

Office of Open Records State Documents

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Finding aid written in English

Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of the State Library

Forum Building
607 South Drive
Harrisburg, PA, 17120

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Summary Information

Repository: Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of the State Library

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Scope and Contents

The Office of Open Records is a quasi-judicial, independent agency that has binding authority over citizen access to government records. The Office strives to make fair and open final determinations on the status of public records, and to oversee and decide thousands of appeals per year, as well as perform dozens of trainings on the RTKL and Pennsylvania's open meetings law (through the Sunshine Act). The Office also issues annual reports on the state of open records in Pennsylvania government, monitors hundreds of RTKL cases within the Pennsylvania court system, and answers citizen and media inquiries regarding transparency laws.

The publications of the Office of Open Records contain annual reports, other reports, and indexes. Selected topics from these publications include the Right-to-Know Law and yearly agency happenings.

Biographical / Historical

The Office of Open Records was created by the Right-to-Know Law (RTKL) signed on February 14, 2008 by Governor Ed Rendell. This law fundamentally changed access to government records in Pennsylvania by establishing a presumption that all records are public and available to citizens and requiring state and local governments to prove why they are legally justified in withholding records.

Legacy Agency Names and Related Agencies

Department of Community and Economic Development (parent agency)

Other Finding Aids

For more information concerning the records of the Office of Open Records at the Pennsylvania State Archives, please visit:

<https://gencat.eloquent-systems.com/pennsylvania-state-archives/permalink.html?key=class288>.

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Controlled Access Headings

- Pennsylvania Politics and government
- Politics and government
- State government publications
- Transparency in government