

## Clark County Board of Developmental Disabilities

<b>Policy:</b>	<b>Public Records Request</b>	<b>Application:</b>	Program Wide
<b>Board Approved:</b>	March 1, 2016	<b>Policy Revised:</b>	

### Policy

#### DEFINING PUBLIC RECORDS

A “record” is defined to include the following: A document in any format – paper, electronic (including, but not limited to, business e-mail) – that is created, received by, or comes under the jurisdiction of Clark County Board of Developmental Disabilities that documents the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, operations, or other activities of the office.

A “public record” is a “record” that is being kept by this office at the time a public records request is made, subject to applicable exemptions from disclosure under Ohio or federal law. All public records must be organized and maintained in such a way that they can be made available for inspection and replication.

#### RESPONSE TIMEFRAME

Public records are to be available for inspection during regular business hours. Public records must be made available for inspection promptly. Copies of public records must be made available within a reasonable period of time. “Prompt” and “reasonable” take into account the volume of records requested, the proximity of the location where the records are stored, the necessity for any legal review and redaction, and other facts and circumstances of the records requested.

It is the goal of Clark County Board of Developmental Disabilities that all requests for public records should be acknowledged and, if possible, satisfied within three business days following the office’s receipt of the request.

#### HANDLING REQUESTS

No specific language is required to make a request for public records. However, the requester must identify the records requested with sufficient clarity to allow the office to identify, retrieve, and review the records.

The requester does not have to put a records request in writing, and does not have to provide his or her identity or the intended use of the requested public record(s). We may ask for a written request, the requester’s identity, and/or the intended use of the information requested, if (1) a written request or disclosure of identity or intended use would benefit the requester by enhancing our ability to identify, locate, or deliver the public records that have been requested; and (2) the requester is first told that a written request is not required and that the requester may decline to reveal the requester’s identity or intended use.

In processing the request, the office does not have an obligation to create new records or perform a search or research for information in the office’s records. An electronic record is deemed to exist so long as a computer is already programmed to produce the record through the office’s standard use of sorting, filtering, or querying features.

In processing a request for inspection of a public record, an office employee may accompany the requester during inspection to make certain original records are not taken or altered.

#### ELECTRONIC RECORDS

Records in the form of e-mail, text messaging, and instant messaging, including those sent and received via a hand-held communications device, are to be treated in the same fashion as records in other formats, such

as paper or audiotape.

Public record content transmitted to or from private accounts or personal devices is subject to disclosure. All employees or representatives of this office are required to retain their e-mail records and other electronic records in accordance with applicable records retention schedules.

#### DENIAL AND REDACTION OF RECORDS

If the requester makes an ambiguous or overly broad request or has difficulty in making a request such that the office cannot reasonably identify what public records are being requested, the request may be denied, but the office must then provide the requester an opportunity to revise the request by informing the requester of the manner in which records are maintained and accessed by the office.

If the office withholds, redacts, or otherwise denies requested records, it must provide an explanation, including legal authority, for the denial(s). If the initial request was made in writing, the explanation must also be in writing. If portions of a record are public and portions are exempt, the exempt portions may be redacted and the rest must be released. When making public records available for public inspection or copying, the office shall notify the requester of any redaction or make the redaction plainly visible.

#### COPYING AND MAILING COSTS

Those seeking public records may be charged only the actual cost of making copies in excess of 10 pages. There is no charge for the labor involved in fulfilling the request. The charge for electronic files downloaded to a compact disc is assessed the cost of the CD plus any cost if any in creating the electronic copy. There is no charge for e-mailed documents.

A requester is required to pay in advance for the actual costs involved in providing the copy. The requester may choose whether to have the record duplicated upon paper, upon the same medium on which the public record is kept, or upon any other medium on which the office determines that the record can reasonably be duplicated as an integral part of the office's normal operations.

If a requester asks that documents be delivered to them, he or she will be charged the actual cost of the postage or other actual costs of delivery.

#### MANAGING RECORDS

Clark County Board of Developmental Disabilities records are subject to records retention schedules. The office's current schedules are available in the HR office at 2527 Kenton Street, a location readily available to the public as required by Ohio Revised Code §149.43(B) (2).