

## **Inspection of Records**

### **Public Inspection of Records**

Upon receiving a verbal request to inspect Township records, the Township shall furnish the requesting person with a reasonable opportunity and reasonable facilities for inspection and examination of its public records.

A person shall be allowed to inspect public records upon request to the Township's FOIA Coordinator as per the State of Michigan's Policy and Procedure for the Public Inspection and Copying of Records in Lieu of Customary Business Hours. The public does not have unlimited access to Township Offices or facilities, and a person may be required to inspect records at a specified counter or table, and in view of Township personnel.

Township officials, appointees, staff or consultants/contractors assisting with inspection of public records shall inform any person inspecting records that only pencils, and no pens or ink, may be used to take notes.

In coordination with the official responsible for the records, the FOIA Coordinator shall determine on a case-by-case basis when the Township will provide copies of original records, to allow for blacking out exempt information, to protect old or delicate original records, or because the original record is a digital file or database not available for public inspection.

The FOIA Coordinator is responsible for identifying if records or information requested by the public is stored in digital files or e-mail, even if the public does not specifically request a digital file or e-mail.

A person cannot remove books, records or files from the place the Township has provided for the inspection.

No documents shall be removed from the office of the custodian of those documents without permission of that custodian, except by court order, subpoena or for audit purposes. The official shall be given a receipt listing the records being removed. Documents may be removed from the office of the custodian of those documents with permission of that custodian to accommodate public inspection of those documents.

### **Copies May Be Required to Enable Public Inspection of Records**

In coordination with the official responsible for the records, the FOIA Coordinator will determine by policy, on a case-by-case basis, or both when the Township will provide copies of original records, to allow for blacking out exempt information, to protect old or delicate original records, or because the original record is a digital file or database not available for public inspection.

A fee will be charged for copies made to enable public inspection of records, according to the Township's FOIA policy.



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STATE OF MICHIGAN  
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## **POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR THE PUBLIC INSPECTION AND COPYING OF PUBLIC RECORDS IN LIEU OF CUSTOMARY BUSINESS HOURS**

- 1) Requests for public inspection and copying of public records may be made verbally and/or in writing.
- 2) Said requests may be directed to the township/city official and/or authorized individual responsible for said public records.
- 3) Any requests made pursuant to Michigan's Freedom of Information Act, shall be made to the FOIA coordinator and shall be subject to the statutory requirements of FOIA.
- 4) If verbal request is made, the responding township/city official and/or authorized individual shall prepare a checklist of items/records requested to be copied and/or inspected. Said listing shall be presented to the requesting party on the date set for inspection or copying.
- 5) The responding township/city official and/or authorized individual may require the requesting party to counter sign the check list to indicate compliance with the verbal request.
- 6) The responding township/city official and/or authorized individual shall be responsible for the production of the requested copies.
- 7) The requesting party shall be billed for the copies and preparation time, if applicable, pursuant to the schedule of charges established by the Township Board/City Council.
- 8) If the request is for inspection of public record, the responding township/city official and/or authorized individual shall respond in a timely manner, not to exceed 5 business days, from the date of said request. Said response shall indicate the date, time and place when said public inspection of the requested public records shall take place.
- 9) The establishment of the date and time of the public inspection of the requested public records shall be in the discretion of the responding township official and/or authorized individual. The place designated for the requested inspection shall be the Township/City Hall or the location where said public records are officially retained.
- 10) The responding township/city official and/or authorized individual shall allow such inspection between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, unless mutually agreed to by the responding township official/city and/or authorized individual and the requesting party.