

# Minnesota Board of Dentistry

## DATA REQUESTS POLICY

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Updated May 2024

In the course of conducting its duties, the Minnesota Board of Dentistry (“Board”) collects, creates, uses, and disseminates large amounts of data. Data includes all recorded information possessed by the Board, including paper, emails, DVDs, photographs, etc. Under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13), individuals have varying degrees of rights associated with data maintained by the Board.

The Board must keep all data in a way that makes it easy for subjects to access data about themselves. The Board only collects and keeps data necessary for administering and managing programs permitted by law.

The topics below explain the various classifications of data; your rights as a data subject; and the process for requesting data, either as a member of the public or as a subject of the data maintained by the Board.

### CLASSIFICATIONS OF DATA

Data maintained by the Board is classified in one of three categories: public, private, or confidential. All data maintained by the Board are presumed to be public unless a state or federal law says otherwise.

- **Public data:** Data classified as public are available for all individuals. The Board must provide public data to anyone submitting a valid request, regardless of the purpose for such request.
- **Private data:** Data classified as private are unavailable to the general public; however, the data may be shared with the subject of the data, Board members and staff who require the data to perform their work, people whom the subject has authorized to access the data, or others as permitted by law or court order.
- **Confidential data:** Data classified as confidential may not be accessed by anyone except Board members and staff who require the data to conduct their work and others as permitted by law or court order.

In sum, you have access to all public data or private data about yourself. You are not entitled to confidential data about yourself or anyone else.

### YOUR RIGHTS AS A SUBJECT OF DATA

If the Board has collected, created, or keeps data about you, you have certain rights related to that data under the Minnesota Data Practices Act. You are the subject of data if you can be identified from the data -- for example, if a document contains your name or social security number.

#### ACCESS TO DATA

You are entitled to access all public data and private data that the Board keeps about you. You may request to inspect this data free of charge. You may also request to have copies made of this data. Also, if requested, the Board will tell you whether it keeps data about you and whether the data are public, private, or confidential.

**Parents/Guardians:** As a parent, you have the right to access data about your minor children as if the data were about yourself. The same goes for guardians with data about those for whom they are appointed guardian.

### **RESTRICTIONS ON ACCESS TO DATA ABOUT YOU**

- Private data about you may only be shared with you, someone who has your permission to access the data, Board staff members who need the data to perform their duties, and others as permitted by law or court order.
- When requesting/collecting nonpublic data about you, the Board will provide notice to you of what it may do with the data. This notice is typically called a Tennessee warning. With limited exceptions, the Board may only collect, use, store, or release information about you as stated in the Tennessee warning. The Board will ask for your written permission if it needs to use the information other than as described in the Tennessee warning.
- If you want the Board to release private data about you to another individual, you must provide written consent on a form provided by the Board.
- If you are a minor (person under 18 years of age), you may make a written request that the Board not allow specified parents or guardians to have access to your private data. The request must specify whom you wish to deny access to your records, provide the reasons you wish to deny access, and be signed by you. The Board will then consider your request and make a decision based on your best interests.

### **CHALLENGING INACCURATE OR INCOMPLETE DATA**

You have the right to challenge any public and private data about you which you believe is inaccurate or incomplete.

### **ALL DATA IS PROTECTED**

The Board has established procedures to make sure all data on individuals are secure. Private data are only accessible to individuals whose work assignments reasonably require access to the data. In the event that a security breach occurs and an unauthorized person has gained access to your data, you will be notified as required by law.

- a. Responsible Authority

The responsible authority oversees and is responsible for the collection, use, and dissemination of the data possessed by the Board of Nursing.

- b. Data Practices Compliance Official

The data practices compliance official is the individual to whom persons may direct questions or concerns regarding problems in obtaining access to data or other data practices problems.

**Responsible Authority and Data Practice Compliance Official**

Bridgett Anderson, Executive Director  
335 Randolph Avenue, Suite 250  
St. Paul, MN 55102  
Ph: 612-548-2127  
Email: [bridgett.anderson@state.mn.us](mailto:bridgett.anderson@state.mn.us)

**MAKING A DATA REQUEST**

Data requests must be made in writing unless the information is otherwise available on the Board website. You may submit the request via mail, fax, and/or email. If the information is available on the Board website, you may submit the request verbally.

Requests to inspect, or look at, data will be granted free of charge. Requests for copies of data will be subject to charges as set forth in the Charges for Copies section, below.

**AS A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC, FOR PUBLIC DATA**

Members of the public are entitled access to all data classified as public. To request data as a member of the public, you may complete and submit the provided Data Request Form. If you choose to not use the form, the request must include:

1. that you, as a member of the public, are making a request for public data under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act;
2. whether you would like to inspect (look at) the data, obtain copies of the data, or both; and
3. a clear description of the data you would like to inspect and/or have copied.

The Board cannot require you to identify yourself or explain the reason for your data request. However, you must submit enough information for the Board to appropriately respond to the request. For example, if you want copies mailed to you, you must provide an address. If the Board does not understand your request and has no way to contact you, the request will not be processed.

**REQUESTS FOR SUMMARY DATA**

Summary data is data derived from private or confidential data maintained by the Board and produced in a manner so that no individuals may be identified from the data. The preparation of summary data is not a means to gain access to private or confidential data. Members of the public may request summary data in the same manner as a request for public data. The requesting party must prepay for any costs incurred in preparing the summary data.

**AS A SUBJECT OF DATA, FOR PRIVATE DATA ABOUT YOU**

As a subject of data, you are entitled to access all public data and private data about you. You may complete and submit the provided Data Request Form. If you choose not to use the form, your request must include:

1. that you, as a subject of data, are making a request for private data under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act;
2. whether you would like to inspect (look at) the data, obtain copies of the data, or both;
3. a clear description of the data you would like to inspect and/or have copied; and
4. identifying information proving you are the data subject.

### **WHERE TO SEND YOUR REQUEST**

The request must be submitted to the responsible authority or the data practices designee appointed to the particular subject area of your requested data. Please see the **DATA PRACTICES CONTACTS**.

If you have comments or concerns related to a data request, please contact the data practices compliance official.

### **RESPONSE TO DATA REQUESTS**

If you are requesting private data about yourself or summary data, the Board will respond to your request in writing within ten (10) business days unless you agree to extend the time required to respond to your request. If you are requesting public data, the Board will respond in a reasonably timely manner that may exceed ten (10) days.

The Board's response will be one of the following:

- The Board will inform you that it has the data, that you are allowed to access the data, and either:
  - arrange a date, time, and place for you to inspect the data at no charge, if you have requested to inspect the data;
  - provide copies of the data within 10 business days, if you have requested copies of the data; or
  - propose a timeline and an estimate of costs, if you have requested summary data.
- The Board will inform you that it does not possess the requested data; or
- The Board will inform you that you are not entitled to inspect or obtain copies of the requested data. If so, the Board will tell you which statute or rule prevents you from accessing the data.

If there is a fee for the requested data, the Board will first arrange for prepayment prior to providing the requested data. The Board must receive payment before responding to the data request.

The Board is not required to respond to any questions or requests that are not specific requests for data.

If you do not understand some of the data, such as terminology, abbreviations, or acronyms, please let the Board know, and a Board employee will give you an explanation.

Once the Board has provided you the requested data, it is not required to show you the data again for 6 months unless there is a dispute about the data or new data has been collected or created.

### **CREATION OF NEW DATA**

The Board is not required to create or collect new data not already collected or maintained by the Board in order to respond to a data request. Additionally, the Board is not required to provide data in a specific form or arrangement if the Board does not already keep the data in that form or arrangement. For example, if the data you request are on paper only, the Board is not required to create electronic documents to respond to your request. However, the Board may agree to create data in response to your request, provided you and the Board reach an agreement on the details of your request, including response time.