

**CITY OF SAINT PAUL
GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES
FOR THE
MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT DATA PRACTICES ACT
UPDATED 2012**

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INTRODUCTION

The Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, found at Minnesota Statutes Sections 13.01 – 13.99, regulates all government data collected, received, maintained, disseminated or stored by a state agency, political subdivision or state-wide system. See <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?view=part&start=13&close=13C>

Minnesota Statutes Sections 138.161 – 138.225 governs the retention, storage, and disposition of government data. See <http://www.mcfoa.org/vertical/Sites/%7B067FFB58-E3CD-42BA-9FB1-11EFC7933168%7D/uploads/%7B6ADE9FAA-D990-4057-AF2B-77EB5ED7E3B7%7D.PDF>

The City of Saint Paul's Data Retrieval Fees Policy implemented by Executive Order on November 11, 1986 governs the charging of fees for copies of government data. See Appendix A.

These policies and procedures are written to assist you in making decisions in the areas listed above. If you have any questions, please call the City Attorney's Office at (651) 266-8710.

I. RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY

The person who is the responsible authority for compliance with the Act is Shari Moore, City Clerk of the City of Saint Paul. The responsible authority has designated certain other City employees to assist in complying with the Act. These designees are listed on attached Appendix A.

II. COLLECTION, STORAGE AND DISPOSITION OF GOVERNMENT DATA

A. Collection

Government data means all data created, collected, received, maintained or disseminated by any state agency, political subdivision or statewide system regardless of the data's physical form, storage media or conditions of use. Government data includes all papers, cards, correspondence, discs, maps, memoranda, microfilms, photographs, recordings, reports, tapes, writings, computer medium and other data, information or documentary material.

The information collected must be accurate, complete, and current for the purposes for which it was collected. At any time a data subject may contest the accuracy and completeness of the data.

Minnesota Statute Chapter 13 "establishes a presumption that government data are public and are accessible by the public for both inspection and copying unless there is federal law, a state statute, or a temporary classification of data that provides that certain data are not public." Minn. Stat. § 13.01, subd. 3 (1998).

B. Storage And Disposition

While some records must be kept for a period prescribed by law, a specific retention period for many government records is not prescribed. Those records may not be disposed of without the prior approval of the Records Disposition Panel. Unauthorized destruction of government records is a misdemeanor.

To obtain application forms for either a records retention schedule or disposition of specific records, call the Records Management Division of the Minnesota Department of Administration at 296-0257.

Each City department must keep its records in such an arrangement and condition as to make them easily accessible for convenient use.

III. CLASSIFICATION OF GOVERNMENT DATA

A. Data On Individuals

Data on individuals means all government data in which any individual is or can be identified as the subject of the data unless the appearance of the name or other identifying data can be clearly demonstrated to be only incidental to the data and the data are not accessed by the name or other identifying data of any individual.

Public data on individuals is data on individuals, living or dead, which is accessible to the public. Unless classified otherwise by state or federal law or temporary classification, all data on individuals is accessible to the public regardless of its interest in the data.

Private data on individuals is data which is not accessible to the public but is accessible to the data subject. Data on individuals is private if so classified by state or federal law or temporary classification. In addition to the data subject, private data is also accessible to the data subject's representative, individuals, entities or persons given express written permission by the data subject, a minor's parent or guardian, personnel within the governmental entity whose work assignments reasonably require access, individuals, entities or persons authorized by state or federal law, and pursuant to a court order.

Except when asked to supply investigative data to a law enforcement officer, an individual asked to supply private data concerning the individual must be informed of certain facts as set forth in Minnesota Statutes Section 13.04, Subd. 2. This is known as the *Tennessee* Warning. This warning must contain the following:

- < the purpose and intended use of the requested data,
- < whether the individual may refuse or is legally required to supply the requested data,
- < any known consequences from supplying or refusing to supply the information, and
- < the identity of other persons or entities authorized by state or federal law to receive the data.

Challenge to Data Accuracy. An individual who is the subject of public or private data may contest the accuracy or completeness of that data maintained by

the City. The individual must notify the City's responsible authority in writing describing the nature of the disagreement. Within 30 days, the responsible authority or designee must respond and either (1) correct the data found to be inaccurate or incomplete and attempt to notify past recipients of inaccurate or incomplete data, including recipients named by the individual, or (2) notify the individual that the authority believes the data to be correct.

An individual who is dissatisfied with the responsible authority's action may appeal to the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Administration, using the contested case procedures under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 14. The responsible authority will correct any data if so ordered by the Commissioner.

Data Protection

A. Accuracy and Currency of Data.

- < All employees will be requested, and given appropriate forms, to provide updated personal information to the appropriate supervisor, City Clerk, or Finance Director, which is necessary for tax, insurance, emergency notification, and other personnel purposes. Other people who provide private or confidential information will also be encouraged to provide updated information when appropriate.
- < Department heads should periodically review forms used to collect data on individuals to delete items that are not necessary and to clarify items that may be ambiguous.
- < All records must be disposed of according to the City's records retention schedule.

B. Data Safeguards.

- < Private and confidential information will be stored in files or databases which are not readily accessible to individuals who do not have authorized access and which will be secured during hours when the offices are closed.
- < Private and confidential data must be kept only in City offices, except when necessary for City business.
- < Only those employees whose job responsibilities require them to have access will be allowed access to files and records that contain private or confidential information. These employees will be instructed to:

- not discuss, disclose, or otherwise release private or confidential data to City employees whose job responsibilities do not require access to the data,
- not leave private or confidential data where non-authorized individuals might see it, and
- shred private or confidential data before discarding.

Private data on decedents means data which, prior to the death of a data subject, were classified by state or federal law or temporary classification as private data. Private data on decedents is accessible to the representative of the decedent, the trustee appointed in a wrongful death action, individuals, entities or persons given express written permission by the data subject or the representative of the decedent, persons, individuals or entities authorized by state or federal law, personnel within the entity whose work assignments reasonably require access, and pursuant to a court order. Private data on decedents is public ten years after the actual or presumed death of the data subject **and** thirty years after the creation of the data. “Nonpublic data concerning a decedent, created or collected after death, are accessible by the representative of the decedent.” Minn. Stat. § 13.10, subd. 3 (1998).

Confidential data on individuals means data which by state or federal law or temporary classification is not accessible to the public or to the subject of the data. Confidential data on individuals is accessible to individuals authorized by state or federal law, personnel within the entity whose work assignments reasonably require access, and pursuant to a court order.

Except when asked to supply investigative data to a law enforcement officer, an individual asked to supply confidential data concerning the individual must be informed of certain facts as set forth in Minnesota Statutes Section 13.04, Subd. 2. **Confidential data on decedents** means data which, prior to the death of a data subject, were classified by state or federal law or temporary classification as confidential data. Confidential data on decedents is accessible to individuals authorized by state or federal law, personnel within the entity whose work assignments reasonably require access, and pursuant to a court order. Confidential data on decedents is public ten years after the actual or presumed death of the data subject **and** thirty years after the creation of the data. “Nonpublic data concerning a decedent, created after death, are accessible by the representative of the decedent.” Minn. Stat. § 13.10, subd. 3 (1998).

B. Summary Data

Summary data means statistical records and reports derived from data on individuals but in which the individuals are not in any way identifiable. Summary data is public data unless otherwise classified by state or federal law or temporary classification.

C. **Data Not On Individuals**

Public data not on individuals is data accessible to the public unless otherwise classified by state or federal law or temporary classification.

Nonpublic data not on individuals means data which is not public but is accessible to the subject of the data, if any. As used here, the “subject of the data” means an individual, partnership, corporation, etc. Data not on individuals is nonpublic if so classified by state or federal law or temporary classification. Nonpublic data is accessible to the subject of the data, if any, individuals, entities or persons authorized by state or federal law, personnel within the entity whose work assignments reasonably require access, and pursuant to a court order. However, nonpublic data “may be discussed at a meeting open to the public to the extent provided in section 471.705, subdivision 1d.” Minn. Stat. § 13.03, subd. 11 (1998).

Except for security information, nonpublic data shall become public ten years after the data was created, collected or received by the governmental agency. Access may be denied if release of the data will result in a harm to the public or data subject which outweighs the benefit to the public.

Protected nonpublic data not on individuals means data which is not public and not accessible to the subject of the data. Data not on individuals is protected nonpublic if so classified by state or federal law or temporary classification. Protected nonpublic data is accessible to individuals, entities or persons authorized by state or federal law, personnel within the entity whose work assignments reasonably require access, and pursuant to a court order.

Except for security information, protected nonpublic data shall become public ten years after the data was created, collected or received by the governmental agency. Access may be denied if release of the data will result in a harm to the public or data subject which outweighs the benefit to the public.

D. **Juvenile Records.** The following applies to *private* (not confidential) data about people under the age of 18.

< **Parental Access.** In addition to the people listed above who may have access to

private data, a parent may have access to private information about a juvenile data subject. "Parent" means the parent or guardian of a juvenile data subject, or individual acting as a parent or guardian in the absence of a parent or guardian. The parent is presumed to have this right unless the responsible authority or designee has been given evidence that there is a state law, court order, or other legally binding document which prohibits this right.

- < **Notice to Juvenile.** Before requesting private data from juveniles, city personnel must notify the juveniles that they may request that the information not be given to their parent(s). This notice should be in the form attached as Exhibit 6.

- < **Denial of Parental Access.** The responsible authority or designee may deny parental access to private data when the juvenile requests this denial and the responsible authority or designee determines that withholding the data would be in the best interest of the juvenile. The request from the juvenile must be in writing stating the reasons for the request. In determining the best interest of the juvenile, the responsible authority or designee will consider:
 - Whether the juvenile is of sufficient age and maturity to explain the reasons and understand the consequences,
 - Whether denying access may protect the juvenile from physical or emotional harm,
 - Whether there is reasonable grounds to support the juvenile's reasons, and
 - Whether the data concerns medical, dental, or other health services provided under Minnesota Statutes Sections 144.341 to 144.347. If so, the data may be released only if failure to inform the parent would seriously jeopardize the health of the minor.

The responsible authority or designee may also deny parental access without a request from the juvenile under Minnesota Statutes Section 144.335.

III. TEMPORARY CLASSIFICATION

Unless a state or federal law expressly classifies government data as not public (i.e., private, confidential, nonpublic or protected nonpublic), the data is public and accessible to anyone. The temporary classification system was established to reclassify data when a governmental agency has a compelling reason to protect otherwise unprotected data. Minn. Stat. § 13.06, subd. 7 (1998) provides that "On or before January 15 of each year, the commissioner shall submit all temporary

classifications in effect on January 1 in bill form to the legislature. The temporary classification expires June 1 of the year following its submission to the legislature.” Note that “unless otherwise expressly provided by a particular statute, the classification of data is determined by the law applicable to the data at the time a request for access to the data is made, regardless of the data’s classification at the time it was collected, created, or received.” Minn. Stat. § 13.03, subd. 9 (1998).

Temporary classification forms may be obtained from the Data Privacy Division of the State Department of Administration (296-6733). See Appendix D and D1. The City Attorney’s Office will assist you in completing the forms.

IV REQUESTS FOR GOVERNMENT DATA

A. Requests For Data – General

Upon request to the responsible authority or the designee, an authorized individual, entity or person shall be permitted to inspect and copy government data at reasonable times and places and if the party requests, s/he shall be informed of the data’s meaning.

“If a person requests copies or electronic transmittal of the data to the person, the responsible authority may require the requesting person to pay the actual costs of searching for and retrieving governmental data, including the cost of employee time, and for making, certifying, compiling, and electronically transmitting the copies of the data or the data, but may not charge for separating public from not public data.” Minn. Stat. § 13.03, subd. 3 (1998). See also Minn. Stat. § 13.05, subd. 4(d)(7). See the data retrieval policy implemented by administrative order (Appendix C).

The responsible authority may also charge an additional fee if the copies have commercial value and are a substantial and discrete portion of a formula, compilation, program, process, or system developed with significant expenditure of public funds. This additional fee must relate to the actual development costs of the information.

If the request is unclear or for many documents or for a variety of information or the data is not easily retrievable and involves the collating of data from a number of sources, you may require the request to be put in writing.

Regardless of where the data originates, if it is in your possession, it is

government data and subject to the access provisions of the law. “Unless otherwise expressly provided by a particular statute, the classification of data is determined by the law applicable to the data at the time a request for access to the data is made, regardless of the data’s classification at the time it was collected, created, or received.” Minn. Stat. § 13.03, subd. 9 (1998).

Requested information is to be released as promptly as circumstances allow and in an impartial, courteous and objective manner. Data may not be withheld, delayed or selectively released to favor any person, agency or media. Specific independent inquiries, especially from the media, are to be honored in the order received.

B. Requests For Data On Individuals By The Data Subject

Any individual may request verbally or in writing if the City has stored data about that individual and whether the data is classified as public, private, or confidential.

Upon request and when access/copies are authorized, the designee shall provide copies of the private or public data on individuals to the subject of the data or the subject’s authorized representative.

The designee shall comply immediately, if possible, or within five working days of the date of the request if immediate compliance is not possible. If the responsible authority or designee cannot comply with the request within that time, s/he shall inform the requestor, and may have an additional five working days within which to comply with the request.

The responsible authority or designee must verify the identity of the requesting party as a person entitled to access. This can be through personal knowledge, presentation of written identification, comparison of the data subject’s signature on a consent form with the person’s signature in City records, or other reasonable means.

If access is authorized, the responsible authority or designee **must** supply the requested data within ten working days.

If the requested data is classified so as to deny access to the data subject, then see VII.

C. Requests For Summary Data

Unless classified by a state statute, federal law or temporary classification, summary data derived from private or confidential data on individuals is public and the responsible authority or designee shall inform the requestor of the estimated costs of preparing the summary data, if any.

The responsible authority or the designee shall:

1. Provide the summary data requested as soon as reasonably possible; OR
2. Provide a written statement to the requestor, giving a time schedule for preparing the requested data, including reasons for any delays; OR
3. Provide access to the requestor to the private or confidential data so that the requestor can compile the summary. Such access will be provided only when the requestor signs a non-disclosure agreement; OR
4. Provide a written statement to the requestor stating reasons why the requestor's access would compromise the private or confidential data.

A NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT is used to protect the confidentiality of government data when the requestor of the summary data will prepare the summary by accessing private or confidential data on individuals. A non-disclosure agreement shall contain at least the following:

1. A general description of the private or confidential data which is being used to prepare summary data;
2. The purpose for which the summary data is being prepared;
3. A statement that the preparer (requestor) understands s/he may be subject to the civil or criminal penalty provisions of the Act in the event that the private or confidential data is disclosed;
4. A section in which the preparer (requestor), in consideration for being given access to private or confidential data, agrees not to disclose data in any form that would identify or tend to identify an individual and that s/he also agrees to defend and indemnify the City of Saint Paul and any of its employees in any legal actions

brought as a result of his/her having access to private or confidential data.

5. A description of the civil and criminal penalty provisions of the Act.
6. The signature of the requestor and the responsible authority, designee or his/her representative.

D. Requests For Government Data By Other Government Agencies

A responsible authority may allow another responsible authority access to data classified as other than public ONLY when the access is authorized or required by state statute or federal law.

An agency that supplies government data may require the requesting agency to pay the actual cost of supplying the data when the requested data is NOT provided in the normal course of business and NOT required by state or federal law.

Data shall have the same classification in the hands of the agency receiving it as it had in the agency providing it unless the classification is required to change to meet judicial or administrative requirements. When practical and necessary, the agency providing the requested information shall indicate the classification of the information if the data is classified as “not public.” “If a state agency, statewide system, or political subdivision disseminates data to another state agency, statewide system, or political subdivision, a classification provided for by law in the hands of the entity receiving the data does not affect the classification of the data in the hands of the entity that disseminates the data.” Minn. Stat. § 13.03, subd.4(d) (1998).

When necessary, the requesting agency, if not listed on the “Tennessee Warning,” should obtain informed consent from the data subject(s) for information classified as private or confidential. Minnesota Statutes Section 13.04, Subd. 2.

A. Requests For All Other Government Data

For requests from parties other than individual data subjects or government agencies or persons, when access is authorized, the responsible authority or designee should provide data on request.

If access is authorized and the responsible authority or designee is not able to provide copies at the time the request is made, s/he shall supply copies as soon as reasonably possible.

B. Denying Requests For Access To Government Data

Access to government data may be denied when the data is classified by state statute or federal law as not accessible to the requestor.

Any person denied access to government data shall be informed orally at the time of the request or in writing as soon after that time as possible of the specific state statute, federal law or temporary classification upon which the denial is based.

Further, upon the request of any person denied access, the responsible authority or designee shall certify in writing that the request for access has been denied and cite the specific state statute, federal law or temporary classification upon which the denial was based.

VI. VIOLATION OF THE ACT

A non-willful violation may be punished by assessment against the City of damages suffered by the person aggrieved. In the case of a willful violation, the City may, in addition, be liable to exemplary damages of not less than \$100 nor more than \$10,000 for each violation. Minnesota Statutes Section 13.08, Subd. 1.

A person who willfully violates the Act is guilty of a misdemeanor. Willful violation constitutes just cause for suspension without pay or dismissal. Minnesota Statutes Section 13.09.

Appendix A

TO: Chris Coleman, Mayor
FROM: Shari Moore, City Clerk
RE: Updated Responsible Authority Designees*
DATE: February 8, 2012

Pursuant to Council Files 05-80 and 06-20, I am the Responsible Authority for the City of Saint Paul for the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §13.03, I have the authority to designate one or more designees.

I hereby designate the incumbents of the following job titles as designees for their respective departments or offices. These designees may further assign designees within their respective departments or offices.

<u>Job Title</u>	<u>Department/Office</u>	<u>Name</u>
City Attorney	City Attorney	Sara Grewing
Director	City Council Operations	Trudy Moloney
Director	Emergency Management	Rick Larkin
Director	Financial Services	Todd Hurley
Fire Chief	Fire and Safety Services	Tim Butler
Director	Human Resources	Angie Nalezny
Director	Human Rights & Equal Economic Opp.	Luz Maria Frias
Director	Library Agency	Kit Hadley
Deputy Mayor	Mayor	Paul Williams
Director	Parks and Recreation	Mike Hahm
Director	Planning and Economic Development	Cecile Bedor
Police Chief	Police	Tom Smith
Director	Public Works	Rich Lallier
Director	Safety and Inspections	Ricardo Cervantes
General Manager	Saint Paul Regional Water Services	Steve Schneider
Director	Technology	Andrea Casselton

*This memo replaces my memo to you dated June 17, 2010.

C: City Council
Department and Office Directors

Appendix B

Fees For Providing Copies of Public Government Data

Effective August 1, 2005

This document is intended to guide government entities in determining an appropriate fee for providing copies of public government data when the requester is not the subject of the data *and* the copy fee is not established specifically by statute.

Minnesota Statutes, section 13.03 provides that, if a person requests copies or electronic transmittal of public government data, and the requester is not the subject of the data, the responsible authority for the government entity *may* require the requester to pay a fee. Amendments to section 13.03 in 2005 require entities to calculate any fee that is charged by using *one* of the two methods below. (Minnesota Session Laws 2005, Chapter 163, section 8, effective August 1, 2005.) Regardless of which method is used, the entity may not charge for separating public data from not public data.

Fee Calculation Method I

If 100 or fewer pages of black and white, letter or legal size paper copies are requested, the entity **may** charge a **per-page fee** of not more than 25 cents for each page copied (50 cents for a two-sided copy). The entity is authorized to charge *only* the per-page fee and *cannot* require the requester to pay *any* of the costs listed in Fee Calculation Method II. This provision should not be interpreted to permit division of a single request into requests for copies of fewer than 100 pages in order to avoid charging a fee based on the actual costs of providing copies.

Fee Calculation Method II

In all other circumstances, including requests to provide data via facsimile, the entity **may** require the requester to pay the **actual costs** of *searching* for and *retrieving* the data, including the cost of employee time, and for *making, certifying, compiling* and *electronically transmitting* copies of the data or the data themselves. Additional criteria for determining copy costs using Method II are set forth at Minnesota Rules, part 1205.0300, subpart 4. The entity may not charge a minimum fee.

Certain advisory opinions, issued pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 13.072, have established the following criteria for determining copy costs using Method II. (See the opinion index on IPAD's website; specifically, the topical index category, Copy costs.)

A. Costs that *may be included* as long as they are *reasonable*:

- ◆ Staff time required to:
 - Retrieve documents

Sort and label documents, *only* if necessary to identify the data to be copied
Remove staples or paper clips
Take documents to copier for copying
Copy documents

Notes: The entity may not assess a fee for labor costs (wages/salary plus benefits) that exceed those of the lowest-paid employee who could complete the task(s) performed. The requirement that data be kept in a manner that makes them easily accessible for convenient use may limit the entity in charging for staff time.

- ◆ Materials (paper, copier ink, staples, magnetic tapes, video or audio cassettes, etc.)
- ◆ Special costs associated with making copies from computerized data, such as writing or modifying a computer program to format data. *Note:* Computerized data must be kept in a manner that makes the data easily accessible for convenient use.
- ◆ Mailing costs
- ◆ Vehicle costs directly involved in transporting data to the appropriate facility when necessary to provide copies (for example, when the entity is unable to provide copying services for photographs, oversized documents, videos, etc.)
- ◆ Electricity costs when the requester uses own scanner to make an unusually large number of copies

B. Costs that *may not* be included:

- ◆ Purchase or rental of copier
- ◆ Maintenance of copier
- ◆ Normal operating expenses of computer/copier, including electricity used, and machine wear/tear
- ◆ Depreciation of copier
- ◆ Staff time required to:
 - Separate public from not public data
 - Open a data request that was mailed
 - Sort, label or review data, *if not necessary* to identify the data to be copied
 - Return documents to storage
 - Provide information about the data to the requester (i.e., explain content and meaning of data)
 - Prepare data for mailing

Prepare cover letter, fax sheet or invoice for copies
Credit payment and perform other associated accounting functions

Note: The entity may not assess a fee for labor costs (wages/salary plus benefits) that exceed those of the lowest-paid employee who could complete the task(s) performed

- ◆ Administrative costs that are not related to copying
- ◆ Records storage
- ◆ Sales tax
- ◆ The entire cost of operating a multi-tasked computer for a measured unit of time, when fulfilling a request for copies was only one of the tasks performed during that unit of time
- ◆ Costs incurred because data are not maintained in a manner that makes them easily accessible for convenient use
- ◆ Search and retrieval costs when data are inspected but no copies are requested

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