

Rights of Requester

You have the right to:

- Prompt access to information that is not confidential or otherwise protected
- Receive treatment equal to all other requesters, including accommodation in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements
- Receive certain kinds of information without exceptions, like the voting record of public officials, and other information
- Receive a written statement of estimated charges, when charges will exceed \$40, in advance of work being started and opportunity to modify the request in response to the itemized statement
- Choose whether to inspect the requested information (most often at no charge), receive copies of the information or both;
- A waiver or reduction of charges if the governmental body determines that access to the information primarily benefits the general public
- Receive a copy of the communication from the governmental body asking the Office of the Attorney General for a ruling on whether the information can be withheld under one of the accepted exceptions, or if the communication discloses the requested information, a redacted copy
- Lodge a written complaint about overcharges for public information with the Office of the Attorney General
 - Complaints of other possible violations may be filed with the county or district attorney of the county where the governmental body, other than a state agency, is located
 - If the complaint is against the county or district attorney, the complaint must be filed with the Office of the Attorney General

Responsibilities of Governmental Bodies

All governmental bodies responding to information requests have the responsibility to:

- Establish reasonable procedures for inspecting or copying public information and inform requesters of these procedures
- Treat all requesters uniformly and shall give to the requester all reasonable comfort and facility, including accommodation in accordance with ADA requirements
- Be informed about open records laws and educate employees on the requirements of those laws
- Inform requesters of the estimated charges greater than \$40 and any changes in the estimates above 20% of the original estimate, and confirm that the requester accepts the charges, has amended the request, or has sent a complaint of overcharges to the Office of the Attorney General, in writing before finalizing the request
- Inform the requester if the information cannot be provided promptly and set a date and time to provide it within a reasonable time
- Request a ruling from the Office of the Attorney General regarding any information the governmental body wishes to withhold, and send a copy of the request for ruling, or a redacted copy, to the requester

- Segregate public information from information that may be withheld and provide that public information promptly
- Make a good faith attempt to inform third parties when their proprietary information is being requested from the governmental body
- Respond in writing to all written communications from the Office of the Attorney General regarding charges for the information
- Respond to the Office of the Attorney General regarding complaints about violations of the act

Procedures to Obtain Information

- Submit a request by mail, fax, email or in person according to a governmental body's reasonable procedures.
- Include enough description and detail about the information requested to enable the governmental body to accurately identify and locate the information requested.
- Cooperate with the governmental body's reasonable efforts to clarify the type or amount of information requested.

Information to be Released

- You may review it promptly, and if it cannot be produced within 10 working days the public information officer will notify you in writing of the reasonable date and time when it will be available.
- Keep all appointments to inspect records and to pick up copies. Failure to keep appointments may result in losing the opportunity to inspect the information at the time requested. Cost of Records
- You must respond to any written estimate of charges within 10 business days of the date the governmental body sent it or the request is considered automatically withdrawn.
- If estimated costs exceed \$100 (or \$50 if a governmental body has fewer than 16 full-time employees) the governmental body may require a bond, prepayment or deposit.
- You may ask the governmental body to determine whether providing the information primarily benefits the general public, resulting in a waiver or reduction of charges.
- Make a timely payment for all mutually agreed charges. A governmental body can demand payment of overdue balances exceeding \$100, or obtain a security deposit, before processing additional requests from you.

Information that may be Withheld Due to an Exception

- By the 10th business day after a governmental body receives your written request, a governmental body must:
 - Request an Attorney General opinion and state which exceptions apply
 - Notify the requester of the referral to the Attorney General
 - Notify third parties if the request involves their proprietary information

- Failure to request an Attorney General opinion and notify the requester within 10 business days will result in a presumption that the information is open unless there is a compelling reason to withhold it.
- Requesters may send a letter to the Attorney General arguing for release, and may review arguments made by the governmental body. If the arguments disclose the requested information, the requester may obtain a redacted copy.
- The Attorney General must issue a decision no later than the 45th working day from the day after the attorney general received the request for a decision. The attorney general may request an additional 10 working day extension.
- Governmental bodies may not ask the Attorney General to "reconsider" an opinion.

To request information from this governmental body, please contact:

- By mail or in person at:
City Secretary
City of Edna
126 W. Main St.
Edna, TX 77957
Ph: 361-782-3122
- By email to [Becky Miska](#)
- By fax to 361-782-3590

For complaints regarding failure to release public information please contact your local County or District Attorney at:

- You may also contact the Office of the Attorney General, Open Government Hotline, at 361-478-6736 or toll-free at 877-673-6839.
- For complaints regarding overcharges, please contact the Office of the Attorney General's Cost Rules Administrator at 512-475-2497.

If you need special accommodation pursuant to the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), please contact our ADA coordinator, City Secretary Becky Miska at 361-782-3122.