administrative  
Rules and Rules  
Advisory Committee  
Office Hours**

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# Oregon Administrative Rules (OARS): An Overview

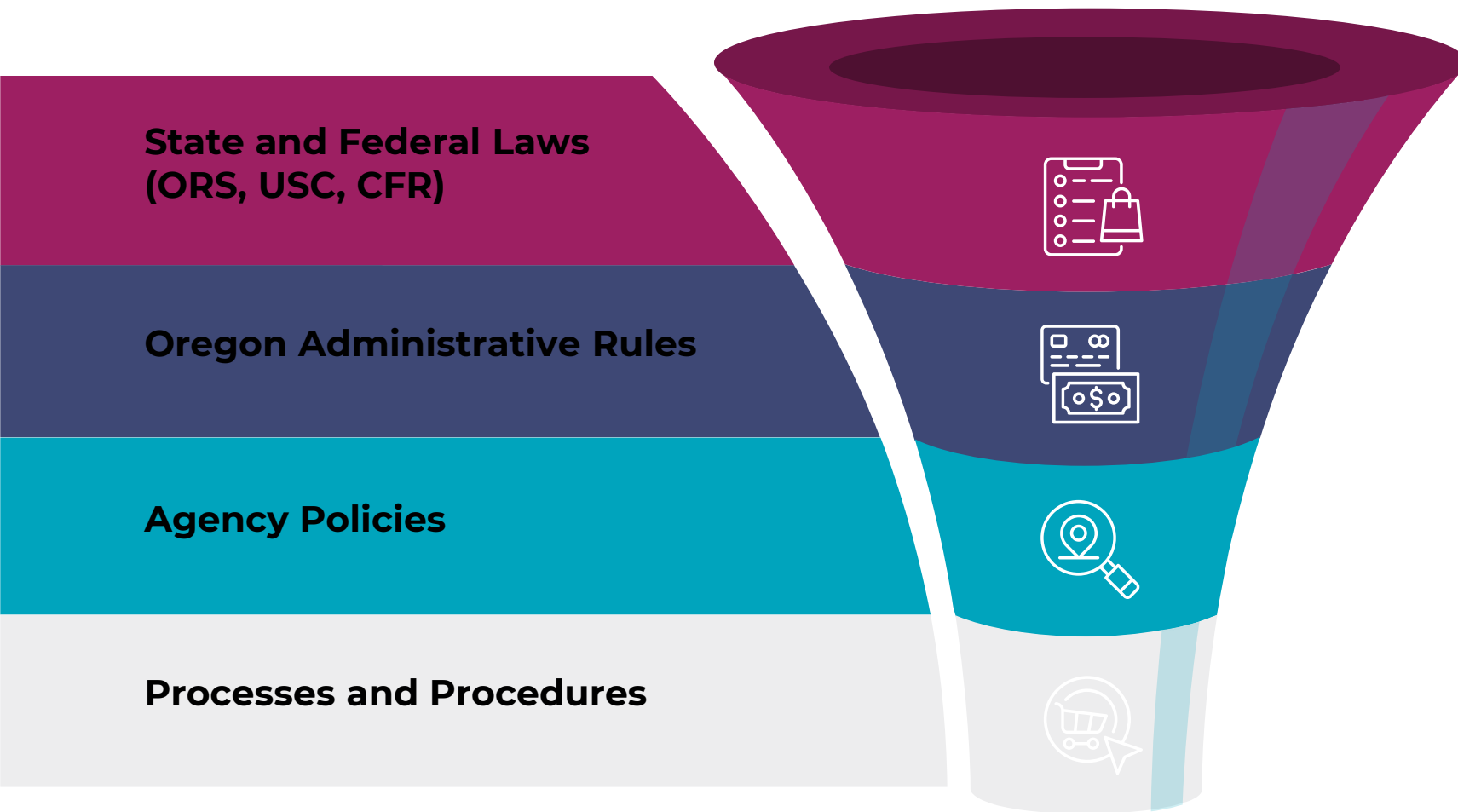
Oregon law defines a “rule” as “any agency directive, standard, regulation, or statement of general applicability that implements, interprets, or prescribes law or policy, or describes the procedure or practice requirements of any agency.”

~ *ORS 183.310(9)*

The requirements for these rules is very specifically detailed in ORS Chapter 183 – Administrative Procedures Act; Review of Rules.

All rules must be vetted by the Department of Justice (DOJ), submitted for Legislative review, posted for public comment, presented to a Rules Advisory Committee (RAC), and approved by the Secretary of State prior to becoming effective.

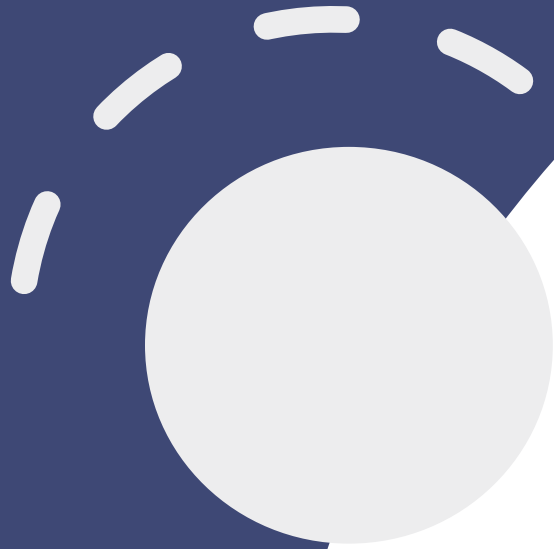
# Why Another Layer?



OARs allow agencies to develop more specificity than what is in statute. They can also be modified much easier, and more quickly, than statute.

While statutory changes require legislative action, rules can be modified internally, with appropriate stakeholder engagement.

Rules support agency decisions around eligibility, set forth guidelines around interactions, and guide policy and procedure.



The process of rulemaking typically takes 4 to 6 months. Now that OPDC is under the Executive Branch, the agency's first rules (OARs) are planned to be effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

The agency is now in the process of developing a Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) to assist in the process of rule review and stakeholder engagement.

# Rules Advisory Committee (RAC)

A Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) is made up of stakeholders who could be impacted by agency rulemaking activity.

Members are appointed to the RAC by the agency or commission that is conducting the rulemaking, and a RAC is generally 7 to 13 people, not including any agency staff.

The RAC reviews the rule language and fiscal impact statement before the public comment process begins.

Members provide feedback and recommendations to the rulemaking body on the proposed rule language and timelines.

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# Rules Advisory Committee RAC: Next Steps

- OPDC is looking for individuals interested in serving on the agency's RAC.
- If a large volume of individuals express interest in participating, a lottery system will be utilized to identify RAC members.
- The agency is working on a communication plan for the solicitation of public comment. This allows individuals not on the RAC to provide feedback to the agency as part of the rulemaking process.

# Is the RAC Right For You?

Members of the RAC should anticipate one meeting each quarter, lasting an hour or two. These meetings will be scheduled several months in advance to allow for planning.

RAC members will be asked to review proposed rules prior to each meeting; the volume of rules for each quarter will vary but may take one to two hours for most meetings.

Members will be asked to serve for either a one- or two-year time period. This allows for consistency and experience.

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# Important Things to Remember

- All Oregonians have the opportunity provide public comment on proposed rules prior to their adoption, regardless of their involvement with the RAC.
- All proposed rules are reviewed by the Department of Justice, the Legislature, and the Secretary of State prior to their effective date.
- OPDC's first rule filings will address things such as agency acronyms and terms, agency organization and structure, and general rulemaking authority.



# Interested in the RAC?

Applications are available on the OPDC website.  
You may also send an email to OPDC's rules  
team at [Admin.Rules@OPDC.state.or.us](mailto:Admin.Rules@OPDC.state.or.us).

Please complete and return via email no later  
than May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Depending on the volume of interested parties, if  
necessary, a lottery will be held during the OPDC  
Commission meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

The RAC welcome meeting will  
be June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

# Thank you.

For questions, please contact the  
OPDC Rules Coordinator Jennifer Bell  
by calling 503-991-9417 or emailing  
[Admin.Rules@opdc.state.or.us](mailto:Admin.Rules@opdc.state.or.us).

