

Keeping Iowa Open



A Guide to the State's
Access Laws & the Courts

Credits

This handbook was produced by the Iowa Freedom of Information Council with support of the Iowa Newspaper Foundation.

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Introduction

Welcome to the Iowa newsroom!

In simpler times, the anecdotal measure of how well the new employee would work out was whether that person could find the office washroom without being told, without having to ask about that and about dozens of other bits of information. You often were on your own; sink or swim.

Employers may be more enlightened today; they have to be.

For one thing, there seems to be so much more to know about the law and the technology of journalism. For another, employee turnover is higher, so breaking in new staff is part of a news director's or editor's routine responsibilities — not something occasioned only because a longtime employee shirked newsroom responsibilities by retiring or dying.

This manual is a modest effort to help both employees new to Iowa and their busy editors and news directors. The adjective “modest” is an apt one for at least three reasons:

1. The manual is limited to background related to freedom of information and a few First Amendment concerns that Iowa journalists simply must know about to serve their communities and their employers well.
2. The information is limited to about 25 pages, just enough we hope to be reviewed in one sitting and just enough to warrant review once in awhile.
3. This collection of information is the first step in an effort by the Iowa Freedom of Information Council — which includes the Iowa Newspaper Association and the Iowa Broadcasters Association — to develop a continuing FOI-education program for the Iowa news media, in time getting all this material and more available on the web and available in interactive fashion.

For the time being, however, we have assembled information in handbook fashion, sufficient for deserving a space on the desks or bookshelves in Iowa newsrooms.

We hope the information will be useful and will be used and supplemented by information peculiar to the new reporter's community. As for finding the way to the washroom, you're on your own.



History

Foundations of openness

In Iowa, the information access laws are found in Chapter 21 of the Code of Iowa, “Official Meetings Open to the Public,” and in Chapter 22, “Examination of Public Records.”

On paper and in theory the laws provide rather sweeping public access to records and meetings. Openness is presumed; the burden is on the public agency to document why access is denied and, in litigation, to prove why the agency did not violate the law; successful plaintiffs are promised reimbursement for reasonable attorneys’ fees.

In practice, however, private citizens do not relish having to file lawsuits; if citizens decide to sue, most of the local attorneys are unavailable because of conflicts of interest, in that the attorneys have public agencies as clients. Similarly, county and city attorneys provide little support for citizens seeking access because the attorneys define their primary clients as being government — a similar posture is taken by the Iowa Attorney General, contending, in part, that education about Chapters 21 and 22 is the wiser route to take in dealing with public officials than is litigating issues.

The 1998 Legislature took what some see as a significant access step in approving the IOWAccess Network — a venture to provide electronic access to some government records and services around the clock, seven days a week. Additional



information may be found at www.iowa.gov.

Reporters, as well as others, who want to attend meetings of governmental agencies or inspect or copy public records in Iowa need to keep these basic points in mind:

1. Openness and access are assumed.

You do not have to explain why you want to attend a meeting or justify why you want to see a record. The burden is on the public agency to cite a statutory provision why you may not attend a meeting and the burden is on the record custodian to point out what provision in the Code of Iowa allows the government to keep a record confidential.

For example, the open meetings law “seeks to assure . . . that the basis and rationale of governmental decisions, as well as those decisions themselves, are easily accessible to the people.” Iowa Code §21.1. And the public records law admonishes public servants that “free and open examination of public records is generally in the public interest even though such examination may cause inconvenience or embarrassment to public officials or others.” Iowa Code §22.8(3). Further, the law defines “public records” in terms of records in the possession of government agencies — a broader approach than one defining records in terms of their purpose or function.

2. Secrecy is not mandated. The open meetings law grants a public agency the discretion to hold a closed meeting under certain specified conditions, but adds, “Nothing in this section requires a governmental body to hold a closed session

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to discuss or act upon any matter.” Iowa Code §21.5(5). If a meeting discussing governmental business — like a city staff meeting with the mayor — is not covered by the open meetings law, that does not mean the meeting cannot be open. A meeting does not have to be closed simply because it is not covered by Chapter 21. Further, even if a meeting involving public officials is not subject to Chapter 21, documents distributed or reviewed in connection with the meeting likely would still be subject to Chapter 22. So a citizen denied access to such a meeting could still request copies of all the material reviewed at the meeting, any minutes of the meeting, related memos, etc.

3. Both chapters were designed to take a general, rather than a specific, approach to provisions for access and confidentiality. The laws allow some ease in application and do not try to anticipate each issue that might arise. This approach has worked better in the open meetings law, which has been relatively amendment-free since it was adopted in 1978. In the open records law, however, the number of exemptions providing confidentiality has nearly tripled — from 14 to more than 50 — since the law underwent major revision in 1984. Further, the general phrasing of some exemptions in



the open records law has led to restrictive interpretations by the courts when those exemptions are litigated.

So far, the laws have either anticipated or accommodated rather

well changes in access-technology, issues in privatization, etc. For example, in the open meetings law, 21.8 Electronic Meetings was drafted primarily to deal with meetings by telephone, but 21.8 satisfactorily handles e-mail issues, too. Although it was drafted before privatization became so trendy, section 22.2(2) of the open records law provides that “[a] government body shall not prevent the examination of a public record by contracting with a non-governmental body to perform any of its duties or functions.” In 1996, the open records law added a new section, 22.3A, dealing with access to data processing software and with electronic-record access.

4. Openness laws need not be adversarial in nature. Openness and accountability in government are in the interests of everyone — public officials and public employees, as well as the people they serve and those who report on governmental activities. An “us-against-them” mentality serves no one well. The mandates for openness in Iowa law work better when news reporters faithfully and regularly report on the wide range of government services and activities — not just upon a crisis that may arise. Likewise, a government agency that follows the laws on mundane, routine matters will be better trained to cope with issues of openness when controversial matters arise.

Brief histories of Iowa's FOI laws

Chapter 21, Open Meetings: The current open meetings law was enacted by the Iowa legislature in 1978 after the Iowa Supreme Court had found portions of the prior law unconstitutionally vague with respect to its criminal penalties. That court decision was not mourned by access advocates because the law also had required a plaintiff to prove that public officials “knowingly” violated the law. The revised law says, “Ignorance of the legal requirements of this chapter shall be no defense to an enforcement proceeding . . .” Iowa Code 21.6(4).

Chapter 21 has been rarely amended for more than 20 years. Reasons for that are at least threefold:

1. The law was well-crafted, with a mandate for openness and relatively narrow exemptions.
2. The general nature of the law provides public agencies sufficient flexibility to operate and the specific exemptions provide sufficient grounds for holding the agencies accountable.
3. In indirect, but effective, ways, the law is amended whenever Chapter

22, the open records law, is amended by the legislature or interpreted by the judiciary. Section 21.5(a) provides that a closed meeting can be held “[t]o review or discuss records which are required or authorized by state or

federal law to be kept confidential or to be kept confidential as a condition for that government body's possession or continued receipt of federal funds.” Consequently, each new exemption and each new interpretation of Chapter 22 may provide additional grounds for holding a closed meeting without amending the open meetings law.

The open records law has been the subject of most of the Iowa access litigation and legislation in the past two decades. Perhaps this is because that law applies not only to school boards, city councils, etc., but to all executive agencies and departments at the state and local levels as well.

Chapter 22, Open Records: The last major legislative revision of the open records law was in 1984. But that law has been amended by the legislature numerous times since then and also has been modified by several Iowa Supreme Court actions. Legislative action has been primarily in adding exemptions to the statutes; the judicial action has been primarily in interpreting the general provisions of the records law.

The increasing number of exemptions results in part from the societal and technological changes that have increased the amount and complexity of governmental record keeping. Several amendments after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, were responses to heightened fear of terrorism.

A significant change in the law in 1984 was passage of a “Fair Information Practices Act,” 22.11, intended to spell out state record-keeping practices with regard to personally identifiable information. The measure was recommended in 1980 by the Iowa Citizens Privacy Task Force, a committee created by



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the legislature and appointed by the governor to review how state record-keeping practices comported with right of privacy concerns. The act is modeled after recommendations of the federal Privacy Protection Study Commission of 1974, providing procedures for access by the record subject, informed consent, corrections, etc. The measure applies only to state agencies.

The general approach to record-keeping policies has led to disputes in at least two areas — in the identification of crime victims and in access to information about public employees. 22.7(5) provides for access to “the date, time, specific location, and immediate facts and circumstances surrounding a crime or incident” reported to law enforcement agencies. The “immediate facts and circumstances” provision is generally interpreted to provide access to crime victims’ names, unless such disclosure “would plainly and seriously jeopardize an investigation or pose a clear and present danger to the safety of an individual.” An attorney general’s opinion also says that crime victims’ names should be released under 22.7(5), but some county attorneys and police departments refuse to release such information. The Iowa legislature in 1991 rejected an amendment that specifically provided confidentiality for victims of sexual abuse.

The problem with the laws’ general approach is typified by 22.7(11), which provides confidentiality for “[p]ersonal information in confidential

personnel records of public bodies.”

In determining what constitutes “personal information” and what constitutes “personnel records,” a ruling of a district court judge, upheld by the state Supreme Court, meant in practice that virtually any personally identifiable information in a personnel record could be kept confidential. In re Des Moines Independent School District, 487 N.W.2d 666, 20 Media L. Rep. 1355 (Iowa 1992).

In that decision, the Iowa Supreme Court recognized that some matters of public interest would be kept secret under the ruling, but the court said it was up to the legislature to solve that problem. Public employee associations and unions have blocked legislative action to amend 22.7(11) to provide some specifics as to what information about public employees should be available to the public.

Increasing concern about access to public records is likely to be fostered as more and more government information, including court records, is available online. There should be no problem in having 24-hour-a-day electronic access to procedures for getting fishing and hunting licenses. But access to other records and services involving personally identifiable information may lead to reconsideration of just how far and for how long a policy of “presumed openness” will be maintained.

Another sticky issue has been what sorts of fees should be levied for electronic records.



Q&A's

Questions and answers about Chapters 21 and 22

The Iowa Open Meetings, Open Records Handbook published by the Iowa Freedom of Information Council has two relatively lengthy sections addressing questions often asked about the freedom of information laws. Here are eight of those questions that are among the ones most often asked:

Chapter 21 (Iowa Open Meetings Law)

QUESTION: Does any provision of the Code of Iowa permit a final action to be taken in closed session?

REPLY: Chapter 21 requires final actions to be taken in open sessions. (For example, if the discharge of an employee is discussed in closed session, the vote to discharge the employee must take place in open session.) Chapter 21.5(3), however, does say that a final action by a governmental body may be taken in a closed meeting if expressly permitted by some other provision of the Code.

QUESTION: What other sections of the Code permit meetings of governmental bodies to be closed?

REPLY: Such exemptions to Chapter 21 include at least these:

Chapter 20.17(3) exempts negotiating

sessions, strategy meetings of public employers or employee organizations, mediation and the deliberative process of arbitrators in the collective-bargaining process for public employees. (The initial two sessions shall be open to the public, however.)

Chapter 279.15 exempts hearings to discuss with a teacher a superintendent's recommendation to terminate a contract with that teacher.

Chapter 279.24 exempts a conference between a school board and a probationary administrator to discuss reasons for a proposed termination of contract.

Confusion results in the first few months of each year when some school-board sessions are closed under Chapter 279 and citizens and reporters do not realize that Chapter 21 does not apply in cases exempted under Chapter 279.

Chapter 602.2103 exempts hearings by the Commission of Judicial Qualification when it considers the retirement, discipline or removal of a judge.

QUESTION: Can a governmental body covered by Chapter 21 take a secret ballot?

REPLY: No. Chapter 21.3 states, "The minutes shall show the results of each vote taken and the information sufficient to indicate the vote of each member present. The vote of each member present shall be made public at the open session. The minutes shall be public records open to public inspection."

It would be acceptable to record a vote as unanimous in the minutes of a meeting,



or passed with only [name] dissenting, so long as the members present are noted in the minutes. However, in other cases the “yes” and “no” votes should be reported for each member of a public agency and if an agency is voting whether to go into a closed session it may be prudent to record the vote of each member, even if the decision to close a meeting is unanimous.

In a Mitchell County District Court case on this issue, McKinley vs. the St. Ansgar City Council, a city council contended that a secret ballot was merely “preferential.” The secret vote narrowed a field of candidates to five who were then approved unanimously by the council members. But a judge ruled that the procedure violated Chapter 21.3.

Sometimes a public agency might be tempted to seek secret ballots on particularly sensitive and controversial matters, but it is precisely on such matters that the votes of individual members should be recorded. For one thing, citizens are entitled to know how their representatives voted; for another, such controversial items are most likely to lead to litigation if there is a possible violation of Chapter 21.

Further, Section 380.4 of the Code of Iowa requires a city council member’s vote to be recorded on any ordinance, amendment or resolution, and 362.2(19) defines “recorded vote” as “a record, roll call vote.”



Chapter 22 (Iowa Open Records Law)

QUESTION: (1) Can I see letters written by a public official? (2) What if the letters contain confidential information?

REPLY: (1) Yes, so long as the letter deals with the discharge of public duties. For example, correspondence from a school superintendent to school board members about items on next week’s agenda should be open to public inspection. (2) If such correspondence contains information that is confidential by law, the remaining portion of the correspondence should be provided. That rule applies to other public records, too. Mere inclusion of some information that is confidential by law does not make an entire record confidential.

QUESTION: I want the record right now. How much time does the public agency have to produce a requested record?

REPLY: Typically, Iowa agencies provide access to records as soon as they can, and most record requests are routine. If there is a question as to whether the information requested is confidential, Chapter 22.8(4) provides for “good faith, reasonable delay by a lawful custodian” in permitting examination of the record. In most cases, such delay should not exceed 10 business days, according to the Code.

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QUESTION: How soon does a public agency have to provide access to its minutes?

REPLY: The minutes should be available for public inspection as soon as they are prepared. An agency cannot delay access, pending formal approval or distribution to members.

QUESTION: What police and sheriff's records are open to the public and press?

REPLY: The question is a crucial one, vital to the nature of a free society, because access to law-enforcement records is one of the rights that set a democracy apart from the totalitarian state. There must be no secret arrests in our society, no unaccountable actions by those exercising police powers.

Access to law-enforcement records is spelled out in detail in an attorney general's opinion, Weeg to Holt, 82-10-3. That opinion interprets Chapter 22.7(5) which provides public access to "the date, time, specific location, and immediate facts and circumstances surrounding a crime or incident."

The opinion notes that a news reporter or citizen does not have to know about a crime or incident to obtain information about it. The request could be a general one, to review the public record of police

activities during the past 24 hours: "A citizen may request [Chapter 22.7(5)] information for a particular day or time, or for any number of days or times. The request is not required to specify

the particular criminal incident for which the information is requested."

Generally, the opinion calls for routine access to all "date, time, specific location and immediate facts and circumstances" information, and the record custodian carries "the burden of establishing facts necessary to withhold public records. . . ."

QUESTION: There is little or no direct reference in Chapter 22 regarding information about juveniles. What guidelines are available for accessing information about juveniles involved with law enforcement agencies?

REPLY: While Iowa statutes permit many juvenile court records and proceedings to remain secret, the Iowa General Assembly in 1995 and 1997 passed legislation making it clear that complaints against juvenile offenders must be made public, as must the identity of the youthful offender. These legislative changes carve out complaints in juvenile court from the general secrecy provisions of the juvenile justice statute and grant both court and law enforcement officials authority to release the complaint and identity information.

Specifically, Iowa Code section 232.19(4) states that a complaint filed with the court alleging that a "child who is at least 10 years of age" has committed a delinquent act is a public record and "shall not be confidential under section 232.147."

Section 232.147 is the general confidentiality provision of the juvenile justice statute. Under that provision, official juvenile records such as docket



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entries, pleadings, motions, transcripts of proceedings, judgments, decrees and orders are public records, but access to such records is limited, typically to court officials, parties in the juvenile case and their attorneys, and agency officials.

Public and news media access to the juvenile court records is limited to circumstances where the court orders release of the information for inspection by a person who has a “direct interest in the proceedings or in the work of the court” or a person “conducting bona fide research for research purposes” under conditions the court deems “proper.”

Additionally, under the First Amendment, a news reporter (or any citizen, for that matter) could not be prohibited from or punished for publishing or sharing information about a juvenile, including identification, that was obtained legally — for example, by talking with family or friends of that person or by observing the incident firsthand.

(A word of caution here: The fact that a juvenile willingly provides personal information and consents to its publication may not provide legal protection for an invasion of privacy suit, for example, since a juvenile is not of legal age to give consent.)

The Code of Iowa establishes that three types of court proceedings generally are confidential: child in need of assistance proceedings, proceedings to terminate parent-child relationships, and family in need of assistance proceedings.



Perhaps the best **rules of thumb** to consider when determining the open nature of juvenile records are these:

(1) Records generally are open and accessible if, once in court, they do not involve domestic or delinquency proceedings, the hearing was open, and the court has not sealed those records.

(2) Records generally are confidential if they involve domestic proceedings, among them proceedings to terminate child-parent relations, and child and family in need of assistance proceedings.

(3) Recognize that not all law-enforcement records on juvenile delinquency will eventually become public records in open court. Many issues involving juvenile delinquency may be resolved informally or dealt with after arrest, but before court proceedings are begun, so juvenile identities in those cases often remain confidential. Also, an attorney may request a court to seal a client’s record, but such a request can be successfully challenged.

(4) As is the case with other public records, access is determined in part by a person’s willingness to pursue an issue and seek compliance with the law.

Court Summaries

Selected judicial decisions

In re Des Moines Independent School District, 487 N.W.2d 666, 20 Media L. Rep. 1355 (Iowa 1992): While supporting a sweeping interpretation of information that could be kept confidential in a public employee's personnel folder, the decision also made it clear that the terms of the settlement of a claim against a public agency are available for public inspection.

KCOB/KLVN and the Newton Daily News v. Jasper County Board of Supervisors, 473 N.W.2d 171, 191 Media L. Rep. 1113 (Iowa 1991): The Iowa Supreme Court said that public agencies should be granted some latitude in complying with agenda and notice provisions of the open meetings law and should not be held liable for technical violations of the letter of the law. Compliance with the meeting and notice provisions of the open meetings law should be "substantial" rather than "absolute."

City of Sioux City, Iowa v. Greater Sioux City Press Club and Iowa Freedom of Information Council, 21 N.W.2d 895, 15 Media L. Rep. 1441 (Iowa 1988): Applications for public employment may be kept confidential under 22.7(18),

which provides for a measure of secrecy for communications to government agencies "not required by law, rule or procedure." While a job application seemingly would be required as part of the

hiring process, the court said that a person was not required to apply for a governmental position and therefore could be covered under the 22.7(18) exemption.

Des Moines Register v. Dwyer, 542 N.W.2d 491 (Iowa 1996): The records of telephone calls made from a legislative phone bank are not available for public inspection because the rules adopted by a legislative body can exempt such records from coverage of Chapter 22 and, as a matter of separation of powers, the courts cannot make such records available for inspection.

William Marcus v. Douglas Young, 538 N.W.2d 285 (Iowa 1995): The custodian of a public record cannot be sued for exercising discretion to release a confidential record or for negligent release under Chapter 22.

Hawk Eye v. Jackson, 521 N.W.2d 750, Media L. Rep. 2475 (Iowa 1994): A report of a state agency's investigation of charges of police brutality is a public record available for public inspection.

Feller v. Scott County Civil Service Commission, 435 N.W.2d 387 (Iowa App. 1988), affirmed on remand, 482 N.W.2d 154 (Iowa 1992): Despite language of 21.5(5) that "nothing. . . requires a governmental body to hold a closed session," a county civil service commission abused its discretion in denying a request for a closed hearing concerning allegations of private sexual misconduct and of association with a convicted criminal.

Karen Burton v. University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, 566 N.W.2d 182 (Iowa 1997): Ms. Burton sought access to data summaries of nosocomial infections



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at the Hospitals. The data did not identify patients, but dealt with how “clean” the Hospitals were. The Supreme Court took a markedly narrow view of the law and reversed a lower court opinion that had held the data to be available for public inspection. The Hospitals had been granted discretion over the public/confidential nature of the data before the current records law was adopted. The court said the Hospitals were exercising their discretion even though the statutory language seemed weighted toward public release.

Clymer v. City of Cedar Rapids, 601 N.W.2d 42 (Iowa 1999): The Supreme Court mapped out what personal information about a public employee is a matter of public record. The Court ruled that the public should have access to information concerning a public employee’s sick leave benefits — including pay, dates taken and hours accrued. Other payroll information that a government body may release includes the employee’s full name, department, job title, hire date, bargaining unit, and complete and detailed information about monetary compensation. However, the employee’s gender, home address and birth date are considered confidential.



Barrett v. Lode, 603 N.W.2d 766 (Iowa 1999): The Iowa Supreme Court revisited the issue of what constitutes an adequate agenda for a public meeting, eight years after KCOB/

KLVN. The Court ruled that closed sessions of meetings subject to the Iowa open meetings law (Chapter 21) must not include issues not listed on the agenda. An agenda for a public meeting must specifically state any issues the board intends to discuss in the closed session, and discussing topics not noted on the agenda violates the law, even if the public could have anticipated the issues would arise, the court ruled.

Gannon v. Board of Regents, 692 N.W.2d 31 (Iowa 2005): The Iowa Supreme Court ruled that the Iowa State University Foundation, the fund-raising arm of the university, was performing a public function and hence had to comply with the state public records law. “A government body may not outsource one or more of its functions to a private corporation and thereby secret its doing from the public,” the court said.

Important Iowa Attorney General’s Opinions

Over the years, the office of the Iowa Attorney General has addressed scores of opinions about the open meetings and open records laws. Such AG opinions answer questions raised by public officials. Individual citizens and news media representatives seeking answers about the laws must do so through a public official on the local, county or state levels. The open meetings and open records laws were renumbered as Chapters 21 and 22 in 1985; prior to that the open meetings laws was Chapter 28A and the records law was 68A, references cited in some of the opinions cited below.

AG's Opinions

No. 79-4-19

Open meetings—public records: Sections 28A.3, 28A.4, 68A.2 and 68A.3, Iowa Code (1979). Section 28A.4 requires that a news agency which has filed a request with a governmental body be provided notification of the date, time, place and tentative agenda of an upcoming meeting of the body. The governmental body is responsible for the necessary costs involved with providing such notification. (Cook to Menke, State Representative, 4-20-79)

No. 79-5-26

State officers and departments: Open meetings law. Sections 28A.2(1), 179.2, 184A.1(7), 184A.18, 185.3, 185C.3, Iowa Code (1979). The Iowa Crop Improvement Association, Iowa Dairy Association, Iowa Beef Producers Association, Iowa Swine Producers Association, Iowa Poultry Associations, Iowa Soybean Association, Iowa Corn Growers Association and State Horticultural Society are not “expressly created” by statute and thus are not subject to the open meetings law. The Soybean Promotion Board, Corn Growers Promotion Board, Iowa Turkey Marketing Council and the Dairy Industry Commission are subject to the Chapter 28A provisions. (Cook to

Lounsberry, Secretary of Agriculture, 5-23-79)

No. 79-7-12

Open meeting: Civil Service Commission. Sections 4.7, 28A.2(1), 28A.2(2), 28A.5(1),

28A.5(1)(f), 28A.5(1)(i), 28A.5(2), 28A.5(3), 28A.5(4), 400.1, 400.3, 400.26, 400.27. Civil service commissions, created and operating under the provisions of Chapter 400, are subject to the open meetings provisions of Chapter 28A. Section 400.26 requires that the hearing on an employee’s appeal be conducted open to the public notwithstanding the exceptions in Section 28A.5 of the open meetings law. The deliberations of the commission may be conducted in a closed session only if they fall within an exception in Section 28A.5, to include subsection (i). To close the deliberations pursuant to subsection (i), the general requirements of Section 28A.5 must be complied with and (1) there must be a request for a closed session from the individual concerned and (2) there must be a need to close the session to “prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual’s reputation.” (Cook to Larsen, State Representation, 7-6-79)

No. 81-7-4(L)

Open meetings—School board. Section 13.2(4), 20.17, 28A.2, 28A.3, 28A.4, 28A.5, 28A.6, 279.15, The Code 1981. A school board must comply with the public notice procedures contained in Section 28A.4 of the Open Meetings Act when holding any meeting as defined in Sections 28A.2(2) of the Act. Generally, such a meeting occurs whenever a majority of the members of a school board gathers to deliberate or act upon any matter within the scope of the board’s policymaking duties. The Public Employment Relations Act contained in



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Chapter 20 of The Code, however, exempts negotiating sessions and strategy meetings of public employers or employee organizations from the provisions of the Open Meetings Act. Accordingly, when conducting a negotiating session or strategy meeting under the Public Employment Relations Act, a school board does not hold a meeting which would necessitate compliance with the procedural requirements, including public notice, of the Open Meetings Act. A school board committee created under Section 28A.2(1)(c) must comply with the public notice requirements of the Open Meetings Act except when holding meetings pursuant to Section 28A.4(3). Procedures for teacher termination hearings are governed by Sections 279.15 through 279.19 of The Code and do not require prior notification to the media.

For a school board to conduct a closed session during a meeting, the requirements of Section 28A.5(2) must be followed. These mandate that a specific reason for holding the closed session, as set forth in Section 28A.5(1), must be announced publicly in open session and entered in the minutes. Discussion during a closed session of a school board must relate directly to the specific reason announced as justification

for the session. (Stork to O’Kane, State Representative, 7/6/81)



No. 81-8-24

Public records: Definition of public records. Section 68A.1, The Code 1981. Packet of informational material prepared voluntarily by a city administrator for use by city council members at council meetings are public records under Section 68A.1 and therefore are subject to examination and copying under chapter 68A. (Stork to McDonald, Cherokee County Attorney, 8/14/81)

No. 82-5-15

Open meetings: Chapter 28A. If a city council committee is not a governing body, but holds a meeting at which a majority of the council is present, that meeting becomes a meeting of the full council and is thereby subject to the requirements of chapter 28A if that meeting is: (1) for the purpose of deliberation or action, (2) on a matter that is within the scope of the city council’s policy-making duties. Any questions as to the applicability of chapter 28A in a given situation should be resolved by holding the committee meeting in open session. (Weeg to McKean, State Representative, 5/25/82)

No. 82-9-3

Public records: Medical records: Fire Rescue Reports. Chapter 68A, Sections 68A.1, 68A.2, 68A.7, 68A.7(2). A fire rescue report is a medical record under section 68A.7(2). The determination of whether any

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record is a medical record must be made on the basis of the record as a whole. The lawful custodian cannot be compelled to redact nonmedical information for examination and copying. The lawful custodian may exercise his or her discretion to release all or part of the record provided, however, that the information is not highly offensive to a reasonable person and is of legitimate concern to the public. (Pottorff to Nystrom, State Senator, 9/1/82)

No. 90-8-3

Open records: Confidentiality; Crime Victims Name and Address. Iowa Code Sections 22.7(5) and (18). The name and address of a sexual assault victim are not exempt from disclosure under Iowa Code Sections 22.7(5) and (18), unless the disclosure would jeopardize a continuing investigation or pose a clear and present danger to the safety of any person. (Allen to Branstad, 8-24-90)

No. 92-3-2(L)

Juvenile law: Confidentiality of Complaints Alleging Delinquency. Iowa Code Sections 232.2(34), 232.28(10), 232.147(2)(5) (1991); 1982 Iowa Acts ch. 1209, Sections 7, 16. All delinquency complaints remain public records under Iowa Code section 232.147 (1991). (Phillips to Vander



Hart, Buchanan County Attorney, 3-6-92)

No. 93-7-5(L)

Open meetings law: State Board Retreats. Iowa Code sections 21.2(1), 21.4 (1993). Retreats by a governmental body are subject to all requirements of Iowa Code chapter 21 if there is a gathering of a majority of the members where there is deliberation or action upon policy matters within the agency's jurisdiction. If retreats do constitute "meetings" under Iowa Code section 21.2(1), proper notice must be given to the public under section 21.4 and a closed session may only be held to the extent expressly permitted by law. A court may assess limited damages and costs to individuals who participate in a violation of the Open Meetings Law, but the actual moneys spent on the meeting are not recoverable from the offending board members. (Olson to Boddicker, State Representative, 7-28-93)

No. 93-11-5

Counties; Open meetings; Schools; Supervisors, Board of: Advisory Committees. Iowa Code sections 1.17, 4.4(2), 4.6(7), 7.20, 17A.2, 17A.6(b), 21.2(1), 68B.2(21), 274.1, 274.7, 279.8, 279.20, 331.301, 331.302(1), 473.8 (1993); 1993 Iowa Acts ch. 25, section 1. Advisory bodies created by school boards and county boards of supervisors to develop and make recommendations on public policy issues are included within the expanded definition of

AG's Opinions

governmental bodies subject to the Open Meetings Law, despite the legislature's use of the phrase "created by executive order of a political subdivision." Use of the term "executive order" confines the authority to create such advisory committees to those elected entities with final executive authority for the political subdivision, rather than restricting the manner in which such advisory committees are created. (Tabor to Stilwell, Acting Director, Department of Education, and Sarcone, Polk County Attorney, 11/18/93)

Notes:

No. 96-2-1

Public records: Fees or charges for copying computerized public records. Iowa Code Sections 22.2, 22.3 (1995). A county has no authority under section 22.3 to impose a charge for a computer system's depreciation, maintenance, electricity, and insurance associated with retrieving the computerized public record of its budget and either printing it out or reproducing it onto a floppy disk. (Kempkes to Angrick, Citizens' Aide/Ombudsman, 2-2-96)



Journalist's Shield

The Iowa reporter's privilege

Journalists in Iowa have some judicial protection when they do not want to identify confidential sources or disclose unpublished/unbroadcast material in civil litigation or in criminal prosecutions. The Iowa Supreme Court has recognized a qualified reporter's privilege to protect confidential sources and unpublished information from discovery. That right was first recognized in a 1977 case and has been upheld in subsequent rulings.

Iowa does not have a legislatively enacted shield. The idea of having such a statute has been advanced from time to time, but the protection afforded by the Iowa Supreme Court has been considered sufficient, and the fear is that legislation might weaken the protection Iowa journalists now have. (Congress has not passed a shield law and the U.S. Supreme Court has recognized only a limited First Amendment privilege for reporters not to disclose confidential information.)

Under Iowa case law, a news reporter does not have to disclose a confidential source and turn over unpublished notes or

outtakes unless those seeking the material establish two points:

1. In a civil case, the information sought must be "substantially necessary" to a cause of action or defense. In

a criminal case, the prosecution or defense must establish the necessity of having the information — a somewhat lower standard than that in a civil case.

2. In civil and criminal cases, the party seeking information from a journalist must demonstrate that it has exhausted other sources for the information.

Absent court order, news reporters in Iowa do not have to identify their news sources or turn over unpublished material to parties seeking information in either civil or criminal proceedings. But journalists are well-advised to follow these points:

1. Know what policies your newspaper or broadcast station has on use of anonymous sources, including whether you can promise such anonymity to a source without approval from an editor or news director.

2. If you grant anonymity to a source, make sure that you establish what the conditions are for preserving that anonymity. For example, your source should know that anonymity may not be preserved if — among other things — (a) the source has lied to you, (b) protection of the anonymity might lead to a miscarriage of justice or harm to another, (c) the source provides the information elsewhere in a public setting, (d) the identification of the source is needed in defending a libel or privacy suit.

3. Do not offer anonymity routinely or readily. Journalists are in the business of openness and in providing their news audiences with both information and the sources of that information.



Journalist's Shield

The cases that shaped Iowa's reporter's privilege are:

* Winegard v. Oxberger, 258 N.W.2d 847 (Iowa 1977), cert. denied, 436 U.S. 905 (1978).

* Lamberto v. Bown, 326 N.W.2d 305 (Iowa 1982).

* Bell v. City of Des Moines, 412 N.W.2d 585 (Iowa 1987).

* Denk v. Iowa District Court, 20 Media L. Rep. 1454 (Iowa 1992).

* Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier v. Hawkeye Community College, 646 N.W.2d 97 (Iowa 2002).

Openness Defense Fund

While no one encourages litigation, an Openness Defense Fund is available to help smaller broadcast stations and newspapers deal with egregious open records and meetings violations in their communities. The Fund, supported by the Iowa Newspaper Association, Iowa Broadcasters Association and the Iowa FOI Council, will support up to one-third or \$3,500 of litigation costs, whichever is lesser. Members of the INA and the IBA seeking support or advice should direct their inquiries to their associations. (See the Resources section on Page 23 for telephone numbers.)



Iowa Courts

The Iowa Court System

Generally speaking, the Iowa news media have enjoyed good and productive relationships with the Iowa judiciary. In some regions of the state, judges and the news media hold annual workshops to discuss news coverage in informal and candid fashion. The Cedar Rapids area, for example, has conducted such workshops for several years. In Central Iowa, a similar annual practice began in Des Moines in 1999. In 1998 several regional workshops for the judges, attorneys and news media were conducted. Some of these workshops, too, have been reprised.

Under the guidance of the Iowa Supreme Court, the judiciary has sought better public understanding of the roles of the courts in society — another reason to keep channels open between the judiciary and journalists.

News coverage of judicial proceedings is covered in detail in the Expanded Media Coverage section of this manual. Here is some background on the nuts and bolts of the structure of the Iowa judicial system:

The Iowa judicial branch consists of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, the District Court and the court administration. The Supreme Court is the supervisory and administrative head of the judicial branch.

A constitutional amendment passed by Iowa voters in 1962

instituted a “merit plan” for selecting and retaining judges. Judges are appointed, but then most stand for retention during general elections in non-partisan, uncontested, “yes” or “no” votes. (Juvenile judges, probate judges and magistrates in the District Court do not stand for retention.) The length of a judge’s term varies according to the type of judgeship.

District Court

The District Court, or trial court, is where most cases enter the Iowa judicial system: The District Court has jurisdiction over all civil, criminal and juvenile cases, and probate matters. For administrative purposes, the state is divided into eight judicial districts of varying sizes (though for judicial elections, five of the districts are divided into subdistricts, for a total of 14 election districts).

The Iowa District Court operates through several kinds of officers: judicial magistrates, associate juvenile judges, associate probate judges, district associate judges and district court judges. In each district, a chief judge is appointed by the Iowa Supreme Court to supervise the work of all the other judges. The chief judge is assisted in court management by a district court administrator.

* **Judicial magistrates** are appointed by a commission in each county; they serve four-year terms and are not required to be attorneys. Most of Iowa’s 99 counties are allotted at least one part-time magistrate.

The magistrates hear cases within their county of residence, although the chief judge



Iowa Courts

of the district may assign them to hear cases in other counties. Magistrates handle simple misdemeanors and small claims (civil suits of \$5,000 or less). Like other officers of the court, magistrates may perform marriages, issue search warrants and conduct hearings about seized property.

* **District associate judges** are nominated by the county magistrate appointing commission and selected by the district court judges within their judicial election district; they must be attorneys. Associate judges serve four-year terms and stand for retention in the general election.

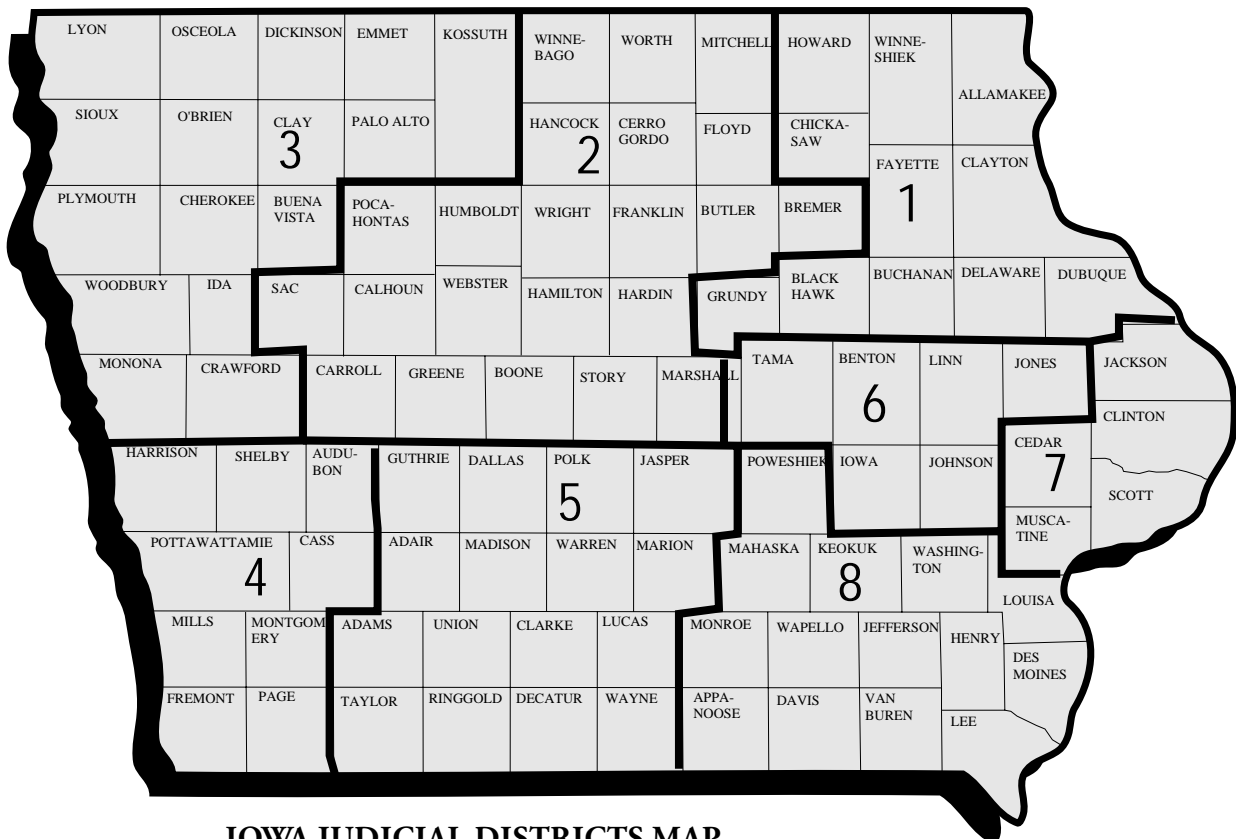
They have all the jurisdiction of magistrates; in addition, they are empowered to hear serious and aggravated misdemeanor

cases, civil lawsuits of \$10,000 or less, and juvenile cases if designated as a juvenile judge.

* **Associate juvenile judges** are appointed by the chief judge of the district; they must be attorneys. They are limited to juvenile court matters, such as cases involving delinquency, children in need of assistance and termination of parental rights.

* **Associate probate judges** are also appointed by the district's chief judge and must be attorneys. They handle judicial functions relating to conservatorships, trusts and estates.

* **District court judges** are appointed by the governor from a list of three nominees



IOWA JUDICIAL DISTRICTS MAP

Iowa Courts

selected by the district nominating commission. They are subject to retention election one year after appointment and then every six years after that. They have jurisdiction to hear any type of case before the court, including probate, felony criminal cases, adoptions, juvenile cases and divorces.

In addition, every county has a **clerk of court** who is in charge of all court records. The clerks of court also process fines, fees, court costs and some civil judgments and child support.

Court of Appeals

There are two appellate courts in Iowa's judicial system — courts that handle requests from litigants that a District Court decision be reviewed. Those two courts are the nine-member Court of Appeals and the seven-member Supreme Court. (The Supreme Court currently has nine members, but its size will be reduced by attrition to seven as a result of a constitutional amendment enacted in 1998.)

Procedurally, all appeals of both civil and criminal cases are made to the Iowa Supreme Court, but the high court may transfer a case to the Court of Appeals. The

Supreme Court may review decisions by the Court of Appeals if, at a party's request, the Supreme Court grants further review.

The **Clerk of the Supreme Court** manages the records of

cases appealed to the Supreme Court.

The State Judicial Nominating Commission selects nominees for both the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals. The head of the commission is the Supreme Court justice with the longest service, other than the chief justice.

Judges for the Court of Appeals are appointed by the governor, but must be retained by voters a year after their appointment and at the end of every six-year term. They must be lawyers.

Supreme Court

Nominees for the Supreme Court must be members of the Iowa bar, residents of the state and able to serve an initial term of one year and another term of eight years before reaching age 72. The governor appoints Supreme Court justices, but they must be confirmed in retention elections every eight years. The justices select one of their number as chief justice, and that justice serves until the end of his or her term.

In addition to its casework, the Supreme Court has administrative duties in its role as the head of the entire state court system and it supervises all attorneys licensed to practice law in Iowa.

The Iowa Supreme Court approved Expanded Media Coverage of Iowa courts, allowing cameras into the state's courtrooms, in 1980, but cameras are not allowed in federal courts. For more information, see the section of the handbook on Expanded Media Coverage.

The Federal Court System

The Iowa judicial system is separate from



Iowa Courts

and parallel to the federal judicial system. Federal courts are a branch of the U.S. government. Federal cases generally begin in U.S. District Court and can be appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals. (The U.S. Court of Appeals is divided into 13 circuits and a District of Columbia court; cases from Iowa are appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, seated in St. Louis.) The U.S. Supreme Court has discretion to hear appeals. It can hear appeals of cases which originate in state courts when the cases involve federal issues.

An increasing amount of court information is available online, including decisions and docket entries for cases. For more information, see the official Website of the Iowa judiciary: www.judicial.state.ia.us.



Coverage

Expanded Media Coverage of Iowa's Courts

Almost all states have some provisions for allowing broadcast and photo-journalists to use their cameras and tape recorders to cover state judicial proceedings. (Cameras are not allowed in federal courts except for use in ceremonies like the swearing in of a judge or naturalization proceedings.) Iowa was among the first states to permit broadcast and photo coverage of judicial proceedings at the trial and appellate court levels, and several thousand proceedings have been covered since EMC began in Iowa in 1980.

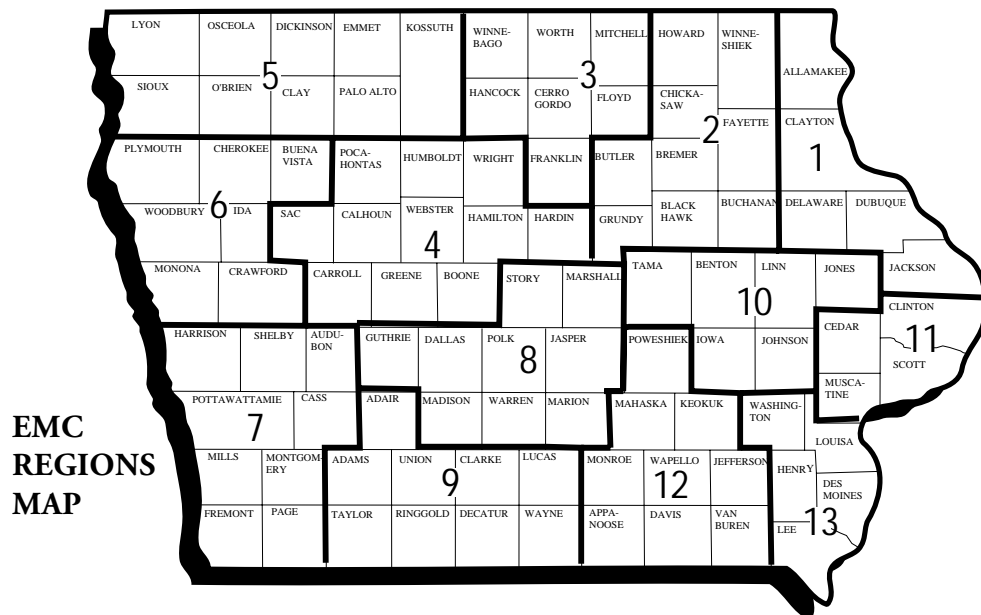
Journalists working under EMC in Iowa need to know:

1. The rules for EMC are spelled out by the Iowa Supreme Court, and are covered in a handbook published by the Iowa Freedom of Information Council. The Court could change the rules at any time, but because the

process has worked well the rules have been relatively unchanged since their adoption in 1980.

2. Journalists in 13 regions of the state serve as EMC coordinators, helping newspapers and broadcast stations in their parts of the state comply with the Supreme Court rules. The regional coordinators are appointed by the Iowa Supreme Court upon recommendation of the executive secretary of the Iowa FOI Council. All requests for EMC of the courts should be made through the regional coordinator.

3. In some regions of the state, the judiciary and the news media participate in annual informal workshops and discussion sessions designed to improve news coverage of the judiciary in Iowa. These workshops typically are publicized by the regional coordinators involved, and by the Iowa Newspaper Association, Iowa Broadcasters Association and the FOI Council.



Boundaries for the Iowa Judicial Districts and the EMC regions are not identical. The judicial districts are administrative units of the Iowa court system. The EMC regions are determined primarily by newspaper circulation areas and broadcast station markets, trying to coordinate those with judicial district boundaries where possible.

Coverage

Giving Readers and Viewers a Seat in the Courtroom:

Advice From a Longtime Media Coordinator

As an Iowa journalist, you have a unique opportunity to provide your readers or viewers their own seat inside an Iowa courtroom. Through Expanded Media Coverage (EMC), you can use a still camera, video camera or audio recorder inside a courtroom for most types of proceedings (excluding jury selection).

The media coordinators throughout Iowa's 13 EMC regions act as liaisons between journalists and the judiciary when members of the news media request EMC for court proceedings. Generally, media coordinators need a minimum of an 18-day notice prior to the proceeding, in order to properly notify those involved. There are some exceptions that allow shorter notice, such as an initial appearance or bond review hearing immediately following an arrest. In those situations a media coordinator files an EMC request as soon as practicable after the proceeding is scheduled.

A judge, when appropriate, is generally inclined to approve an EMC request unless an objecting party offers a compelling reason for that judge to deny the request. For example, an objecting party must offer evidence—beyond simple conjecture—that a camera or recording device would somehow substantially affect their rights to a fair trial in some very unique way that would not occur if a reporter were to simply report on a hearing without a camera or recording device present. There are also some circumstances when a witness can object to EMC of their testimony or when EMC is not allowed. For example, EMC of victim-witness testimony in sexual abuse cases is forbidden.

The media coordinator—not the judge—handles all EMC-related media requests, disputes and logistics of the coverage. For television or radio stations, the media coordinator may assign one station to record in the courtroom and either provide tape dubs to the other participating stations or set up a “mult box” for live electronic feeds. For newspapers, the media coordinator may assign one photographer inside the courtroom to provide copies of all photos to requesting newspapers. In cases where a trial lasts for days or weeks, the media coordinator may devise a rotational “pool” schedule.

The rules for EMC are set out in Iowa Court Rules, Chapter 25. The Chapter is reprinted in the Iowa Expanded Media Coverage Handbook. The handbook is available through the Iowa Freedom of Information Council, which is charged by the Iowa Supreme Court statewide with EMC's administration and oversight. The handbook also contains common questions and answers, including how to handle EMC objections, as well as a list of Regional Media Coordinators. All of this information is also available on the Iowa Freedom of Information's web site at

www.ifoic.org.



— Geoff Greenwood
Expanded Media Coordinator, Region 8

Resources

Freedom of Information Resources for the Iowa Journalist

The Iowa Freedom of Information Council

The Iowa Freedom of Information Council was formed in the fall of 1976 and incorporated in the spring of 1977 by news media leaders in the state to provide an umbrella organization to address First Amendment and information-access issues. The Council is one of the oldest such state organizations in the nation.

Two council publications of particular value to journalists are its *Iowa Open Meetings, Open Records Handbook* and its handbook on *Expanded Media Coverage* of Iowa courts.

The Council, in league with the Iowa Newspaper Association and the Iowa Broadcasters Association, in 1999 established an Openness Defense Fund. The resources of the fund, in excess of \$30,000, are designed to support smaller newspapers and broadcast stations in litigation on openness issues and to support educational programs as well.

The law firm that the Council works most closely with for day-to-day legal advice on First Amendment/Access issues is Faegre & Benson in Des Moines, (515) 248-9000. Attorneys frequently contacted there include Michael Giudicessi and Kim Walker.

Iowa Freedom of Information Council

School of Journalism and
Mass Communication
Meredith Hall
Drake University
Des Moines, IA 50311
Phone: (515) 271-2295
Website: www.ifoic.org



Available on-line: Texts of the Open Meetings, Open Records Handbook and the Expanded Media Coverage Handbook; the Iowa FOI Council newsletter; explanation of the history, workings and membership of the council.

JOURNALISM ASSOCIATIONS

The Iowa Newspaper Association

Most of the daily and weekly newspapers in the state are members of the Iowa Newspaper Association. Its offices provide a wide variety of support for print journalists, including a legal hotline for quick answers to First Amendment and information-access questions.

Iowa Newspaper Association
319 E. 5th St.
Des Moines, IA 50309-1931
Phone: (515) 244-2145
Legal Hotline (for subscribing members only): (515) 283-3100
Website: www.INAnews.com

The Iowa Broadcasters Association

The Iowa Broadcasters Association ranks among the best such associations in the nation in terms of the programs and educational services it provides to its members, thanks largely to the existence of an endowed program through the Quarton-McElroy Endowment, named after pioneers in the Iowa broadcast industry. The IBA also is among the most active state broadcast associations in support of freedom of information issues. It, too, offers a legal hotline to its members.

Iowa Broadcasters Association
P.O. Box 71186
Des Moines, IA 50325
Phone: (515) 224-7237
Legal Hotline: (515) 288-2500
Website: www.iowabroadcasters.com

Resources

Iowa Broadcast News Association

While the orientation of the IBA is toward many management concerns and membership of broadcast stations, the Iowa Broadcast News Association serves broadcast news reporters in the state.

Iowa Broadcast News Association
P.O. Box 131
Waverly, IA 50677
Phone: (319) 352-8534
Website: www.ibna.org

Associated Press

The AP is the wire service for most newspapers and broadcast stations in Iowa. The AP has provided FOI leadership in several states around the nation and was active in the founding of the Iowa FOI Council.

Associated Press
505 5th Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: (515) 243-3281
Website: www.ap.org/iowa/

LEGAL RESOURCES:

The legal resources available to Iowa journalists certainly include the legal hotlines for members of the INA and IBA, but information on legal issues also is available from various professional legal associations.

In addition, the law schools and legal clinics at Drake University and the University of Iowa can be sources of expert opinion.



Iowa State Bar Association
521 E. Locust St.
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: (515) 243-3179
Website: www.iowabar.org

Iowa Trial Lawyers Association
218 6th Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: (515) 280-7366
Website: iowatla.org

Legal Services Corp. of Iowa
1111 9th St., Suite 230
Des Moines IA 50314
Phone: (800) 532-1275
Website: iowalegalaid.org

STATE OF IOWA:

Two primary resources for journalists at the state level are the offices of the Attorney General and the Citizens' Aide/Ombudsman. The AG's office provides interpretation of access laws and advises government agencies on compliance and its Website has outlines of the meetings and records laws; the Citizens' Aide/Ombudsman receives and responds to complaints about actions and policies of governmental agencies. Sometimes the Ombudsman's office can resolve issues short of litigation, but the process often takes several months.

Office of the Attorney General
Hoover Building
1305 E. Walnut St.
Des Moines, IA 50319
Phone: (515) 281-5164
Website: www.iowaattorneygeneral.org

Office of Citizens' Aide/Ombudsman
1112 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50319
Phone: (515) 281-3592
Website: www.legis.state.ia.us/ombudsman

Resources

Another source of information about the courts is the Iowa Supreme Court itself:

Clerk of Iowa Supreme Court
Judicial Building
1111 E. Court Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50319
Phone: (515) 281-5911
Website: www.judicial.state.ia.us/

GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATIONS:

School boards, cities and counties are served by their associations, much as the INA and IBA serve newspapers and broadcast stations. Often the government associations can help resolve access-issues by advising public agencies about what the laws require or by explaining how public agencies interpret the law.

Iowa Association of School Boards
700 2nd Ave., Suite 100
Des Moines, IA 50309-1731
Phone: (515) 288-1991 or
(800) 795-4272
Website: www.ia-sb.org

Iowa League of Cities
317 6th Ave., Suite 800
Des Moines, IA 50309-4111
Phone: (515) 244-7282
Website: www.iowaleague.org

Iowa State Association of Counties
501 S.W. 7th St., Suite Q
Des Moines, IA 50309-4540
Phone: (515) 244-7181
Website:
www.iowacounties.org



JOURNALISM SCHOOLS:

The journalism-education programs in Iowa generally work closely together in a wide variety of programs for reporters in the state. Faculty can also provide insights to questions dealing with journalism practices and ethics. In terms of legal advice and experience in the practice of law, an excellent resource person is Barbara Mack of the Iowa State University faculty, a former legal counsel and litigator for the Des Moines Register and Tribune Company.

Drake University
School of Journalism and
Mass Communication
Meredith Hall
Des Moines, IA 50311
Phone: (515) 271-2295
Website: www.drake.edu/journalism/

Iowa State University
Greenlee School of Journalism
and Communication
Hamilton Hall
Ames, IA 50011
Phone: (515) 294-4342
Website: www.jlmc.iastate.edu

University of Iowa
School of Journalism and
Mass Communication
100 Adler Journalism Building
Iowa City, IA 52242-2004
Phone: (319) 335-3486
Website: www.uiowa.edu/jmc

University of Northern Iowa
Department of Communication Studies
269 Communication Arts Center
Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0357
Phone: (319) 273-2725
Website: www.uni.edu/chfa/dep_comstudy.html

Resources

NATIONAL RESOURCES:

As is widely recognized, Internet resources are almost unlimited when it comes to seeking information about a wide variety of journalism issues. Some of the most helpful Websites on FOI issues are:

First Amendment Center
1207 18th Ave. S.
Nashville, TN 37212
Phone: (615) 727-1600
Website: www.firstamendmentcenter.org

The Reporters Committee on
Freedom of the Press
1101 Wilson Blvd., Suite 1100
Arlington, VA 22209
Phone: (800) 336-4243
Website: www.rcfp.org

For federal FOI questions, the Reporters Committee provides a fill-in-the-blank FOI request form.

Student Press Law Center
1101 Wilson Blvd., Suite 1100
Arlington, VA 22209
Phone: (703) 807-1904
Website: www.splc.org

The Brechner Center for Freedom of
Information
P.O. Box 118400
3208 Weimer Hall
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-8400
(352) 392-2273
Website: brechner.org

Freedom of Information Center
133 Neff Annex
University of Missouri
Columbia, MO 65211
(573) 882-4856
Website: foi.missouri.edu

