

Open Records Form

Accident Reports

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Access to Police Records

Except as otherwise provided by law, any requester has a right to inspect any record. Substantive common law principles construing the right to inspect, copy or receive copies of records shall remain in effect. [Exceptions do exist, see Wis. Stats. Sec 19.35 (1) Right To Inspection] (PDF)

Copies of police incident reports can be obtained from the Fort Atkinson Police Department. To obtain reports, you may be required to complete the Open Records Request Form. Completing the form assists us in locating your record and fulfilling your request in a timely manner. Once completed, you can mail, email, or drop off the form to our agency. Fees may apply for open records requests. Walk-in and phone requests for records are handled on a workload priority basis. It is not necessary to disclose your purpose for requesting a record or your identity (with exceptions). What is important is that you narrow your search criteria for a record of interest. For example: Providing a date, time, and type of record will in most cases expedite the return of the record. Vague requests or requests that are not narrow in scope may be rejected.

Why are some records redacted?

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, held that an Illinois village violated the Drivers Privacy Protection Act (DPPA) by placing a parking citation containing information taken from Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) records on the windshield of a car. We must examine closely how we release information that is collected from a DMV/DOT record database (i.e. report, citations, parking tickets, etc.) in order to ensure compliance under the DPPA.

"Personal Information" that is obtained through the DMV shall NOT be disclosed or otherwise made available to non-excepted third parties. The following personal information will commonly be redacted from official records prior to release:

- Name, Address, Telephone numbers
- Dates of birth, Driver License numbers or ID numbers, Social Security Number
- Records that would invade the person's privacy and discourage full cooperation in reporting accidents
- A photograph of an individual
- Medical or disability information
- Information that compromises the safety of victims or witnesses of crime. Wis. Stats. Ch. 950
- Any record that would endanger an individual's life or safety, Wis. Stat. Sec. 19.35
- Any record that would identify a confidential informant, Wis. Stat. Sec 19.35
- Any record, the release of which would not be in the public interest under the Wisconsin Open Records Law
- Records related to and that identify or name juveniles