



Standard Right-to-Know Law Request Form

Please read carefully. Complete this form and retain a copy of **both** pages; this copy may be required if an appeal is filed. You have 15 business days to appeal after a request is denied or deemed denied. More information about the RTKL is available at <https://www.openrecords.pa.gov>. In most cases, a completed RTKL request form is a public record.

SUBMITTED TO AGENCY NAME: _____ (Attn: AORO)

Date Request Submitted: _____ Submitted via: Email U.S. Mail Fax In Person

PERSON MAKING REQUEST:

Full Name: _____

Company (if applicable): _____

Please send response via: Email U.S. Mail

If you wish to obtain records that only exist in hard copy, or must be provided on an electronic storage device, you may be required to provide a mailing address to the agency. See Section 703.

Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Telephone: _____

How do you prefer to be contacted if the agency has questions? Telephone Email U.S. Mail

By checking this box, I affirm that my full name and contact information is true and correct, and that I am a legal resident of the United States. I understand that failure to check this box may result in the denial of my request and the dismissal of any appeal filed with the Office of Open Records.

RECORDS REQUESTED: Provide as much detail as possible, including subject matter, time frame, and type of record sought. RTKL requests must seek records, not ask questions. Use additional pages if necessary.

Form continues on page 2. Retain a copy of both pages.

RECORDS REQUESTED (continued):

DO YOU WANT COPIES? Yes, printed Yes, electronic No, in-person inspection

Records shall be provided in the medium requested if they exist in that medium; otherwise, they shall be provided in the medium in which they exist. See Section 701. Your request may require payment or prepayment of fees. View the [Official RTKL Fee Schedule](#) for more details.

I understand that my request may incur fees. Notify me before further processing if fees will be more than \$100 (or) \$_____.

Do you want [certified copies](#)? Yes (may be subject to additional costs) No

ITEMS BELOW THIS LINE FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

Tracking: _____ Date Received: _____ Response Due (5 bus. days): _____

30-Day Ext.? Yes No (If Yes, Final Due Date: _____) Actual Response Date: _____

Request was: Granted Partially Granted & Denied Denied Cost to Requester:
\$ _____

Appropriate third parties notified and given an opportunity to object to the release of requested records.

Retain a copy of both pages of this Form.

West Chester Borough

Access to Public Records Policy

The purpose of this policy is to comply with the Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Law, Act 3 of 2008, as amended, 65 P.S. §67.101 et seq. (the "Act"), to provide access to public records of West Chester Borough, to preserve the integrity of Borough records, and to minimize the financial impact to the residents of the West Chester regarding the resources utilized in the receipt and processing of public record requests and the retrieval and copying of public records.

The Borough of West Chester may require the presence of a designated employee when public records are examined and inspected and to charge reasonable fees for duplication of public records of the Borough of West Chester. Borough Council designates the Borough Manager as the Open Records Officer for Borough records and the Police Chief as the Open Records Officer for Police records responsible for assuring compliance with the Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Law, in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. The Open Records Officer may designate certain employee(s) to process public record requests.
2. The Open Records Officer is responsible for minimizing, where possible, the financial impact to the Borough of West Chester regarding the resources utilized in the receipt and processing of public record requests and the retrieval and copying of public records.
3. All requests for public records of the Borough of West Chester under this policy shall be specific in identifying and describing each public record requested. In no case shall the Borough of West Chester be required to create a public record which does not exist or to compile, maintain, format or organize a public record in a manner in which the Borough of West Chester does not currently compile, maintain, format or organize the public record. .
4. All requests for public records shall be submitted in writing and submitted on the Standard Right-to-Know Law Request Form as designated by the Borough. Anonymous or verbal requests will not be accepted or processed by the Borough of West Chester.
5. The Open Records Officer shall make a good faith effort to determine whether each record requested is a public record in accord with the Act.
6. The Open Records Officer shall facilitate a reasonable response to a request for Borough of West Chester public records. In no case is the Borough of West Chester expected to provide extraordinary staff to respond to the request, but will respond in a manner consistent with Borough of West Chester administrative responsibilities and consistent with the requirements of the Act.

7. The Borough shall respond to the requester within five (5) business days from the date of receipt of the written request. If the Borough of West Chester does not respond within five (5) business days of receipt thereof, the request is deemed denied.
8. The response provided by the Borough of West Chester shall consist of (1) approval for access to the public record; (2) an extension of time to respond to the request for the reasons specified in the Act; or (3) denial of access to the record requested.
9. If access to the public record requested is approved, the public record shall be available for access during the regular business hours of the Borough of West Chester. The designated employee shall cooperate fully with the requester, while also taking reasonable measures to protect the Borough of West Chester's public records from the possibility of theft and/or modification. The presence of a designated employee may be required when public records are examined and inspected.
10. Fees for duplication of public records shall be as follows:
 - (a) Photocopying: 25 cents (\$0.25) per page/Color 50 cents (\$0.50)
 - (b) Thumb drive for files: Actual cost
 - (c) Duplication of public electronic and/or tape records: actual cost to the Borough of West Chester of duplicating the public record.
 - (d) Certified copies: \$1.00 per page.
 - (e) Postage: actual cost to the Borough of West Chester of mailing the public record.

The Borough of West Chester may in its discretion waive fees when the requester duplicates the record or where deemed in the public interest.
11. In the event the estimated cost of fulfilling a request submitted under this policy is expected to exceed \$100.00, the Borough may require the requester to pay an estimate of the fee in advance.
12. If the request is being reviewed, the notice provided by the Borough of West Chester shall be in writing and include the reason for the review and the expected response date, which shall be within thirty (30) days of the notice of review. If the Borough of West Chester does not respond within thirty (30) days thereof, the request is deemed denied. Review of the request is limited to situations where:

- (a) The record requested contains information, which is subject to access, as well as information which is not subject to access that must be redacted prior to a grant of access. The redacted information is considered a denial as to that information;
 - (b) The record requires retrieval from a remote location;
 - (c) A timely response cannot be accomplished due to staffing limitations;
 - (d) A legal review is necessary as, for example, for the purpose of determining whether the record requested is a public record;
 - (e) The requester has failed to comply with the Borough of West Chester's policy and procedure requirements;
 - (f) The requester refuses to pay the applicable fees; or
 - (g) The extent or nature of the request precludes a response within the required time period.
13. If access to the record requested is denied, the notice provided by the Borough of West Chester shall be in writing, describe the record requested, specify the reasons for denial, provide contact information for the Open Records Officer, date of response and outline the appeals process.
14. If the request is denied or deemed denied, the requester may file an appeal with the Pennsylvania Office of Open Records or the applicable appeals officer within 15 business days of the mailing date of the Borough's response or the deemed denial.
15. This policy shall take effect on upon formal adoption by Borough Council..

Amended August 21, 2024