

PUBLIC ACCESS TO BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF HEALTH GOVERNMENT RECORDS

1. State Law requires that in order to request access to government records, you must complete, sign and date this Department's request form and deliver in person, by mail or electronically during regular business hours to the custodian of records. The Health Department will not accept submission of a request form by fax. Your request is not considered filed until the request form has been received by the custodian. If you submit the request form to any other officer or employee of the Township of Bloomfield, that officer or employee does not have the authority to accept your request form on behalf of the Health Department.
2. If you submit a request for access to government records to someone other than the appropriate custodian, do not complete the proper request form, or attempt to make a request for access by telephone or fax, the Open Public Records Act and its deadlines, restrictions and remedies will not apply to your request.
3. The fees for duplication of a government record in printed form are listed on the request form. We will notify you of any special charges, special service charges or other additional charges authorized by State or local law or regulation before processing your request. Payment shall be made by cash, check or money order payable to the Bloomfield Health Department.
4. Requests with estimated fees exceeding \$25.00 must be accompanied by a 50% deposit. Anonymous request, when permitted, require a deposit of 100% of estimated fees. You agree to pay the balance due upon delivery of the records.
5. By State Law, a custodian must deny access to a person who is convicted of an indictable offense in New Jersey, any other State of the United States, who is seeking government records containing personal information pertaining to the person's victim or the victim's family.
6. By law, the Health Department must notify you that it grants or denies a request for access to government records within (7) business days after the custodian of the record requested receives the request, provided that the record is currently available and not in storage or archived. If the record requested is not currently available or is in storage or archived, the custodian will advise you within (7) business days when the record can be made available and the estimated cost. You may agree with the custodian to extend the time for granting or denying your request or making records available.
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 Health Department 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 requestor, if the custodian of the record requested fails to respond to you within (7) business days of receiving a written, signed request form, the failure to respond will be considered a denial of your request.
10. If your request for access to a government record has been denied or unfilled within the time permitted by law, you have a right to challenge the decision by the Health Department 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) located in the Department of Community Affairs. You may contact the GRC by telephone at 866-850-0511 or via the Internet at <http://www.state.nj.us/grc/register/appeal/>.
11. Information provided on the request form may be subject to disclosure under the Open Public Records Act.