

WAC 200-01-050 Inspection of public records. (1) A requestor must notify DES in advance of their intent to inspect public records. Using the tracking ID that DES assigns to each public records request, a requestor must identify with specificity and in advance, the records the requestor wishes to inspect. DES will assist the requestor in scheduling an appointment for inspection and may propose convenient alternatives to an in-person visit. Public records will be available for inspection during customary business hours and when staff are available to assist the requestor.

(2) When the request to inspect is for a large number of records, the public records officer may schedule inspection in installments.

(3) DES will notify the requestor of the scheduled appointment. The requestor must inspect the requested records within thirty days of the scheduled appointment. If the requestor or a representative of the requestor fails to inspect the records within the thirty-day period or fails to make other arrangements, DES may close the request and refile the assembled records. If the requestor makes a request for the same records, it will be processed as a new request.

(4) Agency facilities shall be made available to any person for the copying of public records except when and to the extent that this would unreasonably disrupt the operations of the agency.

Inspections are conducted in accordance with the requirement that agencies protect the requested records from damage or disorganization. No member of the public shall remove a document from the inspection area or disassemble or alter any public record.

(5) After inspection is complete, the requestor may wish to identify which documents the requestor wishes the agency to copy.

(a) Where DES charges for copies, the requestor must pay for the copies prior to the copies being provided to the requestor.

(b) Electronic records will be provided as a link to the records on the DES website if the records are located on the website, or in a format used by DES and which is generally commercially available.

(6) When the inspection of the requested records is complete and any requested copies are provided, the public records officer will close the PRR.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 42.56.120 and 34.05.353 (1)(a) to (f). WSR 21-09-043, § 200-01-050, filed 4/14/21, effective 5/15/21. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.19.011 and chapter 42.56 RCW. WSR 12-02-004, § 200-01-050, filed 12/22/11, effective 1/22/12.]