

Records Maintenance and Release

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Issuing Authority:	Chief Jay Miller

801.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

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

801.2 POLICY

The Alsip Police Department is committed to providing public access to records in a manner that is consistent with the Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.).

801.3 CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chief of Police shall designate a Custodian of Records and Freedom of Information Officer who may be, but are not required to be, the same person. The responsibilities of the Custodian of Records include but are not limited to (5 ILCS 140/3.5; 5 ILCS 140/4; 5 ILCS 140/5; 5 ILCS 179/35):

- (a) Managing the records management system for the [Department/Office], including the retention, archiving, release, and destruction of [department/office] public records.
- (b) Maintaining and updating the [department/office] records retention schedule, including:
 1. Identifying the minimum length of time the [Department/Office] must keep records.
 2. Identifying the [Department/Office] division responsible for the original record.
- (c) Establishing rules regarding the inspection and copying of [department/office] public records as reasonably necessary for the protection of such records.
- (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 a current schedule of fees for public records as allowed by law is available.
 1. No fees shall be charged for the first 50 pages of copies as per 5 ILCS 140/6(b).
 2. Fees charged for copying public records shall be limited to the actual cost of duplication or publication.

Alsip Police Department

Policy Manual

Records Maintenance and Release

3. The cost of search, examination, review, and the redaction and separation of exempt from nonexempt information will not be assessed.
- (g) Ensuring the prominent display at the [department/office]'s headquarters of information that conveys the [department/office]'s mission, budget, office locations, number of employees, and an organizational chart that depicts the [department/office] structure and the relationship of the [Department/Office] to [city/county] government. This information also needs to be available on the [department/office] or [city/county] website.
 - (h) Ensuring information identifying the [department/office]'s Freedom of Information Officer, the categories of available records, and the process for requesting public records, including the address for submitting requests, will also be displayed.
 - (i) Working with the Freedom of Information Officer to develop a list of documents or categories of records that the [Department/Office] shall immediately disclose upon request.
 - (j) Promptly remediating any deficiencies in the [department/office]'s Freedom of Information Officer's public records management activities.
 - (k) Expediently advising the Chief of Police of any denials of public records requests, issues associated with the processing of records requests, and requests that may involve potentially sensitive or newsworthy matters.
 - (l) Consulting with the Chief of Police in the event further information is needed regarding the appropriate response to a records request.
 - (m) Submitting monthly reports to the Illinois State Police (ISP) regarding arrest-related deaths, firearm discharges by members (including pointing of firearms in the direction of a person), hate crimes, domestic crimes, index crimes, school incidents, incidents involving persons in mental health crisis, and use of force. The report should include information and data required by the Uniform Crime Reporting Act (50 ILCS 709/5-12).
 - (n) Submitting a quarterly report to the ISP that includes incident-based information on any criminal homicide pursuant to 50 ILCS 709/5-15.
 - (o) Submitting an annual report on body-worn cameras to the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (50 ILCS 706/10-25).
 - (p) Establishing a procedure for an individual to access, review, and confirm the expungement of civil law citations issued to the individual for violations of 720 ILCS 550/4(a) or 720 ILCS 600/3.5(c) (20 ILCS 2630/5.2).
 - (q) Establishing procedures for the protection of Social Security information pursuant to the Identity Protection Act and proper filing and posting of appropriate policy and procedures (5 ILCS 179/35).
1. The procedures should include proper collection, handling, dissemination, and access restrictions of information that contains Social Security numbers.
- (r) Submitting an annual report regarding the number of requests for assistance from federal immigration authorities and of civil immigration detainers and warrants received to the Illinois Attorney General (5 ILCS 805/25).

Alsip Police Department

Policy Manual

Records Maintenance and Release

- (s) Submitting an annual report regarding the number and processing of requests for U visas and T visas to the Illinois Attorney General (5 ILCS 825/20).
- (t) Submitting a report to the ISP regarding verified incidents involving firearms or drugs in a school or on property controlled by a school (105 ILCS 5/10-27.1A; 105 ILCS 5/10-27.1B).

801.4 PROCESSING REQUESTS FOR PUBLIC RECORDS

Any [department/office] member who receives a request for any record shall route the request to the Freedom of Information Officer or the authorized designee. All [department/office] records are presumed to be open to inspection or copying (5 ILCS 140/1.2).

801.4.1 REQUESTS FOR RECORDS

The processing of requests for any record is subject to the following:

- (a) The [Department/Office] is not required to create records that do not exist or maintain records that it does not maintain (5 ILCS 140/1).
- (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 (5 ILCS 140/7).
 - 1. A copy of the redacted release should be maintained in the case file for proof of what was actually released and as a place to document the reasons for the redactions. If the record is audio or video, a copy of the redacted audio/video release should be maintained in the [department/office]-approved media storage system and a notation should be made in the case file to document the release and the reasons for the redacted portions.
- (c) The Freedom of Information Officer shall:
 - 1. Document the date the request was received.
 - 2. Compute the date that the time to respond expires and note the information on the request.
 - 3. Maintain an electronic or hard copy of the request.
 - 4. Create a retention file for the request and promptly determine if the record is available or subject to any exemption.
- (d) The Freedom of Information Officer shall ensure that requests are processed within five business days after receipt, with up to an additional five days permitted for certain exceptions. When seeking additional time, written notice shall be provided to the requesting party (5 ILCS 140/3).
 - 1. These time frames may be extended for recurrent requesters (5 ILCS 140/3.2).
 - 2. Voluminous requests are to be addressed under 5 ILCS 140/3.6.
- (e) Requests for records to be used for commercial purposes shall be processed within 21 working days after receipt (5 ILCS 140/3.1).

Alsip Police Department

Policy Manual

Records Maintenance and Release

- (f) If a record is requested in electronic format, the record shall be provided in electronic format, if reasonably feasible. If not reasonably feasible, the record shall be furnished in the format in which it is maintained. If furnishing an electronic copy, the [Department/Office] may charge for the actual cost of the recording medium (5 ILCS 140/6(a)).

801.4.2 DENIALS

The denial of a request for records is subject to the following:

- (a) Denial of a request by the Freedom of Information Officer shall be in writing and identify the specific exemptions being claimed under 5 ILCS 140/9. Failure to respond in a timely manner to a request under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act constitutes a denial (5 ILCS 140/3(d)). Because the [Department/Office] bears the burden of proof in a denial, the Freedom of Information Officer shall consult with the Administration Lieutenant prior to issuing a denial.
- (b) A detailed factual basis for any claimed exemption, and the names and titles of each person responsible for the denial, will be provided (5 ILCS 140/9). Each written denial shall also inform the requesting party of the right to appeal to the Public Access Counselor of the Illinois Attorney General (5 ILCS 140/9(a)).

801.4.3 FEES

Fees shall be collected prior to the release of records. Fees may be waived by the Administration Lieutenant if it is determined by the supervisor that the issuance of the record is in the public interest (5 ILCS 140/6).

801.4.4 PUBLIC ACCESS COUNSELOR

Any requestor who believes that a violation of the Illinois Freedom of Information Act has occurred may file a request for review with the Public Access Counselor of the Illinois Attorney General (5 ILCS 140/9.5).

If the Public Access Counselor determines that an alleged violation is unfounded, no further action will be taken (5 ILCS 140/9.5). In all other cases, the Public Access Counselor will, within seven working days of receipt, forward a request to the [Department/Office] accompanied by a specific list of documents for the [Department/Office] to furnish to the Public Access Counselor. The [department/office]'s Freedom of Information Officer will furnish the requested records or documents within seven working days of receipt, will fully cooperate with the Public Access Counselor, and will advise the Administration Lieutenant of all such communications (5 ILCS 140/9.5).

Any communication with the [Department/Office] by the Public Access Counselor shall be promptly brought to the attention of the Chief of Police.

801.5 RELEASE RESTRICTIONS

Examples of release restrictions include:

- (a) 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's license record, motor vehicle

Alsip Police Department

Policy Manual

Records Maintenance and Release

record, or any [department/office] record, including traffic crash reports, is restricted except as authorized by the [Department/Office], 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).

- (b) Private information, including but not limited to unique identifiers such as Social Security numbers, driver's license numbers, employee identification numbers, biometric identifiers, personal financial information, passwords or access codes, medical records, home or personal telephone numbers, home address, personal email addresses, or personal license plates (5 ILCS 140/7(1)(b); 5 ILCS 140/2(c-5)).
- (c) Confidential information involving confidential informants, intelligence information, information that would endanger the safety of any person involved, or information that would endanger the successful completion of an investigation (5 ILCS 140/7).
 - 1. Analysis and conclusions of investigating officers (5 ILCS 140/7(1)(f)).
- (d) The identity of child victims and adult victims of criminal sexual offenses unless authorized by court order (725 ILCS 190/3; 725 ILCS 191/10).
- (e) Reports of elder abuse and neglect (320 ILCS 20/8).
- (f) Records regarding juveniles under 18 years of age (705 ILCS 405/1-7; 705 ILCS 405/5-905).
- (g) [Department/Office] records that would obstruct an ongoing investigation or pending administrative enforcement proceeding (5 ILCS 140/7).
- (h) Information contained in personnel and other public records that would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, in which the individual's right to privacy outweighs any legitimate interest in obtaining the information.
 - 1. The disclosure of personal information that bears on the public duties of employees of this [department/office] shall not be considered an invasion of personal privacy (5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c)).
 - 2. The disclosure of employee performance evaluations is prohibited (820 ILCS 40/11).
- (i) Records that were created exclusively in anticipation of potential litigation, which would not be subject to discovery or which may be subject to an attorney-client privilege involving this [department/office] (5 ILCS 140/7(1)(m)).
- (j) Any record relating to vulnerability assessments, security measures, and response policies or plans (5 ILCS 140/7(1)(v)).
- (k) Body-worn camera recordings as provided in the Law Enforcement Officer-Worn Body Camera Act (5 ILCS 140/7.5).
- (l) Certain records requested by a person committed to the Department of Corrections or a county jail (5 ILCS 140/7).
- (m) Information prohibited from disclosure under the Seizure and Forfeiture Reporting Act (5 ILCS 140/7.5).

Alsip Police Department

Policy Manual

Records Maintenance and Release

- (n) Information including but not limited to evidence and records in the state-wide tracking system pursuant to the Sexual Assault Evidence Submission Act (5 ILCS 140/7.5).
- (o) Names and all identifying information relating to an employee, communications, notes, records, and reports arising out of a peer support counseling session under the First Responders Suicide Prevention Act (5 ILCS 140/7.5).
- (p) Information reported to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority regarding in-custody deaths that is deemed by the Authority to be privileged or protected under state or federal law (730 ILCS 210/3-5).
- (q) Records or reports accessed from the ISP prohibited persons portal or LEADS system regarding persons whose Firearm Owner's Identification (FOID) cards have been revoked or suspended (5 ILCS 140/7.5; 20 ILCS 2605/2605-304).
- (r) Any report or information received under the Student Confidential Reporting Act program (5 ILCS 140/7).
- (s) Information contained in an affidavit or application for an endorsement as provided in the Protect Illinois Communities Act (5 ILCS 140/7.5; 720 ILCS 5/24-1.9).
- (t) Automated license plate reader (ALPR) information requested for the purpose of enforcing laws restricting access to reproductive health care services or laws that permit the detention or investigation of a person due to immigration status (5 ILCS 140/7; 625 ILCS 5/2-130).
- (u) Information related to lawful health care (e.g., location information, health records) under the Lawful Health Care Activity Act (5 ILCS 140/7.5; 735 ILCS 40/28-10; 735 ILCS 40/28-11).

801.6 ARREST RECORDS

Arrest report information that identifies an individual, any charges, time and location of arrest, name of the investigating agency, and, if the individual is incarcerated, the time and date the individual was transferred from [department/office] custody shall be furnished as soon as practicable but in no event later than 72 hours after arrest (5 ILCS 140/2.15; 110 ILCS 12/15).

Information concerning an arrest must be made available to the news media for inspection and copying absent specific exceptions. The information shall be made available as soon as practicable but in no event later than 72 hours after arrest (5 ILCS 160/4a; 50 ILCS 205/3b).

If the request is made by a criminal defendant or an authorized representative (including attorneys), then the Illinois State's Attorney, States Attorney, Illinois Attorney General, local prosecutor, or the courts, as applicable, should be promptly notified.

Persons requesting conviction information should be directed to the ISP.

801.6.1 REQUESTS TO RETRACT OR DELETE ARREST RECORDS

Requests from a Chief of Police, county Sheriff or State's Attorney to delete or retract arrest records of individuals mistakenly identified should be forwarded to the Custodian of Records for handling (5 ILCS 160/17; 50 ILCS 205/4).

Records Maintenance and Release

801.7 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 State Attorney, States Attorney 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/Office] so that a timely response can be prepared.

801.8 RELEASED RECORDS TO BE MARKED

Each page of any written record released pursuant to this policy should be stamped in a colored ink or otherwise marked to indicate the [department/office] name and to whom the record was released.

Each audio/video recording released should include the [department/office] name and to whom the record was released.

801.9 SECURITY BREACHES

Members who become aware that any Alsip Police Department system containing personal information may have been breached should notify the Custodian of Records as soon as practicable.

The Custodian of Records shall (815 ILCS 530/10):

- (a) Ensure notice of any breach of the security of personal information is given to the appropriate individuals/entities any time there is a reasonable belief that an unauthorized person has acquired personal information, as defined in 815 ILCS 530/5, stored in any [department/office] information system.
- (b) Cooperate with the appropriate individuals/entities by providing the date or approximate date of the breach and identifying any steps taken or that will be taken relating to the breach.

801.10 EXPUNGEMENT AND SEALING

Expungement and sealing orders received by the [Department/Office] shall be reviewed for appropriate action by the Custodian of Records or Freedom of Information Officer. The Custodian of Records or Freedom of Information Officer shall expunge such records as ordered by the court. Records may include but are not limited to a record of arrest, investigation, detention, or conviction (705 ILCS 405/1-3). Once expunged, members shall respond to any inquiry as though the record did not exist (20 ILCS 2630/5.2).

Alsip Police Department

Policy Manual

Records Maintenance and Release

801.10.1 AUTOMATIC EXPUNGEMENTS FOR CANNABIS OFFENSES

The Custodian of Records should make all automatic expungements within the time frames set in 20 ILCS 2630/5.2.

The Custodian of Records should provide a certificate of disposition or certification of expungement upon inquiry by any individual whose record was expunged (20 ILCS 2630/5.2).

801.10.2 ARREST RECORDS

When a request is made for arrest records of an individual whose records were retracted or deleted in the case of mistaken identity in accordance with 5 ILCS 160/17 and 50 ILCS 205/4, members should respond that no such records exist.

801.10.3 JUVENILE RECORDS

On or before January 1 of each year, the Custodian of Records or Freedom of Information Officer shall expunge juvenile records as required by 705 ILCS 405/5-915.

If the Chief of Police or the authorized designee certifies in writing that certain information is necessary for a pending investigation involving the commission of a felony or with respect to an internal investigation of any law enforcement office, that information and information identifying the juvenile may be retained as provided in 705 ILCS 405/5-915. However, the remaining portion of any records not retained shall be expunged.

If juvenile records might be necessary for use in civil litigation against the [Department/Office], the government entity that created, maintained, or used the records is not required to expunge the records until two years following the subject's arrest (705 ILCS 405/5-915). However, these records shall be considered expunged for all other purposes during this period and the offense that is the subject of the records shall be treated as if it never occurred, as required under 705 ILCS 405/5-923.

In the event a civil lawsuit is filed against the [Department/Office], the government entity that created, maintained, or used the juvenile records may not expunge the records until two years after the conclusion of the lawsuit, including any appeal (705 ILCS 405/5-915).

Body-worn camera recordings of juveniles shall not be subject to automatic expungement except as otherwise provided in the Body-Worn Cameras Policy.

Within 60 days after receipt of a court expungement order or date of automatic expungement, the Custodian of Records or the authorized designee shall send a written notice of expungement to the subject of the expungement (705 ILCS 405/5-915).

801.10.4 AUTOMATIC SEALING FOR PROSTITUTION OFFENSES

The Custodian of Records shall seal law enforcement records relating to arrests, charges not initiated by arrest, and convictions for prostitution as required by 20 ILCS 2630/5.2.

801.11 TRAINING

Prior to assuming the Freedom of Information Officer duties, but within 30 days after being so designated, the Freedom of Information Officer will undergo and successfully complete the

Alsip Police Department

Policy Manual

Records Maintenance and Release

electronic training curriculum as developed by the Public Access Counselor. The Freedom of Information Officer shall thereafter be recertified on an annual basis (5 ILCS 140/3.5).

All members who have access to Social Security numbers, from the time of collection to the time of destruction of the records, shall receive training on the protection of such information, pursuant to the Identity Protection Act (5 ILCS 179/35).