



**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT
PROCEDURES & GUIDELINES
Adopted: June 16, 2022**

Statement of Principles

It is the policy of Antrim County (the County) that all persons, except those who are serving a sentence of imprisonment, consistent with the Michigan Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), are entitled to full and complete information regarding the affairs of government and the official acts of those who represent them as public officials and employees. The people shall be informed so that they fully participate in the democratic process.

Section 1: General Policies

Pursuant to MCL 15.236, the Chair of the Antrim County Board of Commissioners is the FOIA Coordinator. Acting under the authority of MCL 15.236, the Chair of the Antrim County Board of Commissioners designates the Antrim County Administrator to act on his or her behalf to accept and process written requests for the County's public records and approve denials. In addition, the following County Officials are designated to accept and process written requests for the public records from their respective departments and approve denials on behalf of the Chair:

County Clerk	All public records maintained by the Clerk's office, except those records maintained solely in the Clerk's role as Clerk to the Antrim County Circuit Court.
County Treasurer	All public records maintained by the Treasurer's office
County Register of Deeds	All public records maintained by the Register of Deeds office
Sheriff	All public records maintained by the Sheriff's office
Prosecuting Attorney	All public records maintained by the Prosecuting Attorney office

If a request for a public record is received by facsimile or e-mail, the request is deemed to have been received on the following business day. If a request is sent by e-mail and delivered to a spam or junk-mail folder, the request is not deemed received until one day after the FOIA Coordinator first becomes aware of the request. The FOIA Coordinator shall note in the FOIA log both the date the request was delivered to the spam or junk-mail folder and the date the FOIA Coordinator became aware of the request.

All County spam and junk email folders within a County email account shall be reviewed on a regular basis, which shall be no less than once a month. The FOIA Coordinator shall work with County Information Technology staff to develop administrative rules for

handling spam and junk mail so as to protect County systems from computer attacks which may be imbedded in an electronic FOIA request.

The FOIA Coordinator may, in his or her discretion, implement administrative rules, consistent with State law and these Procedures and Guidelines to administer the acceptance and processing of FOIA requests.

The County is not obligated to create a new public record or make a compilation or summary of information which does not already exist. Neither the FOIA Coordinator nor other County staff are obligated to provide answers to questions contained in requests for public records or regarding the content of the records themselves.

The FOIA Coordinator shall keep a copy of all written requests for public records received by the County on file for a period of at least one year.

The County will make this Procedures and Guidelines document and the Written Public Summary publicly available without charge. If it does not, the County cannot require deposits or charge fees otherwise permitted under the FOIA until it is in compliance.

A copy of this Procedures and Guidelines document and the County's Written Public Summary must be publicly available by providing free copies both in the County's response to a written request and upon request by visitors at any County office.

This Procedures and Guidelines document and the County's Written Public Summary will be maintained on the County's website at: <https://www.antrimcounty.org/government/foia.php> and a link to those documents will be provided in lieu of providing paper copies of those documents in the County's response to a written request.

Section 2: Requesting a Public Record

A person requesting to inspect or obtain copies of public records prepared, owned, used, possessed or retained by the County must do so in writing. The request must sufficiently describe a public record so as to enable County personnel to identify and find the requested public record.

No specific form to submit a request for a public record is required. However, the FOIA Coordinator may make available a FOIA Request Form for use by the public.

Written requests for public records may be submitted in person or by mail to any County office. Requests may also be submitted electronically by facsimile and e-mail. Although, offices listed in Section 1 are authorized to answer FOIA requests sent directly to their office, upon receipt, a copy of the request for public records shall be promptly forwarded to the FOIA Coordinator by the County offices. The FOIA Coordinator will keep track of statutory deadlines for the provision of an answer, keep a log of all requests, and notify the office receiving the request when to purge the documents consistent with the statutory retention requirements.

A person may request that public records be provided on non-paper physical media, electronically mailed or otherwise provided to him or her in lieu of paper copies. The County will comply with the request only if it possesses the necessary technological capability to provide records in the requested non-paper physical media format.

A person may subscribe to future issues of public records that are created, issued or disseminated by the County on a regular basis. A subscription is valid for up to 6 months and may be renewed by the subscriber.

A person who makes a verbal, non-written request for information believed to be available on the County's website, where practicable and to the best ability of the employee receiving the request, shall be informed of the pertinent website address.

A person serving a sentence of imprisonment in a local, state or federal correctional facility is not entitled to submit a request for a public record. The FOIA Coordinator will deny all such requests.

Section 3: Processing a Request

Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the person making the request, within 5 business days of receipt of a FOIA request the County will issue a response. If a request is received by facsimile, e-mail or other electronic transmission, the request is deemed to have been received on the following business day.

The County will respond to the request in one of the following ways:

- Grant the request.
- Issue a written notice denying the request.
- Grant the request in part and issue a written notice denying in part the request.
- Issue a notice indicating that due to the nature of the request the County needs an additional 10 business days to respond. Only one such extension is permitted.
- Issue a written notice indicating that the public record requested is available at no charge on the County's website.

When a request is granted or granted in part:

If the request is granted, or granted in part, the FOIA Coordinator will require that payment be made in full for the allowable fees associated with responding to the request before the public record is made available. The FOIA Coordinator shall provide a detailed itemization of the allowable costs incurred to process the request to the person making the request. A copy of these Procedures and Guidelines shall be provided to the requestor with the response to a written request for public records, provided however, that if these Procedures and Guidelines, and its Written Public Summary are maintained on the County's website, then a website link to those documents may be provided in lieu of providing paper copies.

If the cost of processing a FOIA request is \$50 or less, the requester will be notified of the amount due and where the documents can be obtained.

If based on a good faith calculation by the County, the cost of processing a FOIA request is expected to exceed \$50, or if the requestor has not fully paid for a previously granted request, the County will require a good-faith deposit before processing the request. In making the request for a good-faith deposit the FOIA Coordinator shall provide the requestor with a detailed itemization of the allowable costs estimated to be incurred by the County to process the request and also provide a best efforts estimate of a time frame it will take the County to provide the records to the requestor. The best efforts estimate shall be nonbinding on the County, but will be made in good faith and will strive to be reasonably accurate, given the nature of the request in the particular instance, so as to provide the requested records in a manner based on the public policy expressed by Section 1 of the FOIA.

When a request is denied or denied in part:

If the request is denied or denied in part, the FOIA Coordinator will issue a Notice of Denial which shall provide in the applicable circumstance:

- An explanation as to why a requested public record is exempt from disclosure; or
- A certificate that the requested record does not exist under the name or description provided by the requestor, or another name reasonably known by the County; or
- An explanation or description of the public record or information within a public record that is separated or deleted from the public record; and
- An explanation of the person's right to submit an appeal of the denial to either the office of the Antrim County Board of Commissioners or seek judicial review in the Antrim County Circuit Court; and
- An explanation of the right to receive attorneys' fees, costs, and disbursements as well as actual or compensatory damages, and punitive damages of \$1,000, should they prevail in Circuit Court.
- The Notice of Denial shall be signed by the FOIA Coordinator.

If a request does not sufficiently describe a public record, the FOIA Coordinator may, in lieu of issuing a Notice of Denial indicating that the request is deficient, seek clarification or amendment of the request by the person making the request. Any clarification or amendment will be considered a new request subject to the timelines described in this Section.

Requests to inspect public records:

The County shall provide reasonable facilities and opportunities for persons to examine and inspect public records during normal business hours. The FOIA Coordinator is authorized to promulgate rules regulating the manner in which records may be viewed so as to protect County records from loss, alteration, mutilation or destruction and to prevent excessive interference with normal County operations.

Requests for certified copies:

The FOIA Coordinator shall, upon written request, furnish a certified copy of a public record at no additional cost to the person requesting the public record.

Section 4: Fee Deposits

If the fee estimate is expected to exceed \$50.00 based on a good-faith calculation by the County, the requestor will be asked to provide a deposit not exceeding one-half of the total estimated fee.

If a request for public records is from a person who has not fully paid the County for copies of public records made in fulfillment of a previously granted written request, the FOIA Coordinator will require a deposit of 100% of the estimated processing fee before beginning to search for a public record for any subsequent written request by that person when all of the following conditions exist:

- the final fee for the prior written request is not more than 105% of the estimated fee;
- the current request contains information sought in the prior written request and remains in the County's possession;
- the public records were made available to the individual, subject to payment, within the time frame estimated by the County to provide the records;
- 90 days have passed since the FOIA Coordinator notified the individual in writing that the public records were available for pickup or mailing;
- the individual is unable to show proof of prior payment to the County; and
- the FOIA Coordinator has calculated a detailed itemization that is the basis for the current written request's increased estimated fee deposit.

The FOIA Coordinator will not require an increased estimated fee deposit if any of the following apply:

- the person making the request is able to show proof of prior payment in full to the County;
- the County is subsequently paid in full for the applicable prior written request; or
- 365 days have passed since the person made the request for which full payment was not remitted to the County.

Section 5: Calculation of Fees

A fee will not be charged for the cost of search, examination, review and the deletion and separation of exempt from nonexempt information unless failure to charge a fee would result in unreasonably high costs to the County because of the nature of the request in the particular instance, and the County specifically identifies the nature of the unreasonably high costs.

The following factors shall be used to determine an unreasonably high cost to the County:

- Volume of the public record requested.
- Amount of time spent to search for, examine, review and separate exempt from non-exempt information in the record requested.
- Whether public records from more than one County department or various County offices is necessary to respond to the request.
- The available staffing to respond to the request.
- Any other similar factors identified by the FOIA Coordinator in responding to the particular request.

The County may charge for the following costs associated with processing a FOIA request:

- Labor costs associated with copying or duplication, which includes making paper copies, making digital copies, or transferring digital public records to non-paper physical media or through the Internet.
- Labor costs associated with searching for, locating and examining a requested public record, when failure to charge a fee will result in unreasonably high costs to the County.
- Labor costs associated with a review of a record to separate and delete information exempt from disclosure, when failure to charge a fee will result in unreasonably high costs to the County.
- The cost of copying or duplication, not including labor, of paper copies of public records. This may include the cost for copies of records already on the County's website if the requestor asks for the County to make copies.
- The cost of computer discs, computer tapes or other digital or similar media when the requester asks for records in non-paper physical media. This may include the cost for copies of records already on the County's website if the requestor asks for the County to make copies.
- The cost to mail or send a public record to a requestor.

Labor costs will be calculated based on the following requirements:

- All labor costs will be estimated and charged in 15 minute increments with all partial time increments rounded down.
- Labor costs will be charged at the hourly wage of the lowest-paid County employee capable of doing the work in the specific fee category, regardless of who actually performs work.
- Labor costs will also include a charge to cover or partially cover the cost of fringe benefits. The County may add up to 50% to the applicable labor charge amount to cover or partially cover the cost of fringe benefits, but in no case may it exceed the actual cost of fringe benefits.
- Contracted labor costs incurred in the separation and deletion of exempt from non-exempt material will be charged at 6 times the state minimum wage, as adjusted. The current rate at the time of adoption of these Policies and Guidelines is \$59.22/hour.

- Overtime wages will not be included in labor costs until agreed to by the requestor; overtime costs will not be used to calculate the fringe benefit cost.

The cost to provide records on non-paper physical media when so requested will be based on the following requirements:

- Computer disks, computer tapes or other digital or similar media will be at the actual and most reasonably economical cost for the non-paper media.
- This cost will only be assessed if the County has the technological capability necessary to provide the public record in the requested non-paper physical media format.
- In order to ensure the integrity and security of the County's technological infrastructure, the County will procure any requested non-paper media and will not accept non-paper media from the requestor

The cost to provide paper copies of records will be based on the following requirements:

- Paper copies of public records made on standard letter (8 ½ x 11) or legal (8 ½ x 14) sized paper will not exceed \$.10 per sheet of paper. Copies for nonstandard sized sheets of paper will reflect the actual cost of reproduction.
- The County may provide records using double-sided printing, if cost-saving and available.

The cost to mail records to a requestor will be based on the following requirements:

- The actual cost to mail public records using a reasonably economical and justified means.
- The County may charge for the least expensive form of postal delivery confirmation.
- No cost will be made for expedited shipping or insurance unless requested.

If the FOIA Coordinator does not respond to a written request in a timely manner, the County must:

- Reduce the labor costs by 5% for each day the County exceeds the time permitted under FOIA up to a 50% maximum reduction, if *any* of the following applies:
 - The late response was willful and intentional.
 - The written request, within the first 250 words of the body of a letter facsimile, e-mail or e-mail attachment conveyed a request for information.
 - The written request included the words, characters, or abbreviations for "freedom of information", "information", "FOIA", "copy" or a recognizable misspelling of such, or legal code reference to MCL 15.231 et seq. or 1976 Public Act 442 on the front of an envelope or in the subject line of an e-mail, letter or facsimile cover page.

- Fully note the charge reduction in the Detailed Itemization of Costs Form

Section 6: Waiver of Fees

The cost of the search for and copying of a public record may be waived or reduced if in the sole judgment of the FOIA Coordinator a waiver or reduced fee is in the public interest because such can be considered as primarily benefitting the general public. The Antrim County Board of Commissioner may identify specific records or types of records it deems should be made available for no charge or at a reduced cost.

An individual is not eligible to receive the waiver if:

- the requestor has previously received discounted copies of public records from the County twice during the calendar year; or
- the requestor requests information in connection with other persons who are offering or providing payment to make the request.

An affidavit is a sworn statement. The FOIA Coordinator may make a Fee Waiver Affidavit Form available for use by the public.

Section 7: Discounted Fees

Indigence

The FOIA Coordinator will discount the first \$20.00 of the processing fee for a request if the person requesting a public record submits an affidavit stating that they are:

- indigent and receiving specific public assistance; or
- if not receiving public assistance stating facts demonstrating an inability to pay because of indigency.

Nonprofit organization advocating for developmentally disabled or mentally ill individuals

The FOIA Coordinator will discount the first \$20.00 of the processing fee for a request from:

- A nonprofit organization designated by the State to carry out activities under subtitle C of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 and the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act, or their successors, if the request meets all of the following requirements:
 - is made directly on behalf of the organization or its clients;
 - is made for a reason wholly consistent with the mission and provisions of those laws under Section 931 of the Mental Health Code, MCL 330.1931;
 - is accompanied by documentation of its designation by the State, if requested by the County or FOIA Coordinator.

Section 8: Appeal of a Denial of a Public Record

When a requestor believes that all or a portion of a public record has not been disclosed or has been improperly exempted from disclosure, he or she may file an appeal of the denial with the Antrim County Board of Commissioners. The appeal must be in writing, specifically state the word "appeal" and identify the reason or reasons the requestor is seeking a reversal of the denial. The County may create a FOIA Appeal Form that may be used.

The Board of Commissioners is not considered to have received a written appeal until the first regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting immediately following submission of the written appeal.

Within 10 business days of receiving the appeal the Board of Commissioners, acting through its designee, will respond in writing by:

- reversing the disclosure denial;
- upholding the disclosure denial; or
- reverse the disclosure denial in part and uphold the disclosure denial in part.
- Under unusual circumstances, such as the need to examine or review a voluminous amount of separate and distinct public records or the need to collect the requested records from numerous facilities located apart from the office receiving or processing the request, the Board of Commissioners may issue not more than 1 notice of extension for not more than 10 business days to respond to the appeal

If the Board of Commissioners fails to timely respond to a written appeal, or if the Board of Commissioners upholds all or a portion of the disclosure denial that is the subject of the written appeal, the requesting person may seek judicial review of the nondisclosure by commencing a civil action in the Antrim County Circuit Court.

Whether or not a requestor submitted an appeal of a denial to the Board of Commissioners, he or she may file a civil action in the Antrim County Circuit Court within 180 days after the County's final determination to deny the request.

If the court determines that the public record is not exempt from disclosure, the court will award the appellant reasonable attorneys' fees, cost and disbursements. If the court determines that the appellant prevails only in part, the court in its discretion may award all or an appropriate portion of reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and disbursements. If the court determines that the County arbitrarily and capriciously violated the FOIA by refusing or delaying the disclosure of copies of a public record, it shall award the appellant punitive damages in the \$1,000. Court shall also order that the public body pay a civil fine of \$1,000 to the general fund of the State treasury.

Section 9: Appeal of an Excessive FOIA Processing Fee

“Fee” means the total fee or any component of the total fee calculated under section 4 of the FOIA, including any deposit.

If a requestor believes that the fee charged by the County to process a FOIA request exceeds the amount permitted by state law, he or she must first submit a written appeal for a fee reduction to the Office of the Board of Commissioners. The appeal must be in writing, specifically state the word "appeal" and identify how the required fee exceeds the amount permitted. The County may create a FOIA Fee Appeal Form that may be used.

Within 10 business days after receiving the appeal, the Board of Commissioners, through its designee, will respond in writing by:

- waiving the fee;
- reducing the fee and issuing a written determination indicating the specific basis that supports the remaining fee;
- upholding the fee and issuing a written determination indicating the specific basis that supports the required fee; or
- issuing a notice detailing the reason or reasons for extending for not more than 10 business days the period during which the Board of Commissioners will respond to the written appeal.

Within 45 days after receiving notice of the Board of Commissioner’s determination of a fee appeal, a requestor may commence a civil action in Antrim County Circuit Court for a fee reduction. If a civil action is filed appealing the fee, the County is not obligated to process the request for the public record until the Court resolves the fee dispute.

If a court determines that the County required a fee that exceeds the amount permitted under its publicly available procedures and guidelines or Section 4 of the FOIA, the court shall reduce the fee to a permissible amount. Failure to comply with an order of the court may be punished as contempt of court.

If the requesting person prevails in court by receiving a reduction of 50% or more of the total fee, the court may, in its discretion, award all or an appropriate portion of reasonable attorneys’ fees, costs, and disbursements. The award shall be assessed against the County.

If the court determines that the County has arbitrarily and capriciously violated the FOIA by charging an excessive fee, the court shall order the County to pay a civil fine of \$500.00, which shall be deposited in the general fund of the state treasury. The court may also award, in addition to any actual or compensatory damages, punitive damages in the amount of \$500.00 to the person seeking the fee reduction. The fine and any damages shall not be assessed against an individual, but shall be assessed against the next succeeding public body that is not an individual and that kept or maintained the public record as part of its public function.

Section 10: Conflict with Prior FOIA Policies and Procedures; Effective Date

To the extent that these Procedures and Guidelines conflict with previous FOIA policies promulgated by the County, these Procedures and Guidelines are controlling. To the extent that any administrative rule promulgated by the FOIA Coordinator subsequent to the adoption of this resolution is found to be in conflict with any previous policy promulgated by the County, the administrative rule promulgated by the FOIA Coordinator is controlling.

To the extent that any provision of these Procedures and Guidelines or any administrative rule promulgated by the FOIA Coordinator pertaining to the release of public records is found to be in conflict with any State statute, the applicable statute shall control. The FOIA Coordinator is authorized to modify this policy and all previous policies adopted by the County and to adopt such administrative rules as he or she may deem necessary, to facilitate the legal review and processing of requests for public records made pursuant to Michigan's FOIA statute, provided that such modifications and rules are consistent with State law.

The FOIA Coordinator shall inform the Board of Commissioners of any change to these Policies and Guidelines. These FOIA Policies and Guidelines become effective July 1, 2022.

Section 11: Appendix of Antrim County FOIA Forms

- Request for Public Records Form
- Affidavit of Indigency
- Notice to Extend Response Time Form
- Notice of Denial Form
- Detailed Cost Itemization Form
- Appeal of Denial of Records Form
- Appeal of Excess Fee Form

On June 16, 2022, the Antrim County Board of Commissioners adopted the Antrim County Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Procedures and Guidelines, the Summary of the Procedures and Guidelines and associated forms as revised by the Administration Office, and rescinded all previous Antrim County FOIA policies.

internet site at the time the request is made are exempt from any labor charges to redact (*separate exempt information from non-exempt information*).

If the FOIA coordinator knows or has reason to know that all or a portion of the requested information is available on its website, the county must notify the requestor in its written response that all or a portion of the requested information is available on its website. The written response, to the degree practicable in the specific instance, must include a specific webpage address where the requested information is available. On the detailed cost itemization form, the county must separate the requested public records that are available on its website from those that are not available on the website and must inform the requestor of the additional charge to receive copies of the public records that are available on its website.

If the county has included the website address for a record in its written response to the requestor and the requestor thereafter stipulates that the public record be provided to him or her in a paper format or other form, including digital media, the county must provide the public records in the specified format (if the county has the technological capability) but may use a fringe benefit multiplier greater than the 50%, not to exceed the actual costs of providing the information in the specified format.

Request for Copies/Duplication of Records on County Website

I hereby stipulate that, even if some or all of the records are located on a county website, I am requesting that the county make copies of those records on the website and deliver them to me in the format I have requested above. I understand that some FOIA fees may apply.

Requestor's Signature	Date
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Overtime Labor Costs

Overtime wages shall not be included in the calculation of labor costs unless overtime is specifically stipulated by the requestor and clearly noted on the detailed cost itemization form.

Consent to Overtime Labor Costs

I hereby agree and stipulate to the county using overtime wages in calculating the following labor costs as itemized in the following categories:

- 1. Labor to copy/duplicate 2. Labor to locate 3a. Labor to redact 3b. Contract labor to redact
- 6b. Labor to copy/duplicate records already on county's website

Requestor's Signature	Date
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Request for Discount: Indigence

A public record search **must** be made and a copy of a public record **must** be furnished **without charge for the first \$20.00 of the fee** for each request by an individual who is entitled to information under the FOIA and who:

- 1) Submits an affidavit stating that the individual is indigent and receiving specific public assistance, **OR**
- 2) If not receiving public assistance, stating facts showing inability to pay the cost because of indigence.

If a requestor is ineligible for the discount, the public body shall inform the requestor specifically of the reason for ineligibility in the public body's written response. An individual is ineligible for this fee reduction if **ANY** of the following apply:

- (i) The individual has previously received discounted copies of public records from the County twice during that calendar year,
- (ii) The individual requests the information in conjunction with outside parties who are offering or providing payment or other remuneration to the individual to make the request. A public body may require a statement by the requestor in the affidavit that the request is not being made in conjunction with outside parties in exchange for payment or other remuneration.

Office Use: Affidavit Received Eligible for Discount Ineligible for Discount

I am submitting an affidavit and requesting that I receive the discount for indigence for this FOIA request: Requestor's Signature:	Date:
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Request for Discount: Nonprofit Organization

A public record search **must** be made and a copy of a public record **must** be furnished **without charge for the first \$20.00 of the fee** for each request by a nonprofit organization formally designated by the state to carry out activities under subtitle C of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 and the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act, if the request meets **ALL** of the following requirements:

- (i) Is made directly on behalf of the organization or its clients.
- (ii) Is made for a reason wholly consistent with the mission and provisions of those laws under section 931 of the Mental Health Code, 1974 PA 258, MCL 330.1931.
- (iii) Is accompanied by documentation of its designation by the state, if requested by the county.

Office Use: Documentation of State Designation Received Eligible for Discount Ineligible for Discount

I stipulate that I am a designated agent for the nonprofit organization making this FOIA request and that this request is made directly on behalf of the organization or its clients and is made for a reason wholly consistent with the mission and provisions of those laws under section 931 of the Mental Health Code, 1974 PA 258, MCL 330.1931: Requestor's Signature:	Date:
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3. That I do (), do not (), have a spouse who is dependent upon me for support.
4. That I do (), do not (), have minor children dependent upon me for their support.
(Insert number _____)
5. That I owe child support payments in the amount of \$_____ per week to the Friend of the Court and an arrearage of \$_____ .
6. All of my assets do (), do not (), exceed my liabilities. If liabilities exceed assets, they do so by \$_____.

Date: _____ Signed: _____

Subscribed and sworn to before me this ____ day of _____, _____.

Notary Public - _____ County, Michigan
Acting in Antrim County, Michigan
My Commission Expires: _____

County: Keep original and provide copy, along with Public Summary, to requestor at no charge.

Antrim County
Administration Department, 203 E. Cayuga
PO Box 187, Bellaire, MI 49615
Phone: (231) 533-6265 Fax: (231) 533-8111

Extension Form

Notice to Extend Response Time for FOIA Request
Michigan Freedom of Information Act, Public Act 442 of 1976, MCL 15.231, et seq.

Request No.: _____ **Date Received:** _____ **Check if received via:** Email Fax Other Electronic Method
Date of This Notice: _____ **Date delivered to junk/spam folder:** _____

Name	Phone
Firm/Organization	Fax
Street	Email
City	State Zip

(Please Print or Type)

Date discovered in junk/spam folder: _____

Request for: Copy Certified copy Record inspection Subscription to record issued on regular basis
Delivery Method: Will pick up Will make own copies onsite Mail to address above Email to address above
 Deliver on digital media provided by the county: _____

Record(s) You Requested: (Listed here or see attached copy of original request) _____

We are extending the date to respond to your FOIA request for no more than 10 business days, until _____ (month, day, year).
Only one extension may be taken per FOIA request. If you have any questions regarding this extension, contact _____ at _____

Estimated Time Frame to Provide Records: _____ (days or date)

The time frame estimate is nonbinding upon the county, but the county is providing the estimate in good faith. Providing an estimated time frame does not relieve a public body from any of the other requirements of this act.

Reason for Extension:

1. The county needs to search for, collect, or appropriately examine or review a voluminous amount of separate and distinct public records pursuant to your request. Specifically, the county must:

2. The county needs to collect the requested public records from numerous field offices, facilities, or other establishments that are located apart from the county office. Specifically, the county must coordinate documents from the following locations:

3. Other (describe): _____

Signature of FOIA Coordinator or designee:	Date:
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County: Keep original and provide copy of both sides, along with Public Summary, to requestor at no charge.

Antrim County

Denial Form

Administration Department, 203 E. Cayuga
PO Box 187, Bellaire, MI 49615
Phone: (231) 533-6265 Fax: (231) 533-8111

Notice of Denial of FOIA Request
Michigan Freedom of Information Act, Public Act 442 of 1976, MCL 15.231, et seq.

Request No.: _____ **Date Received:** _____ **Check if received via:** Email Fax Other Electronic Method
Date of This Notice: _____ **Date delivered to junk/spam folder:** _____

Name	Phone
Firm/Organization	Fax
Street	Email
City	State Zip

(Please Print or Type) **Request for:** Copy Certified copy Record inspection Subscription to record issued on regular basis
Date discovered in junk/spam folder: _____

Delivery Method: Will pick up Will make own copies onsite Mail to address above Email to address above
 Deliver on digital media provided by the county: _____

Record(s) You Requested: (Listed here or see attached copy of original request) _____

All OR **Part** of your request for records has been denied. Please refer to this form for an explanation. If you have any questions regarding this denial, contact _____ at _____

Reason for Denial:

1. Exempt from Disclosure: This item is exempt from disclosure under FOIA Section 13, Subsection _____ (insert number), because: _____

2. Record Does Not Exist: This item does not exist under the name provided in your request or by another name reasonably known to the county. A certificate that the public record does not exist under the name given is attached. If you believe this record does exist, provide a description that will enable us to locate the record: _____

3. Redaction: A portion of the requested record had to be separated or deleted (redacted) as it is exempt under FOIA Section 13, Subsection _____ (insert number), because: _____

A brief description of the information that had to be separated or deleted: _____

Notice of Requestor's Right to Seek Judicial Review

You are entitled under Section 10 of the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.240, to appeal this denial to the Antrim County Board of Commissioners or to commence an action in the Antrim County 13th Circuit Court to compel disclosure of the requested records if you believe they were wrongfully withheld from disclosure. If, after judicial review, the court determines that the county has not complied with MCL 15.235 in making this denial and orders disclosure of all or a portion of a public record, you have the right to receive attorneys' fees and damages as provided in MCL 15.240. (See back of this form for additional information on your rights.)

Signature of FOIA Coordinator: _____

Date: _____

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (EXCERPT)

Act 442 of 1976

15.240.amended Options by requesting person; appeal; actions by public body; receipt of written appeal; judicial review; civil action; venue; de novo proceeding; burden of proof; private view of public record; contempt; assignment of action or appeal for hearing, trial, or argument; attorneys' fees, costs, and disbursements; assessment of award; damages.

Sec. 10.

- (1) If a public body makes a final determination to deny all or a portion of a request, the requesting person may do 1 of the following at his or her option:
 - (a) Submit to the head of the public body a written appeal that specifically states the word "appeal" and identifies the reason or reasons for reversal of the denial.
 - (b) Commence a civil action in the circuit court, or if the decision of a state public body is at issue, the court of claims, to compel the public body's disclosure of the public records within 180 days after a public body's final determination to deny a request.
- (2) Within 10 business days after receiving a written appeal pursuant to subsection (1)(a), the head of a public body shall do 1 of the following:
 - (a) Reverse the disclosure denial.
 - (b) Issue a written notice to the requesting person upholding the disclosure denial.
 - (c) Reverse the disclosure denial in part and issue a written notice to the requesting person upholding the disclosure denial in part.
 - (d) Under unusual circumstances, issue a notice extending for not more than 10 business days the period during which the head of the public body shall respond to the written appeal. The head of a public body shall not issue more than 1 notice of extension for a particular written appeal.
- (3) A board or commission that is the head of a public body is not considered to have received a written appeal under subsection (2) until the first regularly scheduled meeting of that board or commission following submission of the written appeal under subsection (1)(a). If the head of the public body fails to respond to a written appeal pursuant to subsection (2), or if the head of the public body upholds all or a portion of the disclosure denial that is the subject of the written appeal, the requesting person may seek judicial review of the nondisclosure by commencing a civil action under subsection (1)(b).
- (4) In an action commenced under subsection (1)(b), a court that determines a public record is not exempt from disclosure shall order the public body to cease withholding or to produce all or a portion of a public record wrongfully withheld, regardless of the location of the public record. Venue for an action against a local public body is proper in the circuit court for the county in which the public record or an office of the public body is located has venue over the action. The court shall determine the matter de novo and the burden is on the public body to sustain its denial. The court, on its own motion, may view the public record in controversy in private before reaching a decision. Failure to comply with an order of the court may be punished as contempt of court.
- (5) An action commenced under this section and an appeal from an action commenced under this section shall be assigned for hearing and trial or for argument at the earliest practicable date and expedited in every way.
- (6) If a person asserting the right to inspect, copy, or receive a copy of all or a portion of a public record prevails in an action commenced under this section, the court shall award reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and disbursements. If the person or public body prevails in part, the court may, in its discretion, award all or an appropriate portion of reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and disbursements. The award shall be assessed against the public body liable for damages under subsection (7).
- (7) If the court determines in an action commenced under this section that the public body has arbitrarily and capriciously violated this act by refusal or delay in disclosing or providing copies of a public record, the court shall order the public body to pay a civil fine of \$1,000.00, which shall be deposited into the general fund of the state treasury. The court shall award, in addition to any actual or compensatory damages, punitive damages in the amount of \$1,000.00 to the person seeking the right to inspect or receive a copy of a public record. The damages shall not be assessed against an individual, but shall be assessed against the next succeeding public body that is not an individual and that kept or maintained the public record as part of its public function.

History: 1976, Act 442, Eff. Apr. 13, 1977 ;-- Am. 1978, Act 329, Imd. Eff. July 11, 1978 ;-- Am. 1996, Act 553, Eff. Mar. 31, 1997 ;-- Am. 2014, Act 563, Eff. July 1, 2015

County: Keep original and provide copies of both sides of each sheet, along with Public Summary, to requestor at no charge.

Antrim County
 Administration Department
 203 E. Cayuga St., PO Box 187, Bellaire, MI 49615
 Phone: (231) 533-6265 Fax: (231) 533-8111

Freedom of Information Act Request Detailed Cost Itemization

Date: _____ Prepared for Request No.: _____ Date Request Received: _____

<p>The following costs are being charged in compliance with Section 4 of the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.234, according to the county's FOIA Policies and Guidelines.</p>		
<p>In each category, costs will be estimated and charged in <u>1/4-hour</u> increments rounded down. Additionally, hourly rates will be set at that of the lowest-paid employee capable regardless of whether that person is available or who actually performs the labor.</p>		
<p>1. Labor Cost for Copying / Duplication</p> <p>Cost of labor directly associated with duplication, making paper copies, making digital copies, or transferring digital public records to the requestor.</p> <p>Hourly Wage Cost: \$ _____ Hours: _____</p> <p>Fringe benefit multiplier: _____ % <i>(up to 50% of the hourly wage)</i></p>	<p>1. Labor Cost</p> <p>\$ _____</p>	
<p>2. Labor Cost to Locate:</p> <p>Cost of labor directly associated with the necessary searching for, locating, and examining public records in conjunction with receiving and fulfilling a written request. This fee is being charged because of unreasonably high costs to the county compared to the county's usual FOIA, specifically for the following reasons:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Hourly Wage Charged: \$ _____ Hours: _____</p> <p>Fringe benefit multiplier: _____ % <i>(up to 50% of the hourly wage)</i></p>	<p>2. Labor Cost</p> <p>\$ _____</p>	
<p>3a. Employee Labor Cost for Separating Exempt from Non-Exempt (Redacting):</p> <p>Cost of labor of a county employee separating exempt from non-exempt information including necessary review, directly associated with separating and deleting exempt from nonexempt information (If contracted, use No. 3b). This fee is being charged because of unreasonably high costs to the county compared to the county's usual FOIA, specifically for the following reasons:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Hourly Wage Charged: \$ _____ Hours: _____</p> <p>Fringe benefit multiplier: _____ % <i>(up to 50% of the hourly wage)</i></p>	<p>3a. Labor Cost</p> <p>\$ _____</p>	

3b. Contracted Labor Cost for Separating Exempt from Non-Exempt (Redacting):

Cost of labor of a contractor (i.e. outside attorney) separating exempt from non-exempt information including necessary review, directly associated with separating and deleting exempt from nonexempt information (If county employee, use No. 3a). This fee is being charged because of unreasonably high costs to the county compared to the county's usual FOIA, specifically for the following reasons:

Name of contracted person or firm: _____

These costs shall not exceed an amount equal to 6 times the state minimum hourly wage rate of \$8.15.

Hourly Cost Charged: \$ _____

Hours: _____

3b. Labor Cost

\$ _____

4. Copying / Duplication Cost:

Copying costs may be charged if a copy of a public record is requested, or for the necessary copying of a record for inspection (for example, delicate original records or digital file).

4a. Web Copy Cost

\$ _____

No more than the actual cost of a sheet of paper, up to maximum 10 cents per sheet for:

- Letter (8 1/2 x 11-inch, single and double-sided): _____ cost per sheet # of sheets: _____ \$ _____
- Legal (8 1/2 x 14-inch, single and double-sided): _____ cost per sheet # of sheets: _____ \$ _____

No more than the actual cost of a sheet of paper for other paper sizes:

- Other paper sizes (single and double-sided): _____ cost per sheet # of sheets: _____ \$ _____

Actual and most reasonably economical cost of non-paper physical digital media:

- Circle applicable: Disc / Tape / Drive / Other Cost per Item: _____ # of items: _____ \$ _____

4a. Request for records on the county's website to be provided in a paper or physical digital medium.

4. Copying Cost

The county must and will utilize the most economical means available for making copies of public records, including using double-sided printing, if cost saving and available.

\$ _____

5. Mailing Cost:

Cost of mailing records in a reasonably economical and justifiable manner. Delivery confirmation is not required. The county cannot charge more for expedited shipping or insurance unless specifically requested.*

Actual Cost of Envelope or Packaging: \$ _____

Costs:

Actual Cost of Postage: \$ _____ per stamp # of Stamps: _____ \$ _____

\$ _____ per pound # of Pounds: _____ \$ _____

\$ _____ per package # of Packages: _____ \$ _____

Actual Cost (least expensive) Postal Delivery Confirmation: \$ _____

5. Mailing Cost

*Expedited Shipping or Insurance as Requested: \$ _____

\$ _____

<p>6. Statutory Fee Cost</p> <p>Costs in compliance with Section 4 of the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.234(10), public record fees established by act or statute in addition to the fees established above.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The Transcripts and Abstracts of Records Act (MCL 48.101) <input type="checkbox"/> The Enhanced Access to Public Records Act (MCL 15.442) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> <p>Description of items provided: _____</p> <p>Cost per Item: \$ _____ # of Items Provided: _____</p>	<p>6. Statutory Fees:</p> <p>\$ _____</p>
<p>Waiver: Public Interest</p> <p>A search for a public record may be conducted or copies of public records may be furnished without charge or at a reduced charge if the county determines that a waiver or reduction of the fee would benefit the general public.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> All fees are reduced by: _____ %</p>	<p>Reduction:</p> <p>\$ _____</p>
<p>Discount: Nonprofit Organization or Indigence</p> <p>A public record search must be made and a copy of a public record must be furnished without charge for the first \$20.00 of the fee for each request by a Nonprofit organization designated by the State as provided in Michigan Mental Health Code, MCL 330.1931 OR an individual who is entitled to information under this act and who:</p> <p>1) Submits an affidavit stating that the individual is indigent and receiving specific public assistance, OR 2) If not receiving public assistance, stating facts showing inability to pay the cost because of indigence.</p> <p>An individual is ineligible for this fee reduction if ANY of the following apply: 1) The individual has previously received discounted copies of public records twice during that calendar year, OR 2) The individual requests the information in conjunction with outside parties offering or providing remuneration.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Eligible for Nonprofit Discount <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible for Indigence Discount</p>	<p>\$ _____</p>
<p>Deposit: Good Faith</p> <p>The county may require a good-faith deposit <u>before providing the public records to the requestor if the entire fee estimate or charge authorized under this section exceeds \$50.00</u>, based on a good-faith calculation of the total fee.</p> <p>The deposit cannot exceed 1/2 of the total estimated fee. Percent of Deposit: _____ %</p>	<p>Deposit:</p> <p>\$ _____</p>
<p>Late Response Labor Costs Reduction</p> <p>If the county does not respond to a written request in a timely manner as required under MCL 15.235(2), the county must reduce the charges for labor costs otherwise permitted by 5% for each day the county exceeds the time permitted for a response to the request, with a maximum 50% reduction, if EITHER of the following applies:</p> <p>1) The late response was willful and intentional, OR 2) Within the first 250 words of a written request, in the subject line, or front of an envelope convey a request for information or specifically include the words, characters, or abbreviations for "freedom of information," "information," "FOIA," "copy", or a recognizable misspelling of such, or appropriate legal code reference for this act.</p>	<p>Reduction</p> <p>\$ _____</p> <p>Reduced Labor Costs:</p> <p>\$ _____</p>
<p>The Public Summary of the county's FOIA Procedures and Guidelines is available free of charge from: Website: www.antrimcounty.org Email: foiarequest@antrimcounty.org Phone: (231) 533-6860 Address: 203 E. Cayuga Street, P.O. Box 187, Bellaire, MI 49615</p> <p>Request Will Be Processed, But <u>Balance Must Be Paid Before</u> Copies are provided.</p>	<p>Total Balance Due:</p> <p>\$ _____</p>

County: Keep original and provide copy of both sides, along with Public Summary, to requestor at no charge.

Antrim County

Denial Appeal Form

Administration Department, 203 E. Cayuga
PO Box 187, Bellaire, MI 49615
Phone: (231) 533-6262 Fax: (231) 533-8111

FOIA Appeal Form—To Appeal a Denial of Records
Michigan Freedom of Information Act, Public Act 442 of 1976, MCL 15.231, et seq.

Request No.: _____ Date Received: _____ Check if received via: Email Fax Other Electronic Method
Date of This Notice: _____ Date delivered to junk/spam folder: _____

Name	Phone
Firm/Organization	Fax
Street	Email
City	State Zip

(Please Print or Type) Date discovered in junk/spam folder: _____

Request for: Copy Certified copy Record inspection Subscription to record issued on regular basis
Delivery Method: Will pick up Will make own copies onsite Mail to address above Email to address above
 Deliver on digital media provided by the county: _____

Record(s) You Requested: (Listed here or see attached copy of original request) _____

Reason(s) for Appeal:

The appeal must identify the reason(s) for the denial. You may use this form or attach additional sheets:

Requestor's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Board of Commissioners' Response:

The county must provide a response within 10 business days after receiving this appeal, including a determination or taking one 10-day extension.

County Extension: We are extending the date to respond to your FOIA fee appeal for no more than 10 business days, until _____ (month, day, year). Only one extension may be taken per FOIA appeal.

Unusual circumstances warranting extension: _____

If you have any questions regarding this extension, contact: _____

County Determination:

Denial Reversed Denial Upheld Denial Reversed in Part and Upheld in Part

The following previously denied records will be released: _____

Notice of Requestor's Right to Seek Judicial Review

You are entitled under Section 10 of the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.240, to appeal this denial to the Antrim County Board of Commissioners or to commence an action in the Antrim County 13th Circuit Court to compel disclosure of the requested records if you believe they were wrongfully withheld from disclosure. If, after judicial review, the court determines that the county has not complied with MCL 15.235 in making this denial and orders disclosure of all or a portion of a public record, you have the right to receive attorneys' fees and damages as provided in MCL 15.240. (See back of this form for additional information on your rights.)

Signature of FOIA Coordinator: _____

Date: _____

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (EXCERPT)

Act 442 of 1976

15.240.amended Options by requesting person; appeal; actions by public body; receipt of written appeal; judicial review; civil action; venue; de novo proceeding; burden of proof; private view of public record; contempt; assignment of action or appeal for hearing, trial, or argument; attorneys' fees, costs, and disbursements; assessment of award; damages.

Sec. 10.

(1) If a public body makes a final determination to deny all or a portion of a request, the requesting person may do 1 of the following at his or her option:

(a) Submit to the head of the public body a written appeal that specifically states the word "appeal" and identifies the reason or reasons for reversal of the denial.

(b) Commence a civil action in the circuit court, or if the decision of a state public body is at issue, the court of claims, to compel the public body's disclosure of the public records within 180 days after a public body's final determination to deny a request.

(2) Within 10 business days after receiving a written appeal pursuant to subsection (1)(a), the head of a public body shall do 1 of the following:

(a) Reverse the disclosure denial.

(b) Issue a written notice to the requesting person upholding the disclosure denial.

(c) Reverse the disclosure denial in part and issue a written notice to the requesting person upholding the disclosure denial in part.

(d) Under unusual circumstances, issue a notice extending for not more than 10 business days the period during which the head of the public body shall respond to the written appeal. The head of a public body shall not issue more than 1 notice of extension for a particular written appeal.

(3) A board or commission that is the head of a public body is not considered to have received a written appeal under subsection (2) until the first regularly scheduled meeting of that board or commission following submission of the written appeal under subsection (1)(a). If the head of the public body fails to respond to a written appeal pursuant to subsection (2), or if the head of the public body upholds all or a portion of the disclosure denial that is the subject of the written appeal, the requesting person may seek judicial review of the nondisclosure by commencing a civil action under subsection (1)(b).

(4) In an action commenced under subsection (1)(b), a court that determines a public record is not exempt from disclosure shall order the public body to cease withholding or to produce all or a portion of a public record wrongfully withheld, regardless of the location of the public record. Venue for an action against a local public body is proper in the circuit court for the county in which the public record or an office of the public body is located has venue over the action. The court shall determine the matter de novo and the burden is on the public body to sustain its denial. The court, on its own motion, may view the public record in controversy in private before reaching a decision. Failure to comply with an order of the court may be punished as contempt of court.

(5) An action commenced under this section and an appeal from an action commenced under this section shall be assigned for hearing and trial or for argument at the earliest practicable date and expedited in every way.

(6) If a person asserting the right to inspect, copy, or receive a copy of all or a portion of a public record prevails in an action commenced under this section, the court shall award reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and disbursements. If the person or public body prevails in part, the court may, in its discretion, award all or an appropriate portion of reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and disbursements. The award shall be assessed against the public body liable for damages under subsection (7).

(7) If the court determines in an action commenced under this section that the public body has arbitrarily and capriciously violated this act by refusal or delay in disclosing or providing copies of a public record, the court shall order the public body to pay a civil fine of \$1,000.00, which shall be deposited into the general fund of the state treasury. The court shall award, in addition to any actual or compensatory damages, punitive damages in the amount of \$1,000.00 to the person seeking the right to inspect or receive a copy of a public record. The damages shall not be assessed against an individual, but shall be assessed against the next succeeding public body that is not an individual and that kept or maintained the public record as part of its public function.

History: 1976, Act 442, Eff. Apr. 13, 1977 ;-- Am. 1978, Act 329, Imd. Eff. July 11, 1978 ;-- Am. 1996, Act 553, Eff. Mar. 31, 1997 ;-- Am. 2014, Act 563, Eff. July 1, 2015.

County: Keep original and provide copy of both sides, along with Public Summary, to requestor at no charge.

Antrim County

Fee Appeal Form

Administration Department, 203 E. Cayuga
PO Box 187, Bellaire, MI 49615
Phone: (231) 533-6265 Fax: (231) 533-8111

FOIA Appeal Form—To Appeal an Excess Fee Michigan Freedom of Information Act, Public Act 442 of 1976, MCL 15.231, et seq.

Request No.: _____ Date Received: _____ Check if received via: Email Fax Other Electronic Method
Date of This Notice: _____ Date delivered to junk/spam folder: _____

Name	Phone	
Firm/Organization	Fax	
Street	Email	
City	State	Zip

(Please Print or Type)

Date discovered in junk/spam folder: _____

Request for: Copy Certified copy Record inspection Subscription to record issued on regular basis

Delivery Method: Will pick up Will make own copies onsite Mail to address above Email to address above

Deliver on digital media provided by the county: _____

Record(s) You Requested: (Listed here or see attached copy of original request) _____

Reason(s) for Appeal:

The appeal must specifically identify how the required fee(s) exceed the amount permitted. You may use this form or attach additional sheets:

Requestor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Board of Commissioners' Response:

The county must provide a response within 10 business days after receiving this appeal, including a determination or taking one 10-day extension.

County Extension: We are extending the date to respond to your FOIA fee appeal for no more than 10 business days, until _____ (month, day, year). Only one extension may be taken per FOIA appeal.

Unusual circumstances warranting extension: _____

If you have any questions regarding this extension, contact: _____

County Determination: Fee Waived Fee Reduced Fee Upheld

Written basis for county determination: _____

Notice of Requestor's Right to Seek Judicial Review

You are entitled under Section 10a of the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.240a, to appeal a FOIA fee that you believe exceeds the amount permitted under the county's written Procedures and Guidelines to the county board of commissioners or to commence an action in the Antrim County 13th Circuit Court for a fee reduction within 45 days after receiving the notice of the required fee or a determination of an appeal to the county board of commissioners. If a civil action is commenced in court, the county is not obligated to compete processing the request until the court resolves the fee dispute. If the court determines that the county required a fee that exceeded the permitted amount, the court shall reduce the fee to a permissible amount. (See back of this form for additional information on your rights.)

Signature of FOIA Coordinator: _____

Date: _____

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (EXCERPT)
Act 442 of 1976

15.240a.added Fee in excess of amount permitted under procedures and guidelines or MCL 15.234.
Sec. 10a.

(1) If a public body requires a fee that exceeds the amount permitted under its publicly available procedures and guidelines or section 4, the requesting person may do any of the following:

(a) If the public body provides for fee appeals to the head of the public body in its publicly available procedures and guidelines, submit to the head of the public body a written appeal for a fee reduction that specifically states the word "appeal" and identifies how the required fee exceeds the amount permitted under the public body's available procedures and guidelines or section 4.

(b) Commence a civil action in the circuit court, or if the decision of a state public body is at issue, in the court of claims, for a fee reduction. The action must be filed within 45 days after receiving the notice of the required fee or a determination of an appeal to the head of a public body. If a civil action is commenced against the public body under this subdivision, the public body is not obligated to complete the processing of the written request for the public record at issue until the court resolves the fee dispute. An action shall not be filed under this subdivision unless 1 of the following applies:

(i) The public body does not provide for appeals under subdivision (a).

(ii) The head of the public body failed to respond to a written appeal as required under subsection (2).

(iii) The head of the public body issued a determination to a written appeal as required under subsection (2).

(2) Within 10 business days after receiving a written appeal under subsection (1)(a), the head of a public body shall do 1 of the following:

(a) Waive the fee.

(b) Reduce the fee and issue a written determination to the requesting person indicating the specific basis under section 4 that supports the remaining fee. The determination shall include a certification from the head of the public body that the statements in the determination are accurate and that the reduced fee amount complies with its publicly available procedures and guidelines and section 4.

(c) Uphold the fee and issue a written determination to the requesting person indicating the specific basis under section 4 that supports the required fee. The determination shall include a certification from the head of the public body that the statements in the determination are accurate and that the fee amount complies with the public body's publicly available procedures and guidelines and section 4.

(d) Issue a notice extending for not more than 10 business days the period during which the head of the public body must respond to the written appeal. The notice of extension shall include a detailed reason or reasons why the extension is necessary. The head of a public body shall not issue more than 1 notice of extension for a particular written appeal.

(3) A board or commission that is the head of a public body is not considered to have received a written appeal under subsection (2) until the first regularly scheduled meeting of that board or commission following submission of the written appeal under subsection (1)(a).

(4) In an action commenced under subsection (1)(b), a court that determines the public body required a fee that exceeds the amount permitted under its publicly available procedures and guidelines or section 4 shall reduce the fee to a permissible amount. Venue for an action against a local public body is proper in the circuit court for the county in which the public record or an office of the public body is located. The court shall determine the matter de novo, and the burden is on the public body to establish that the required fee complies with its publicly available procedures and guidelines and section 4. Failure to comply with an order of the court may be punished as contempt of court.

(5) An action commenced under this section and an appeal from an action commenced under this section shall be assigned for hearing and trial or for argument at the earliest practicable date and expedited in every way.

(6) If the requesting person prevails in an action commenced under this section by receiving a reduction of 50% or more of the total fee, the court may, in its discretion, award all or an appropriate portion of reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and disbursements. The award shall be assessed against the public body liable for damages under subsection (7).

(7) If the court determines in an action commenced under this section that the public body has arbitrarily and capriciously violated this act by charging an excessive fee, the court shall order the public body to pay a civil fine of \$500.00, which shall be deposited in the general fund of the state treasury. The court may also award, in addition to any actual or compensatory damages, punitive damages in the amount of \$500.00 to the person seeking the fee reduction. The fine and any damages shall not be assessed against an individual, but shall be assessed against the next succeeding public body that is not an individual and that kept or maintained the public record as part of its public function.

(8) As used in this section, "fee" means the total fee or any component of the total fee calculated under section 4, including any deposit.

History: Add. 2014, Act 563, Eff. July 1, 2015