

## Records Maintenance and Release

### 804.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance on the maintenance and release of department records. Protected information is separately covered in the Protected Information Policy.

### 804.2 POLICY

The Jackson Township Police Department is committed to providing public access to records in a manner that is consistent with the Ohio Public Records Act (ORC § 149.43).

### 804.3 CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS

The Administrative Lieutenant shall be designated the Custodian of Records. The responsibilities of the Custodian of Records include but are not limited to (ORC § 149.43):

- (a) Managing the records management system for the Department, including the retention, archiving, release, and destruction of department public records.
- (b) Maintaining and updating the department records retention schedule, including:
  - 1. Identifying the minimum length of time the Department must keep records.
  - 2. Identifying the department division responsible for the original record.
  - 3. Making a copy of the current retention schedule readily available to the public.
- (c) Establishing rules regarding the inspection and copying of department public records as reasonably necessary for the protection of such records.
  - 1. The Custodian of Records may limit the number of records requested by a person that the Department will physically deliver via mail or by another delivery service to 10 records per month unless the requester certifies in writing that they do not intend to use or forward the requested records, or information contained in the records, for commercial purposes.
  - 2. Records in digital format that are publicly available on the internet may be limited as set forth in ORC § 149.43.
- (d) Identifying records or portions of records that are confidential under state or federal law and not open for inspection or copying.
- (e) Establishing rules regarding the processing of subpoenas for the production of records.
- (f) Ensuring the availability of a current schedule of fees for public records as allowed by law.
  - 1. Fees shall not be charged for preparing a video record for inspection or production when the requester is a victim, or legal counsel or insurer of the victim and where the requirements for waiver of fees are met as described in ORC § 149.43(B)(11).

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- (g) Preparing a notice that incorporates this policy and ensuring that it is displayed in conspicuous places in all locations where department records are available to the public.
- (h) Maintaining current information on the department website that relates to public records release.
- (i) Ensuring that records are organized and maintained in such a manner as to make them available for inspection or copying.
- (j) Selecting appropriate public records, if any, to publish on the department website.
- (k) Establishing records destruction procedures.

#### **804.4 PROCESSING REQUESTS FOR PUBLIC RECORDS**

Any department member who receives a request for any record shall route the request to the Custodian of Records or the authorized designee.

##### **804.4.1 REQUESTS FOR RECORDS**

The processing of requests for any record is subject to the following (ORC § 149.43):

- (a) The Department is not required to create records that do not exist.
- (b) When a record contains material with release restrictions and material that is not subject to release restrictions, the restricted material shall be redacted and the unrestricted material released.
  - (a) The requester shall be notified of any redaction in the public record if the redaction is not plainly visible.
- (c) If a request is ambiguous or overly broad, or if the Custodian of Records cannot reasonably identify what public records are being requested, the request may be denied.
  - (a) The requester shall be provided with an opportunity to revise the request and shall be informed by the Custodian of Records of the manner in which records are maintained by the Department and how the records are accessed in the ordinary course of business.
- (d) A person requesting records may be asked to make a request for records in writing to expedite processing of the request and may be asked for his/her identity. Prior to such a request, the person shall be told that:
  - 1. There is no requirement to provide a written request.
  - 2. There is no requirement to provide his/her identity.
  - 3. There is no requirement to disclose the intended use of the records.
  - 4. The purpose of the written request or disclosure of the person's identity or intended use would benefit the person making the request by enhancing the ability of the Custodian of Records to identify, locate or deliver the records requested.

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- (e) Fees for copies or the cost of delivery or transmission of the records to the requester should be paid in advance.
- (f) If a request is denied, either in whole or in part, the Custodian of Records shall provide the requester with an explanation setting forth the reason(s) for the denial, including the legal authority relied upon in making the determination. If the initial request was in writing, the explanation shall also be provided in writing.

#### **804.4.2 REQUESTS FOR VIDEO RECORDS**

Requestors who request any public record that is kept in video format will be required to pre-pay the estimated actual cost associated with preparing a video record for inspection or production. In addition to the items listed above (804.4.1 Requests For Records), the processing of requests for video records is subject to the following (ORC § 149.43):

- (a) The estimated actual cost must be paid before the Jackson Township Police Department will begin the process of preparing a video record.
- (b) Requestors will be charged at a rate of seventy dollars (\$70) per hour of video for the estimated actual cost of preparing each video requested.
  - 1. No requestor will be charged a total fee that exceeds seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750), per request.
- (c) The estimated actual cost shall be provided to the requestor within five business days of receipt of the public records request.
- (d) If the actual cost exceeds the estimated actual cost, the requestor will be charged the difference upon fulfilling the request.
  - 1. The requestor will not be charged a difference that exceeds twenty percent (20%) of the estimated actual cost.
- (e) A fee will not be charged when the requestor of the video record is the victim, legal counsel or insurer of the victim.

#### **804.5 RELEASE RESTRICTIONS**

Examples of release restrictions include:

- (a) Any personal identifying information, including an individual's photograph; Social Security and driver identification numbers; name, address, and telephone number; and medical or disability information that is contained in any driver license record, motor vehicle record, or any department record, including traffic collision reports, is restricted except as authorized by the Department, and only when such use or disclosure is permitted or required by law to carry out a legitimate law enforcement purpose (18 USC § 2721; 18 USC § 2722; ORC § 4501.27; ORC § 149.45).
- (b) Victim information that may be protected by statutes, including (ORC § 2930.04):
  - 1. Photographs or images of victims as prohibited by ORC § 149.43 (ORC § 2907.11).
  - 2. Identifying information of victims as provided in ORC § 2930.04 and ORC § 2930.07.

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3. Victim's Rights Request Forms.
- (c) Juvenile-related information that may be protected by statutes (ORC § 149.435).
- (d) Confidential investigatory records of the Department that pertain to a law enforcement matter of criminal, quasi-criminal, civil, or administrative nature if release would create a high probability of disclosure of any of the following (ORC § 149.43):
  1. Identity of a suspect not yet charged with an offense to which the record pertains
  2. Identity of an information source or witness to whom confidentiality has been reasonably assured. This also includes information provided by an information source or witness if the release would tend to disclose the person's identity.
  3. Confidential investigatory techniques, procedures, or specific investigatory work product as defined in ORC § 149.43.
  4. Information that would endanger the life or physical safety of a member, crime victim, witness, or confidential information source
- (e) Certain types of reports involving but not limited to child abuse and molestation (ORC § 2151.421) and adult abuse (ORC § 5101.61).
- (f) Records pertaining to the residential or family information of peace officers and dispatchers (ORC § 149.43).
- (g) Personally identifiable information of a program participant of the Ohio Secretary of State's address confidentiality program (ORC § 149.43).
- (h) Restricted portions of recordings made by a dashcam or a member's body-worn camera as provided in ORC § 149.43(A)(1). Certain recordings may be disclosed with the consent of the subject of the recording or the subject's representative pursuant to the requirements of ORC §149.43 (H)(1).
- (i) Images and data captured by an automated license plate recognition system maintained in a law enforcement database (ORC §149.43).
- (j) Any other information that may be appropriately denied by ORC §149.43(A)(1).

#### 804.5.1 ENHANCED RECORDS ACCESS BY JOURNALISTS

- (a) Journalists, as defined in ORC § 149.43, are entitled to enhanced access to certain records not available to the general public provided:
  - (a) The request is in writing.
  - (b) Journalists identify themselves by name, title, and employer's name and address.
  - (c) Journalists establish and sign a request that the information sought is in the public interest.
- (b) Records available to journalists but not the general public include:
  1. Personal residential addresses of an officer or dispatcher of this department (ORC § 149.43).

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2. The business name and address of a spouse, former spouse, or child of an officer of this department, only if employed by a public office (ORC § 149.43).
3. Past, current, and future work schedules of an officer or dispatcher of this department (ORC § 149.43).
4. Coroner records pursuant to ORC § 313.10.
5. The name, county of residence, and date of birth of a person for whom the sheriff issued, suspended, or revoked a permit for a concealed weapon (ORC § 2923.129).
6. The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of workers' compensation claimants subject to the requirements and restrictions in ORC § 4123.88(D).
7. Limited information about minors involved in a school vehicle accident (ORC § 149.43).
8. A redaction request form submitted to this department pursuant to ORC § 149.45 (ORC § 149.43).

#### **804.6 SUBPOENAS AND DISCOVERY REQUESTS**

Any member who receives a subpoena duces tecum or discovery request for records should promptly contact a supervisor and the Custodian of Records for review and processing. While a subpoena duces tecum may ultimately be subject to compliance, it is not an order from the court that will automatically require the release of the requested information.

Generally, discovery requests and subpoenas from criminal defendants and their authorized representatives (including attorneys) should be referred to the Massillon Prosecutor's Office, Law Director or the courts.

All questions regarding compliance with any subpoena duces tecum or discovery request should be promptly referred to legal counsel for the Department so that a timely response can be prepared.

#### **804.7 SEALED RECORDS OR EXPUNGEMENT**

Expungement orders or an order to seal records received by the Department shall be reviewed for appropriate action by the Custodian of Records or designee. The Custodian of Records, or designee, shall expunge or seal such records as ordered by the court. Records may include but are not limited to a record of arrest, investigation, detention, or conviction. Once expunged or sealed, members shall respond to any inquiry as though the record did not exist.

#### **804.8 TRAINING**

The Custodian of Records and any member who may be responsible for access or release of public records shall attend training approved by the Ohio Attorney General, such as that provided by the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP).

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The Custodian of Records and all department members shall acknowledge and sign that they have read and received a copy of this policy (ORC § 149.43).

#### **804.9 SECURITY BREACHES**

Members who become aware that any Jackson Township Police Department system containing personal information may have been breached should notify the Major as soon as practicable. The Major shall ensure the required notice is given to any resident of this state whose unsecured personal information is reasonably believed to have been acquired by an unauthorized person (ORC § 1347.12).

Notice shall be given in the most expedient time possible but not later than 45 days following its discovery or notice of the breach consistent with any measures necessary to determine the scope of the breach, including which residents' personal information was accessed and acquired and to restore the reasonable integrity of the data system. Notice may be delayed if notification will impede a criminal investigation or jeopardize homeland or national security but notice shall be made once it is determined that disclosure or notification will not compromise the investigation or jeopardize homeland or national security (ORC § 1347.12).

For the purposes of the notice requirement, personal information includes an individual's first name or first initial and last name in combination with any one or more of the following (ORC § 1347.12):

- (a) Social Security number
- (b) Driver's license number or Ohio identification card number
- (c) Full account number, credit or debit card number, in combination with and linked to any required security code, access code, or password that would permit access to an individual's financial account

If the breach reasonably appears to have been made to protected information covered in the Protected Information Policy, the Major should promptly notify the appropriate member designated to oversee the security of protected information (see the Protected Information Policy).