

PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICTS GENERAL RECORDS RETENTION SCHEDULE

Records Category: LEGAL COUNSEL

The following general records retention schedule sets minimum retention requirements and provides local government agencies with blanket authority for the disposition of commonly held records according to the provisions of RCW 40.14.070 and WAC 434-635-050. This section begins with the signatures of the Local Records Committee, which signify the Committee's approval and the foundation of the records disposition authority that the schedule conveys to agencies of local government. Each records series entry is assigned a Disposition Authority Number. These numbers should be cited in the documentation that an agency maintains for the records it actually destroys. An agency may retain individual records series longer than the retention period approved by the Local Records Committee, but such records are subject to public disclosure and legal discovery until they are disposed of. Any records that may be discoverable in an active or pending court case must be retained and made available for discovery until the case is settled, regardless of their approved retention periods.

In some cases, the primary copy of a records series may be held by another agency/office. In those cases, use the retention period for secondary copies.

General records retention schedule listings for some records series include special designations and disposition instructions, including:

Official Public Records (OPR) are those records identified and required by statute that document legal actions or transactions and/or fiscally or financially obligates the law office. All other records are Office Files and Memoranda (OFM) as defined in RCW 40.14.010.

Potential Archival Value – This designation identifies records that have potential historical research value. These records must be appraised for transfer to the Regional Archives system before being destroyed. Contact your Regional Archivist to make arrangements for appraisal and transfer of records with potential archival value.

Essential Record – This designation identifies records that are essential for the continuity and restoration of agency operations after a disaster, serve as primary documentation of an agency's legal authority and responsibilities, or protects the rights of clients, property owners, students or other individuals.

LEGAL COUNSEL- INCLUSIVE

Approved by the Washington State Local Records Committee – July 2001



For the Attorney General: Brian Buccholz



For the State Auditor: George Geyer



The State Archivist: Phillip Coombs

Schedule Applicable to: ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Schedule Title: LEGAL COUNSEL

DISPOSITION AUTHORITY GS53-02

SERIES NO.	RECORDS SERIES TITLE AND DESCRIPTION OF SERIES	OPR or OFM	OFFICE OR DIVISION LOCATION AND MINIMUM RETENTION PERIOD		DISPOSITION AUTHORITY NUMBER (DAN)	SPECIAL AND/OR DISPOSITION INSTRUCTIONS
			PRIMARY RECORD COPY	SECONDARY RECORD COPY		
1	ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS	OFM	Attorney General - PERMANENT	Destroy when obsolete or superseded.	GS53-02-01	
2	BOND PROJECT FILES – LEGAL COUNSEL Contract, correspondence and other legal documents for bond projects (conduit & non-conduit).	OPR	6 years after redemption of project or building bonds	Destroy when obsolete or superseded	GS53-02-06	
3	LEGAL ISSUES/ADVICE FILES	OFM	Destroy when obsolete or superseded	Destroy when obsolete or superseded	GS53-02-05	
4	LEGAL OPINIONS Official interpretations made by agency attorney regarding questions of legal rights or liabilities affecting the agency or any of its departments and offices.	OPR	PERMANENT - Potential archival value - See remarks	Destroy when obsolete or superseded	GS53-02-03	Please contact your Regional Archivist before destroying original record. Records from this series may be selected to be transferred to and preserved at a Regional Archives branch.
5	LITIGATION CASE FILES Documentation of a civil suit by the agency against another party or defense of the agency and/or agency employee against suit by another party.	OFM	Agency Record Copy - Case closed plus 10 years	Destroy when obsolete or superseded - Potential archival value - See remarks	GS53-02-04	Primary copies of official court documents are held permanently by the Clerk of Superior Court, or 10 years by the District or Municipal Court Administrator. Please contact your Regional Archivist before disposing of this record. Records from this series may be selected to be transferred to and preserved at a Regional Archives branch.