

Requesting Access to Government Records
Under the New Jersey Open Records Act (N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.)

1. In order to request access to government records under OPRA, you must complete all the required portions of and date this request form and deliver it in person during regular business hours or by mail, fax or electronically to the agency custodian of records. Your request is not considered filed until the agency custodian of records receives the request form. If you submit the request form to any other officer or employee of the City of Hackensack, that officer or employee may not have the authority to accept your request form on behalf of the City of Hackensack and your request will be directed to the agency custodian of records. The seven (7) business day response time will not commence until the agency custodian of records receives the request form.
2. The fees for duplication of a government record in printed form are listed on the front of this form. We will notify you of any special service charges or other additional charges authorized by State law or regulation before processing your request. Payment shall be made by cash, check or money order payable to the City of Hackensack.
3. If it is necessary for the records custodian to contact you concerning your request, providing identifying information, such as your name, address, telephone number, fax number or e-mail address is required. Where contact is not necessary, anonymous requests are permitted; except that anonymous requests for personal information are not honored.
4. You may be charged a 50% or other deposit when a request for copies exceeds \$25. The City of Hackensack records custodian will contact you and advise you of any deposit requirements. Anonymous requests, when permitted, require a deposit of 100% of estimated fees. You agree to pay the balance due upon delivery of the records.
5. Under OPRA, a custodian must deny access to a person who has been convicted of an indictable offense in New Jersey, any other state, or the United States, and who is seeking government records containing personal information pertaining to the person's victim or the victim's family.
6. By law, the City of Hackensack must notify you that it grants or denies a request for access to government records within seven (7) business days after the agency custodian of records receives the request. If the record requested is not currently available or is in storage, the custodian will advise you within seven (7) business days after receipt of the request when the record can be made available and the estimated cost for reproduction. You may agree with the custodian to extend the time for making records available, or granting or denying your request.
7. You may be denied access to a government record if your request would substantially disrupt agency operations and the custodian is unable to reach a reasonable solution with you.
8. If the City of Hackensack is unable to comply with your request for access to a government record, the custodian will indicate the reasons for denial on the request form and send you a signed and dated copy.
9. Except as otherwise provided by law or by agreement with the requester, if the agency custodian of records fails to respond to you within seven (7) business days of receiving a request, the failure to respond is deemed denial of your request.
10. If your request for access to a government record has been denied or unfilled within the seven (7) business days required by law, you have a right to challenge the decision by the City of Hackensack to deny access. At your option, you may either institute a proceeding in the Superior Court of New Jersey or file a complaint in writing with the Government Records Council ("GRC"). You may contact the GRC by toll-free telephone at 866-850-0511, by mail at P.O. Box 819, Trenton, NJ, 08625, by e-mail at grc@dca.state.nj.us, or at their web site at www.state.nj.us/grc. The council can also answer other questions about the law.
11. Information provided on this form may be subject to disclosure under the Open Public Records Act.