

621—12.3(17A,20,22) Requests for access to records.

12.3(1) Location of record. A request for access to a record should be directed to the Chair, Public Employment Relations Board, 510 East 12th Street, Suite 1B, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

12.3(2) Office hours. Open records shall be made available during all customary office hours, which are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

12.3(3) Request for access. Requests for access to open records may be made in writing or in person. Requests shall identify the particular records sought by name or description in order to facilitate the location of the record. Mail, email or telephone requests shall include the name, address, email address and telephone number of the person requesting the information. A person shall not be required to give a reason for requesting an open record.

12.3(4) Response to requests. Access to an open record shall be provided promptly upon request unless the size or nature of the request makes prompt access infeasible. If the size or nature of the request for access to an open record requires time for compliance, the agency shall comply with the request as soon as feasible. Access to an open record may be delayed for one of the purposes authorized by Iowa Code section 22.8(4) or 22.10(4). The custodian shall promptly give notice to the requester of the reason for any delay in access to an open record and an estimate of the length of that delay and, upon request, shall promptly provide that notice to the requester in writing.

The custodian of a record may deny access to the record by members of the public only on the grounds that such a denial is warranted under Iowa Code sections 22.8(4) and 22.10(4), or that it is a confidential record, or that its disclosure is prohibited by a court order. Access by members of the public to a confidential record is limited by law and, therefore, may generally be provided only in accordance with the provisions of rule 621—12.4(17A,20,22) and other applicable provisions of law.

12.3(5) Security of record. No person may, without permission from the custodian, search or remove any record from agency files. Examination and copying of agency records shall be supervised by the custodian or a designee of the custodian. Records shall be protected from damage and disorganization.

12.3(6) Copying. A reasonable number of copies of an open record may be made in the agency's office.

12.3(7) Fees.

a. When charged. To the extent permitted by applicable provisions of law, the payment of fees may be waived when the imposition of fees is inequitable or when a waiver is in the public interest.

b. Copying and postage costs. Copies of records may be made by or for members of the public on agency photocopy machines or from electronic storage systems at cost as determined by the custodian, based upon the actual costs of the copying. When the mailing of copies of records is requested, the actual costs of such mailing may also be charged to the requester.

c. Supervisory fee. An hourly fee may be charged for actual agency expenses in supervising the examination and copying of requested records. The hourly fee shall not be in excess of the hourly wage of an agency clerical employee who ordinarily would be appropriate and suitable to perform this supervisory function.

d. Search fees. If the request requires research or if the record or records cannot reasonably be readily retrieved by the office, the requester will be advised of this fact. Reasonable search fees may be charged where appropriate. In addition, all allowable costs for retrieval and copying of information stored in electronic storage systems may be charged to the requester.

e. Advance deposits.

(1) When the estimated total fee chargeable under this subrule exceeds \$25, the custodian may require a requester to make an advance payment to cover all or a part of the estimated fee.

(2) When a requester has previously failed to pay a fee chargeable under this subrule, the custodian may require advance payment of the full amount of any estimated fee before the custodian processes a new request from that requester.