

SUMMARY INFORMATION
REGARDING PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS

It is the policy of the County of Wahkiakum to provide efficient and thorough access to the County’s records in compliance with the Public Records Act set forth at Chapter 42.56 RCW, and any other applicable provisions of federal or state law. This summary is intended to give the basic information citizens need to make public records requests. However, this is only a summary. Complete copies of RCW 42.56 are available at the Courthouse.

Department	Office Hours (excluding legal holidays)
Clerk of the Board	Monday thru Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Auditor, Treasurer and Assessor	Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Public Works & Building Dept.	Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sheriff’s Office	Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Health & Human Services	Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Each Department of the County has a procedure for providing “over the counter” records. Such records may be provided immediately in response to a request. Generally, over the counter records are those that can be readily identifiable, located at a single source (does not require searching multiple files or departments), and the document is routinely made available to the public. If you think the record you want might be an over the counter record, please contact the County department that would have control of that record. To request other public records, contact the appropriate department’s Public Records Officer listed below, they are available for assistance and information about their own department’s records.

Department Public Records Officers

<u>Department</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
Assessor	Drew Jenkins	360.795.3791	jenkinsa@co.wahkiakum.wa.us
Auditor	Nicci Bergseng	360.795.3219	bergsengn@co.wahkiakum.wa.us
Board of Health	Chris Bischoff	360.795.8630	bischoffc@co.wahkiakum.wa.us
Building & Planning	Dave Hicks	360.795.3067	hicksd@co.wahkiakum.wa.us
Chemical Dependency	Chris Bischoff	360.795.8630	bischoffc@co.wahkiakum.wa.us
Commissioners	Beth Johnson	360.795.8048	johnsonb@co.wahkiakum.wa.us
Community Outreach	Chris Bischoff	360.795.8630	bischoffc@co.wahkiakum.wa.us
Emergency Management	Raedyn Grasseth	360.795.3242	grassethr@co.wahkiakum.wa.us
Human Services	Chris Bischoff	360.795.8630	bischoffc@co.wahkiakum.wa.us
Jail – Corrections	Raedyn Grasseth	360.795-3242	grassethr@co.wahkiakum.wa.us
Mental Health	Chris Bischoff	360.795.8630	bischoffc@co.wahkiakum.wa.us
Personnel	Austyn Getman	360.795.3219	getmana@co.wahkiakum.wa.us
Prosecuting Attorney	Dan Bigelow	360.795.3652	bigelowd@co.wahkiakum.wa.us
Public Works	Chuck Beyer	360.795.3301	beyerc@co.wahkiakum.wa.us
Sheriff	Raedyn Grasseth	360.795.3242	grassethr@co.wahkiakum.wa.us
Treasurer	Tammy Peterson	360.795.8005	petersont@co.wahkiakum.wa.us
Superior Court*	Jess Reddon	360-795-3558	reddonj@co.wahkiakum.wa.us

*Please contact Superior Court for divorce records

The preferred method for making a public records request is through NextRequest, which can be accessed through the county's website: <https://wahkiakumcountywa.nextrequest.com/>

A request may also be made by telephone, mail, email, or delivered in person to the Courthouse. However, to avoid confusion or miscommunication, a request for public records should be made in writing. For your convenience, the County provides forms for records requests. Forms are available at the Courthouse and on the County's website.

If you would like a public record, please include the following information in your request: The date, your name, email address, full address and telephone number; as well as a description of the requested record adequate to identify it and the title and date of the requested record, if known. For broader searches, please supply a date range and any key words or phrases for our searches.

Sometimes record requests are unclear or overly broad. In such cases, the Records Officer may ask you to clarify what records you are seeking.

If you make a request and are not immediately provided with an over the counter record, the Public Records Officer will contact you about your records request within five business days after receiving your request.

Most records of the County are available for public inspection and copying. However, some are not. You should understand that both state law and federal law place restrictions on access to certain records. If any such limitations apply to a record you have requested, the Public Records Officer will provide an explanation and a redaction log, if applicable.

The Public Records Officer will contact you when the records you have requested are available for inspection. Sometimes, the records will be provided in installments.

After the Public Records Officer notifies you that the records are available, you should respond within 15 days. If you ignore the notice and fail to respond, the County may treat the request as abandoned.

If you want printed or digital copies of public records, there is a fee according to the published fees.