

Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST)

Data Practices Policy for Data Subjects

Data about you

The Government Data Practices Act (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13) says that data subjects have certain rights related to a government entity collecting, creating, and keeping government data about them. You are the subject of data when you can be identified from the data. Government data is a term that means all recorded information a government entity has, including paper, email, flash drives, CDs, DVDs, photographs, etc.

Classification of data about you

The Government Data Practices Act presumes that all government data are public unless a state or federal law says that the data are not public. Data about you are classified by state law as public, private, or confidential. See below for some examples.

The Minnesota POST Board is a licensing agency and as such, there are specific conditions in Minnesota Statute, Chapter 13.41 that apply to the licensing data that the POST Board maintains on peace officers and peace officer candidates.

Public data

We must give public data to anyone who asks. It does not matter who is asking for the data or why the person wants the data. The following is an example of public data about you:

- Your name on an application for a license
- Your peace officer license number

Private data

We cannot give private data to the general public, but you can have access to private data when the data are about you. We can share your private data with you, with someone who has your permission, with our government entity staff who have a work assignment to see the data, and to others as permitted by law or court order. The following is an example of private data about you:

- Your social security number
- Your personal address

Confidential data

Confidential data have the most protection. Neither the public nor you can get access even when the confidential data are about you. We can share confidential data about you with our government entity staff who have a work assignment to see the data, and to others as permitted by law or court order. We cannot give you access to confidential data. The following is an example of confidential data about you:

- The identity of a subject of an active criminal investigation

Your rights under the Government Data Practices Act

This government entity must keep all government data in a way that makes it easy for you to access data about you. Also, we can collect and keep only those data about you that we need for administering and managing programs that are permitted by law. As a data subject, you have the following rights.

Access to your data

You have the right to look at (inspect), free of charge, public and private data that we keep about you. You also have the right to get copies of public and private data about you. The Government Data Practices Act allows us to charge for copies. You have the right to look at data, free of charge, before deciding to request copies.

Also, if you ask, we will tell you whether we keep data about you and whether the data are public, private, or confidential.

Copy Costs

The POST Board may charge data subjects for copies of government data. These charges are authorized under Minnesota Statutes, section 13.03, subdivision 3(c). You will be notified of any costs that must be prepaid before data is released.

- 0-100 pages: 0.25 cents per page
- Beyond 100 pages: Actual costs to search, retrieve and make paper copies

When we collect data from you

When we ask you to provide data about yourself that are not public, we must give you a notice. The notice is sometimes called a Tennessen warning. The notice controls what we do with the data that we collect from you. Usually, we can use and release the data only in the ways described in the notice.

We will ask for your written permission if we need to use or release private data about you in a different way, or if you ask us to release the data to another person. This permission is called informed consent.

Protecting your data

The Government Data Practices Act requires us to protect your data. We have established appropriate safeguards to ensure that your data are safe.

In the unfortunate event that we determine a security breach has occurred and an unauthorized person has gained access to your data, we will notify you as required by law.

When your data are inaccurate and/or incomplete

You have the right to challenge the accuracy and/or completeness of public and private data about you. You also have the right to appeal our decision. If you are a minor, your parent or guardian has the right to challenge data about you.

How to make a data request

You can look at data or request copies of data that this government entity keeps about you, your minor children, or an individual for whom you have been appointed legal guardian. Make your request for data

to Jon Hoff, Assistant Executive Director, Minnesota POST Board, 1600 University Avenue, Suite 200, St. Paul, MN 55104 or to postboard.agency.docs@state.mn.us. You may make your request by mail or email. You must make your request in writing.

Your request should include:

- You are making a request under the Government Data Practices Act (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13) as a data subject for data about you.
- Whether you would like to inspect the data, have copies of the data, or both.
- A clear description of the data you would like to inspect or have copied.
- Identifying information that proves you are the data subject or data subject's parent/guardian.

This government entity requires proof of your identity before we can respond to your request for data. If you are requesting data about your minor child, you must show proof that you are the minor's parent.

How we respond to a data request

Once you make your request, we will work to process your request.

- If it is not clear what data you are requesting, we will ask you for clarification.
- If we do not have the data, we will notify you in writing within 10 business days.
- If we have the data, but the data are confidential or private data that are not about you, we will notify you within 10 business days and state which specific law says you cannot access the data.
- If we have the data, and the data are public or private data about you, we will respond to your request within 10 business days by doing one of the following:
 - Arrange a date, time, and place to inspect data for free, if your request is to look at the data, or
 - Provide you with copies of the data within 10 business days. You may choose to pick up your copies, or we will mail them to you.

After we have provided you with access to data about you, we do not have to show you the data again for 6 months unless there is a dispute or we collect or create new data about you.

If you do not understand some of the data (technical terminology, abbreviations, or acronyms), please let us know. We will give you an explanation if you ask.

The Government Data Practices Act does not require us to create or collect new data in response to a data request if we do not already have the data, or to provide data in a specific form or arrangement if we do not keep the data in that form or arrangement (for example, if the data you request are on paper only, we are not required to create electronic documents to respond to your request). If we agree to create data in response to your request, we will work with you on the details of your request, including cost and response time.

In addition, we are not required under the Government Data Practices Act to respond to questions that are not specific requests for data.