



West Warwick Police Department

1162 Main Street, West Warwick, RI 02893-4829



Access to Public Records Act

The West Warwick Police Department adheres to the Access to Public Records Act, R.I. Gen. Laws §38-2-1, *et. seq.*, and has instituted the following procedures for the public to obtain public records.

1. Requests for records must be mailed to the Records Division, which is the section within the West Warwick Police Department designated to handle these matters, except as provided in paragraph 4 below. The mailing address is: West Warwick Police Department, ATTN: Records Division, 1162 Main Street, West Warwick, RI 02893. Requests may also be hand delivered to the West Warwick Police Department at the front desk (1162 Main Street) and addressed to the Records or requests may be emailed to recordsrequest@westwarwickpd.org.
2. The hours for the Records Division is 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and the clerk can be reached by telephone at 401-827-9009. Sgt. Jeffrey Petrarca is the Public Records Officer for the West Warwick Police Department. If you come in after regular business hours, please complete the Public Records Request Form at the front desk and it will be given to the Records Division the following day.
3. You are not required to provide identification or the reason you seek the information, and your right to access public records will not depend upon providing identification or reasons.
4. In order to ensure that you are provided with the public records you seek in an expeditious manner, unless you are seeking records available pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act or other documents prepared for or readily available to the public, we ask that you complete the Public Records Request Form located at the front desk, or on our website, www.westwarwickpd.org or otherwise submit your request in writing. If you are seeking documents available pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act or other documents prepared for or readily available to the public and do not wish to submit a written request, you must contact Sgt. Jeffrey Petrarca to make your request.
5. There are times when the public records you seek will not be available at the time of your request. Please be advised that the Access to Public Records Act (APRA) allows a public body ten (10) business days to respond, which can be extended an additional twenty (20) business days for "good cause." We appreciate your understanding and patience.
6. **Costs.** The APRA gives you the opportunity to view and/or copy public records. The cost per copied page of written public documents will be \$.15 for copyable documents copy able on common business or legal size paper. You may elect to obtain public records in

any and all media in which we are capable of providing them. The APRA permits a reasonable charge for search and retrieval of documents. The hourly costs for a search and retrieval shall not exceed fifteen (\$15.00) dollars per hour with no charge for the first hour. We would be more than happy to provide you with an estimate. Upon a request, we will provide a detailed itemization of the costs charged for search and retrieval.

7. **Public Records.** A “public record” is defined as “documents, papers, or other material regardless of physical form or characteristics made or received pursuant to law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business by any agency.” Specifically with respect to police records, in addition to other records maintained by this Department that constitute “public records”, the APRA deems public “records relating to the management and direction of law enforcement agency and records or reports reflecting the initial arrest of an adult and the charge or charges brought against an adult.” R.I. Gen. Laws Section 38-2-2(4)(D).
8. **Redaction.** Although a document may constitute a public record, there may be some information contained on the document that may be redacted/deleted as it is exempt from disclosure under R.I. Gen. Laws Section 38-2-2.
9. **Exemptions.** The APRA exempts some records from public disclosure. See, R.I.Gen. Laws Section 38-2-2(4). The following are some explanations as to why a document or part thereof may be exempt from disclosure:

* (A)(I) ...all personal or medical information relating to an individual in any files, including information relating to medical or psychological facts...R.I. Gen. Laws Section 38-2-2(4)(i.)(A)(I); (C) ...records of juvenile proceedings before the family court (D) All records maintained by law enforcement agencies for criminal law enforcement and all records relating to the detection and investigation of crime, including those maintained on any individual or compiled in the course of a criminal investigation by any law enforcement agency. Provided, however, such records shall not be deemed public only to the extent that the disclosure of the records or information may (a) reasonably be expected to interfere with investigations of criminal activity or with enforcement proceedings, (b) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (c) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source, including a state, local or foreign agency or authority, or private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, or the information furnished by a confidential source, (e) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigation or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions or (f) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual. (S) Records, reports, opinions, information, and statements required to be kept confidential by federal law or regulation or state rule of court, law or regulation. (i.e. information regarding juveniles, etc.)

* Please be advised that this is not a complete list of documents that the Act exempts from disclosure. For a full list see R.I. Gen. Laws Section 38-2-2.

10. **Appeal of Denial.** Any person or entity denied the right to inspect a record of a public body by the Public Records Officer may petition the chief administrative officer of that

public body for review of the determinations made by his or her subordinates. Any petitions from a denial should be made to **Colonel Richard G. Silva, West Warwick Police Department, 1162 Main Street, West Warwick, RI 02893**. A final determination whether or not to allow public inspection will be made within ten (10) business days after the submission of the review petition. R.I. Gen. Laws Section 38-2-8.

11. **Complaint to the Attorney General**. If the Police Chief determined that the record is not subject to public inspection, the person or entity seeking disclosure may file a complaint with the Attorney General (150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903, telephone 401-274-4400). You may also file a lawsuit in Superior Court.