



6 Steps to Agency Deference

<u>Step 1</u>: Is the agency interpretation formal and entitled to deference or informal and not entitled to deference?

Step 2: How long-standing is the agency interpretation?

Step 3: Does the agency have authority to enforce the statute (*i.e.*, is the statute within the agency's area of expertise)?

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<u>Step 4</u>: Does the agency interpretation conflict with the plain language of statute?

Step 5: Is the agency interpretation reasonable?

<u>Step 6</u>: Courts will generally uphold agency interpretation.





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