

22.8 Injunction to restrain examination.

1. The district court may grant an injunction restraining the examination, including copying, of a specific public record or a narrowly drawn class of public records. A hearing shall be held on a request for injunction upon reasonable notice as determined by the court to persons requesting access to the record which is the subject of the request for injunction. It shall be the duty of the lawful custodian and any other person seeking an injunction to ensure compliance with the notice requirement. Such an injunction may be issued only if the petition supported by affidavit shows and if the court finds both of the following:

- a. That the examination would clearly not be in the public interest.
- b. That the examination would substantially and irreparably injure any person or persons.

2. An injunction shall be subject to the rules of civil procedure except that the court in its discretion may waive bond.

3. In actions brought under [this section](#) the district court shall take into account the policy of [this chapter](#) that free and open examination of public records is generally in the public interest even though such examination may cause inconvenience or embarrassment to public officials or others. A court may issue an injunction restraining examination of a public record or a narrowly drawn class of such records, only if the person seeking the injunction demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that [this section](#) authorizes its issuance. An injunction restraining the examination of a narrowly drawn class of public records may be issued only if such an injunction would be justified under [this section](#) for every member within the class of records involved if each of those members were considered separately.

4. Good-faith, reasonable delay by a lawful custodian in permitting the examination and copying of a government record is not a violation of [this chapter](#) if the purpose of the delay is any of the following:

- a. To seek an injunction under [this section](#).
- b. To determine whether the lawful custodian is entitled to seek such an injunction or should seek such an injunction.
- c. To determine whether the government record in question is a public record, or confidential record.
- d. To determine whether a confidential record should be available for inspection and copying to the person requesting the right to do so. A reasonable delay for this purpose shall not exceed twenty calendar days and ordinarily should not exceed ten business days.
- e. Actions for injunctions under [this section](#) may be brought by the lawful custodian of a government record, or by another government body or person who would be aggrieved or adversely affected by the examination or copying of such a record.
- f. The rights and remedies provided by [this section](#) are in addition to any rights and remedies provided by [section 17A.19](#).

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §68A.8]

[84 Acts, ch 1185, §7](#)

C85, §22.8

Referred to in [§23.5, 23.11](#)