

WAC 255-01-100 Requests for public records. In accordance with the requirements of chapter 42.17 RCW, stipulating that agencies prevent unreasonable invasion of privacy, protect public records from damage or disorganization and prevent excessive interference with essential functions of the agency, public records may be inspected or copied, or copies of such records may be obtained, by members of the public upon compliance with the following procedures.

(1) A request shall be made in writing and shall be presented to the public records officer, or to another designated member of the staff if the public records officer is not available at the Washington State History Museum, 1911 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98402. The request shall include the following information:

- (a) The name of the person requesting the record;
- (b) The time and date on which the request was made;
- (c) The nature of the request;

(d) If the matter requested is referenced within the current index maintained by the public records officer, a reference to the requested records as it is described in such current index;

(e) If the requested matter is not identifiable by reference to the current index, an appropriate description of the record requested.

(2) The public records officer, or staff person assisting the member of the public making the request, will ascertain whether or not the information requested is exempt from public inspection and copying as defined in RCW 42.17.310.

(3) Only after a determination has been made that all or such portion of a public record as is not deleted may be inspected shall such public record or portion thereof be made available for inspection by a member of the public.

(4) In all cases, it shall be the obligation of the public records officer, or staff person to whom the request is made, to:

(a) Locate the specific document(s) request by the member of the public in the most timely manner possible;

(b) Assist the member of the public in appropriately identifying the public record requested;

(c) Protect and otherwise prevent damage to the public record being inspected and copied;

(d) Prevent disorganization of file folders or document containers;

(e) Remain in the company of the member of the public at all times during which a public document is being inspected, and provide the fullest assistance possible;

(f) Prevent excessive interference with the other essential functions of the agency.

(5) Only the staff and trustees of the society may open files to gain access to society records.

(6) No public record of the society may be taken from the premises of the society by a member of the public.

(7) Public inspection of society records shall be done only in such locations as are approved by the public records officer, which locations must provide an opportunity for staff to ensure that no public record of the society is damaged, destroyed, unreasonably disorganized or removed from its proper location or order by a member of the public.

(8) Public records of the society may be copied only on the copying machine of the society unless other arrangements are authorized by the public records officer.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.17.250. WSR 98-07-071, § 255-01-100, filed 3/17/98, effective 4/17/98.]