

141—3.3 (2C,22) Requests for access to records.

3.3(1) Location. A request for access to a record should be directed to the ombudsman at the Office of Ombudsman, Ola Babcock Miller Building, 1112 E. Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. The agency may also be reached at the following numbers: telephone (515)281-3592, 1-888-426-6283 (1-888-IA-OMBUD), TDD/TTY (515)242-5065, and fax (515)242-6007.

3.3(2) Office hours. Access to records shall be available during all customary office hours, which are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except designated state holidays.

3.3(3) Request for access. Requests for access to records may be made in writing, in person, by telephone, by e-mail, or by facsimile (fax). Requests shall identify by name and description the particular records sought in order to facilitate the location of the record. Requests by mail, telephone, e-mail, or facsimile (fax) shall also include the name, address, e-mail, and telephone or fax number of the person requesting the information. A person shall not be required to give a reason for the request.

3.3(4) Response to requests.

a. Access to an open record of the agency shall be provided promptly upon request. If the size or nature of the request makes prompt access impracticable, the custodian shall comply with the request as soon as practicable. Access to an open record may be delayed for one of the purposes authorized by Iowa Code subsection 22.8(4) or 22.10(4). The custodian shall notify the requester of the reason for a delay in access to an open record and an estimate of the length of that delay and, upon request, shall provide such notice in writing.

b. 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 subsections 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 141—3.4(2C,22) and other applicable provisions of law.

3.3(5) Security of record. Examination and copying of agency records shall be supervised by the custodian or a designee of the custodian. A person may not search or remove any record from agency files without permission from the custodian. A person may not cause damage or disorganization to any agency records.

3.3(6) Copying. A reasonable number of copies of a record may be made in the agency's office. If photocopy equipment is not available in the agency office, the custodian shall permit examination of the record in the office and shall arrange to have copies made as soon as practicable elsewhere.

3.3(7) Fees. To the extent permitted by law, the agency may charge fees in connection with the examination or copying and may waive payment of such fees when the imposition of fees is inequitable or when a waiver is in the public interest.

a. 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 costs as determined by the custodian. When the mailing of copies of records is requested, the actual costs of such mailing may also be charged.

b. Supervisory fee. An hourly fee may be charged for actual agency expenses in supervising the examination and copying of requested records when the time required is in excess of one-half hour. The hourly fee charged shall not be in excess of the hourly wage of an agency employee who ordinarily would be appropriate and suitable to perform this supervisory function.

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

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

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