



Maine Freedom of Information Coalition

WWW.MFOIC.ORG

Police Departments

74 visits made to request access to daily police log

66.2 percent	Complied with request
46.9 percent	Required identification for access to public records
40.8 percent	Required a reason for access
32.7 percent	Required auditor to identify employer for access
6 percent	Granted access to press, but not to “just” the public
5 percent	Access denied because records were “confidential”
5 percent	Clerks had to ask a supervisor if document requested was public
4 percent	Auditors reported police were “rude”
2 percent	Access denied because offices were closed, documents were in locked cabinets

School Districts

79 visits made to request access to superintendent’s contract

67.1 percent	Complied with request
45.3 percent	Required identification for access to public records
35.8 percent	Required a reason for access
12 percent	Clerks had to ask a supervisor if document requested was public
9.4 percent	Required auditor to identify employer for access
7.5 percent	Required written request for access
5 percent	Information not immediately available; clerks willing to fax or mail following day
4 percent	Request denied because clerks were too busy
2 percent	Access denied because records were “confidential”
1 percent	Access denied because offices were closed, documents were in locked cabinets

Town Offices

157 visits made to request access to expense report of highest elected official

47 percent	Do not keep requested record on file
28.3 percent	Required a reason for access
18.3 percent	Required identification for access to public records
18 percent	Complied with request
10 percent	Required audit to identify employer for access
5 percent	Required written request for access
4 percent	Information not immediately available; clerks willing to fax or mail following day
3 percent	Access denied because offices were closed, documents were in locked cabinets

** 18 percent of 489 Maine towns did not respond to the Coalition’s written request for minutes of the previous selectmen or city council meeting.*

NOTE: Maine law allows access to public records to any “person.” It makes no requirement that a person identify themselves, identify their employer, state a reason for the request or complete paperwork for access to public documents. Coalition requested access to documents that are public by statute. For a complete report on the Maine FOI Coalition public records audit, go to www.mfoic.org