

WISCONSIN

**Wisconsin Statutes Annotated
Division of Law Enforcement Services
Chapter 165**

165.82 CRIMINAL HISTORY SEARCH FEE. (1) Notwithstanding s. 19.35(3) the department of justice shall impose the following fees for criminal history searches for purposes unrelated to criminal justice:

(a) For each record check requested by a governmental agency or nonprofit organization, \$2.

(b) For each record check by any other requester, \$10.

(2) The department of justice shall not impose fees for criminal history searches for purposes related to criminal justice.

165.53 Criminal identification, records and statistics

(1) **Definitions.** As used in this section and s. 165.54:

(a) "Division" means the division of law enforcement services.

(b) "Law enforcement agency" means a governmental unit of one or more persons employed full time by the state or a political subdivision of the state for the purpose of preventing and detecting crime and enforcing state laws or local ordinances, employees of which unit are authorized to make arrests for crimes while acting within the scope of their authority.

(c) "Offense" means an act which is a felony, a misdemeanor or a violation of a city, county, village or town ordinance.

(2) The division shall:

(a) Obtain and file fingerprints, descriptions, photographs and any other available identifying data on persons who have been arrested or taken into custody in this state:

1. For an offense which is a felony.
2. For an offense which is a misdemeanor or a violation of an ordinance involving burglary tools, commercial gambling, dealing in gambling devices, contributing to the delinquency of a child, dealing in stolen property, controlled substances under ch. 161, firearms, dangerous weapons, explosives, pandering, prostitution, sex offenses where children are victims, or worthless checks.
3. For an offense charged as disorderly conduct but which relates to an act connected with one or more of the offenses under subd. 2.
4. As a fugitive from justice.
5. For any other offense designated by the attorney general.

(b) Accept for filing fingerprints and other identifying data, taken at the discretion of the law enforcement agency involved, on persons arrested or taken into custody for offenses other than those listed in par. (a).

(c) Obtain and file fingerprints and other available identifying data on unidentified human corpses found in this state.

(d) Obtain and file information relating to identifiable stolen or lost property.

(e) Obtain and file a copy or detailed description of each arrest warrant issued in this state for the offenses under par. (a) but not served because the whereabouts of the person named on the warrant is unknown or because that person has left the state. All available identifying data shall be obtained with the copy of the warrant, including any information indicating that the person named on the warrant may be armed, dangerous or possessed of suicidal tendencies.

(f) Collect information concerning the number and nature of offenses known to have been committed in this state, the legal action taken in connection with such offenses from the inception of the complaint to the final discharge of the defendant and such other information as may be useful in the study of crime and the administration of justice. The administrator of the division may determine any other information to be obtained regarding crime statistics. However, the information shall include such data as may be requested by the F.B.I. under its system of uniform crime reports for the United States.

WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

165.83

(g) Furnish all reporting officials with forms and instructions which specify in detail the nature of the information required under pars. (a) to (f), the time it is to be forwarded, the method of classifying and such other matters as shall facilitate collection and compilation.

(h) Cooperate with and assist all law enforcement agencies in the state in the establishment of a state system of criminal identification and in obtaining fingerprints and other identifying data on all persons described in pars. (a), (b) and (c).

(i) Offer assistance and, when practicable, instructions to all local law enforcement agencies in establishing efficient local bureaus of identification and records systems.

(j) Compare the fingerprints and descriptions that are received from law enforcement agencies with the fingerprints and descriptions already on file and, if the person arrested or taken into custody is a fugitive from justice or has a criminal record, immediately notify the law enforcement agencies concerned and supply copies of the criminal record to these agencies.

(k) Make available all statistical information obtained to the governor and the legislature.

(m) Prepare and publish reports and releases, at least once a year and no later than July 1, containing the statistical information gathered under this section and presenting an accurate picture of crime in this state and of the operation of the agencies of criminal justice.

(n) Make available upon request, to all local and state law enforcement agencies in this state, to all federal law enforcement and criminal identification agencies, and to state law enforcement and criminal identification agencies in other states, any information in the files of the division which will aid these agencies in the performance of their official duties. For this purpose the division shall operate on a 24-hour a day basis, 7 days a week. Such information may also be made available to any other agency of this state or political subdivision of this state, and to any other federal agency, upon assurance by the agency concerned that the information is to be used for official purposes only.

(p) Cooperate with other agencies of this state, the crime information agencies of other states, and the uniform crime reports and national crime information center systems of the F.B.I. in developing and conducting an interstate, national and international system of criminal identification, records and statistics.

WISCONSIN

165.84 Cooperation in criminal identification, records and statistics

(1) All persons in charge of law enforcement agencies shall obtain, or cause to be obtained, the fingerprints in duplicate, according to the fingerprint system of identification established by the director of the F.B.I., full face, profile and full length photographs, and other available identifying data, of each person arrested or taken into custody for an offense of a type designated in s. 165.83(2) (a), of all persons arrested or taken into custody as fugitives from justice, and fingerprints in duplicate and other identifying data of all unidentified human corpses in their jurisdictions, but photographs need not be taken if it is known that photographs of the type listed, taken within the previous year, are on file at the division. Fingerprints and other identifying data of persons arrested or taken into custody for offenses other than those designated in s. 165.83(2) (a) may be taken at the discretion of the law enforcement agency concerned. Any person arrested or taken into custody and subsequently released without charge, or cleared of the offense through court proceedings, shall have any fingerprint record taken in connection therewith returned upon request.

(2) Fingerprints and other identifying data required to be taken under sub. (1) shall be forwarded to the division within 24 hours after taking for filing and classification, but the period of 24 hours may be extended to cover any intervening holiday or weekend. Photographs taken shall be forwarded at the discretion of the law enforcement agency concerned, but, if not forwarded, the fingerprint record shall be marked "Photo available" and the photographs shall be forwarded subsequently if the division so requests.

(3) All persons in charge of law enforcement agencies shall forward to the division copies or detailed descriptions of the arrest warrants and the identifying data described in s. 165.83(2) (e) immediately upon determination of the fact that the warrant cannot be served for the reasons stated. If the warrant is subsequently served or withdrawn, the law enforcement agency concerned must immediately notify the division of such service or withdrawal. In any case, the law enforcement agency concerned must annually, no later than January 31 of each year, confirm to the division all arrest warrants of this type which continue to be outstanding.

(4) All persons in charge of state penal and correctional institutions shall obtain fingerprints, according to the fingerprint system of identification established by the director of the F.B.I., and full face and profile photographs of all persons received on commitment to these institutions. The prints and photographs so taken shall be forwarded to the division, together with any other identifying data requested, within 10 days after the arrival at the institution of the person committed. Full length photographs in release dress shall be taken immediately prior to the release of such persons from these institutions. Immediately after release, these photographs shall be forwarded to the division.

WISCONSIN

(5) All persons in charge of law enforcement agencies, all clerks of court, all municipal justices where they have no clerks, all persons in charge of state and county penal and correctional institutions, and all persons in charge of state and county probation and parole offices, shall supply the division with the information described in s. 165.83 (2) (f) on the basis of the forms and instructions to be supplied by the division under s. 165.83(2) (g).

(6) All persons in charge of law enforcement agencies in this state shall furnish the division with any other identifying data required in accordance with guidelines established by the division. All law enforcement agencies and penal and correctional institutions in this state having criminal identification files shall cooperate in providing to the division copies of such items in these files as will aid in establishing the nucleus of the state criminal identification file.

WISCONSIN STATUTES

*** THIS DOCUMENT IS CURRENT THROUGH ALL 1993 LEGISLATION ***

GENERAL ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE, EXCEPT THE JUDICIARY
CHAPTER 19. GENERAL DUTIES OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS
SUBCHAPTER II. PUBLIC RECORDS AND PROPERTY

Wis. Stat. @ 19.31 (1993)

19.31 Declaration of policy

In recognition of the fact that a representative government is dependent upon an informed electorate, it is declared to be the public policy of this state that all persons are entitled to the greatest possible information regarding the affairs of government and the official acts of those officers and employes who represent them. Further, providing persons with such information is declared to be an essential function of a representative government and an integral part of the routine duties of officers and employes whose responsibility it is to provide such information. To that end, ss. 19.32 to 19.37 shall be construed in every instance with a presumption of complete public access, consistent with the conduct of governmental business. The denial of public access generally is contrary to the public interest, and only in an exceptional case may access be denied.

1993 Wis. ALS 215, *3; 1993 Wis. Act 215;
1993 Wis. Laws 215; 1993 Wis. SB 578

[*3] SECTION 3. 19.32 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

19.32 (1) "Authority" means any of the following having custody of a record: a state or local office, elected official, agency, board, commission, committee, council, department or public body corporate and politic created by constitution, law, ordinance, rule or order; a governmental or quasi-governmental corporation except for the Bradley center sports and entertainment corporation created under ch. 232; any public purpose corporation, as defined in Section 181.79 (1); any court of law; the assembly or senate; a nonprofit corporation which receives more than 50% of its funds from a county or a municipality, as defined in Section 59.001 (3), and which provides services related to public health or safety to the county or municipality; a nonprofit corporation operating [D] an [D] [A] THE OLYMPIC [A] ice [D] rink which is owned by the state [D] [A] TRAINING CENTER UNDER SECTION 42.11 (3) [A] ; or a formally constituted subunit of any of the foregoing.

NOTE: This SECTION substitutes "the olympic ice training center" for the formerly correct but outdated reference to "an ice rink which is owned by the state".

(1m) "Person authorized by the individual" means the parent, guardian, as defined in s. 48.02 (8), or legal custodian, as defined in s. 48.02 (11), of a child, as defined in s. 48.02 (2), the guardian, as defined in s. 880.01 (3), of an individual adjudged incompetent, as defined in s. 880.01 (4), the personal representative or spouse of an individual who is deceased or any person authorized, in writing, by the individual to exercise the rights granted under this section.

(1r) "Personally identifiable information" has the meaning specified in s. 19.62 (5).

(2) "Record" means any material on which written, drawn, printed, spoken, visual or electromagnetic information is recorded or preserved, regardless of physical form or characteristics, which has been created or is being kept by an authority. "Record" includes, but is not limited to, handwritten, typed or printed pages, maps, charts, photographs, films, recordings, tapes (including computer tapes), computer printouts and optical disks. "Record" does not include drafts, notes, preliminary computations and like materials prepared for the originator's personal use or prepared by the originator in the name of a person for whom the originator is working; materials which are purely the personal property of the custodian and have no relation to his or her office; materials to which access is limited by copyright, patent or bequest; and published materials in the possession of an authority other than a public library which are available for sale, or which are available for inspection at a public library.

(3) "Requester" means any person who requests inspection or copies of a record.

WISCONSIN STATUTES

*** THIS DOCUMENT IS CURRENT THROUGH ALL 1993 LEGISLATION ***

GENERAL ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE, EXCEPT THE JUDICIARY
CHAPTER 19. GENERAL DUTIES OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS
SUBCHAPTER II. PUBLIC RECORDS AND PROPERTY

Wis. Stat. @ 19.33 (1993)

19.33 Legal custodians

(1) An elected official is the legal custodian of his or her records and the records of his or her office, but the official may designate an employe of his or her staff to act as the legal custodian.

(2) The chairperson of a committee of elected officials, or the designee of the chairperson, is the legal custodian of the records of the committee.

(3) The cochairpersons of a joint committee of elected officials, or the designee of the cochairpersons, are the legal custodians of the records of the joint committee.

(4) Every authority not specified in subs. (1) to (3) shall designate in writing one or more positions occupied by an officer or employe of the authority or the unit of government of which it is a part as a legal custodian to fulfill its duties under this subchapter. In the absence of a designation the authority's highest ranking officer and the chief administrative officer, if any, are the legal custodians for the authority. The legal custodian shall be vested by the authority with full legal power to render decisions and carry out the duties of the authority under this subchapter. Each authority shall provide the name of the legal custodian and a description of the nature of his or her duties under this subchapter to all employes of the authority entrusted with records subject to the legal custodian's supervision.

(5) Notwithstanding sub. (4), if an authority specified in sub. (4) or the members of such an authority are appointed by another authority, the appointing authority may designate a legal custodian for records of the authority or members of the authority appointed by the appointing authority, except that if such an authority is attached for administrative purposes to another authority, the authority performing administrative duties shall designate the legal custodian for the authority for whom administrative duties are performed.

(6) The legal custodian of records maintained in a publicly owned or leased building or the authority appointing the legal custodian shall designate one or more deputies to act as legal custodian of such records in his or her absence or as otherwise required to respond to requests as provided in s. 19.35 (4). This subsection does not apply to members of the legislature or to members of any local governmental body.

(7) The designation of a legal custodian does not affect the powers and duties of an authority under this subchapter.

(8) No elected official of a legislative body has a duty to act as or designate a legal custodian under sub. (4) for the records of any committee of the body unless the official is the highest ranking officer or chief administrative officer of the committee or is designated the legal custodian of the committee's records by rule or by law.

WISCONSIN STATUTES

*** THIS DOCUMENT IS CURRENT THROUGH ALL 1993 LEGISLATION ***

GENERAL ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE, EXCEPT THE JUDICIARY
CHAPTER 19. GENERAL DUTIES OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS
SUBCHAPTER II. PUBLIC RECORDS AND PROPERTY

Wis. Stat. @ 19.34 (1993)

19.34 Procedural information

(1) Each authority shall adopt, prominently display and make available for inspection and copying at its offices, for the guidance of the public, a notice containing a description of its organization and the established times and places at which, the legal custodian under s. 19.33 from whom, and the methods whereby, the public may obtain information and access to records in its custody, make requests for records, or obtain copies of records, and the costs thereof. This subsection does not apply to members of the legislature or to members of any local governmental body.

(2) (a) Each authority which maintains regular office hours at the location where records in the custody of the authority are kept shall permit access to the records of the authority at all times during those office hours, unless otherwise specifically authorized by law.

(b) Each authority which does not maintain regular office hours at the location where records in the custody of the authority are kept shall:

1. Permit access to its records upon at least 48 hours' written or oral notice of intent to inspect or copy a record; or

2. Establish a period of at least 2 consecutive hours per week during which access to the records of the authority is permitted. In such case, the authority may require 24 hours' advance written or oral notice of intent to inspect or copy a record.

(c) An authority imposing a notice requirement under par. (b) shall include a statement of the requirement in its notice under sub. (1), if the authority is required to adopt a notice under that subsection.

(d) If a record of an authority is occasionally taken to a location other than the location where records of the authority are regularly kept, and the record may be inspected at the place at which records of the authority are regularly kept upon one business day's notice, the authority or legal custodian of the record need not provide access to the record at the occasional location.

WISCONSIN STATUTES

*** THIS DOCUMENT IS CURRENT THROUGH ALL 1993 LEGISLATION ***

GENERAL ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE, EXCEPT THE JUDICIARY
CHAPTER 19. GENERAL DUTIES OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS
SUBCHAPTER II. PUBLIC RECORDS AND PROPERTY

Wis. Stat. @ 19.35 (1993)

19.35 Access to records; fees

(1) (a) Except as otherwise provided by law, any requester has a right to inspect any record. Substantive common law principles construing the right to inspect, copy or receive copies of records shall remain in effect. The exemptions to the requirement of a governmental body to meet in open session under s. 19.85 are indicative of public policy, but may be used as grounds for denying public access to a record only if the authority or legal custodian under s. 19.33 makes a specific demonstration that there is a need to restrict public access at the time that the request to inspect or copy the record is made.

(am) In addition to any right under par. (a), any requester who is an individual or person authorized by the individual, has a right to inspect any record containing personally identifiable information pertaining to the individual that is maintained by an authority and to make or receive a copy of any such information. The right to inspect or copy a record under this paragraph does not apply to any of the following:

1. Any record containing personally identifiable information that is collected or maintained in connection with a complaint, investigation or other circumstances that may lead to an enforcement action, administrative proceeding, arbitration proceeding or court proceeding, or any such record that is collected or maintained in connection with such an action or proceeding.

2. Any record containing personally identifiable information that, if disclosed, would do any of the following:

a. Endanger an individual's life or safety.

b. Identify a confidential informant.

c. Endanger the security of any state correctional institution, as defined in s. 301.01 (4), jail, as defined in s. 165.85 (2) (bg), secured correctional facility, as defined in s. 48.02 (15m), mental health institute, as defined in s. 51.01 (12), center for the developmentally disabled, as defined in s. 51.01 (3), or the population or staff of any of these institutions, facilities or jails.

d. Compromise the rehabilitation of a person in the custody of the department of corrections or detained in a jail or facility identified in subd. 2. c.

3. Any record that is part of a records series, as defined in s. 19.62 (7), that is not indexed, arranged or automated in a way that the record can be retrieved by the authority maintaining the records series by use of an individual's name, address or other identifier.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by law, any requester has a right to inspect a record and to make or receive a copy of a record which appears in written form. If a requester appears personally to request a copy of a record, the authority having custody of the record may, at its option, permit the requester to photocopy the record or provide the requester with a copy substantially as readable as the original.

(c) Except as otherwise provided by law, any requester has a right to receive from an authority having custody of a record which is in the form of a

Wis. Stat. § 19.35 (1993)

comprehensible audio tape recording a copy of the tape recording substantially as audible as the original. The authority may instead provide a transcript of the recording to the requester if he or she requests.

(d) Except as otherwise provided by law, any requester has a right to receive from an authority having custody of a record which is in the form of a video tape recording a copy of the tape recording substantially as good as the original.

(e) Except as otherwise provided by law, any requester has a right to receive from an authority having custody of a record which is not in a readily comprehensible form a copy of the information contained in the record assembled and reduced to written form on paper.

(em) If an authority receives a request to inspect or copy a record that is in handwritten form or a record that is in the form of a voice recording which the authority is required to withhold or from which the authority is required to delete information under s. 19.36 (8) (b) because the handwriting or the recorded voice would identify an informant, the authority shall provide to the requester, upon his or her request, a transcript of the record or the information contained in the record if the record or information is otherwise subject to public inspection and copying under this subsection.

(f) Except as otherwise provided by law, any requester has a right to inspect any record not specified in pars. (b) to (e) the form of which does not permit copying. If a requester requests permission to photograph the record, the authority having custody of the record may permit the requester to photograph the record. If a requester requests that a photograph of the record be provided, the authority shall provide a good quality photograph of the record.

(g) Paragraphs (a) to (c), (e) and (f) do not apply to a record which has been or will be promptly published with copies offered for sale or distribution.

(h) A request under pars. (a) to (f) is deemed sufficient if it reasonably describes the requested record or the information requested. However, a request for a record without a reasonable limitation as to subject matter or length of time represented by the record does not constitute a sufficient request. A request may be made orally, but a request must be in writing before an action to enforce the request is commenced under s. 19.37.

(i) Except as authorized under this paragraph, no request under pars. (a) and (b) to (f) may be refused because the person making the request is unwilling to be identified or to state the purpose of the request. Except as authorized under this paragraph, no request under pars. (a) to (f) may be refused because the request is received by mail, unless prepayment of a fee is required under sub.

Wis. Stat. @ 19.35 (1993)

(3) (f). A requester may be required to show acceptable identification whenever the requested record is kept at a private residence or whenever security reasons or federal law or regulations so require.

(j) Notwithstanding pars. (a) to (f), a requester shall comply with any regulations or restrictions upon access to or use of information which are specifically prescribed by law.

(k) Notwithstanding pars. (a), (am), (b) and (f), a legal custodian may impose reasonable restrictions on the manner of access to an original record if the record is irreplaceable or easily damaged.

(L) Except as necessary to comply with pars. (c) to (e) or s. 19.36 (6), this subsection does not require an authority to create a new record by extracting information from existing records and compiling the information in a new format.

(2) The authority shall provide any person who is authorized to inspect or copy a record under sub. (1) (a), (am), (b) or (f) with facilities comparable to those used by its employes to inspect, copy and abstract the record during established office hours. An authority is not required by this subsection to purchase or lease photocopying, duplicating, photographic or other equipment or to provide a separate room for the inspection, copying or abstracting of records.

(3) (a) An authority may impose a fee upon the requester of a copy of a record which may not exceed the actual, necessary and direct cost of reproduction and transcription of the record, unless a fee is otherwise specifically established or authorized to be established by law.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by law or as authorized to be prescribed by law an authority may impose a fee upon the requester of a copy of a record that does not exceed the actual, necessary and direct cost of photographing and photographic processing if the authority provides a photograph of a record, the form of which does not permit copying.

(c) Except as otherwise provided by law or as authorized to be prescribed by law, an authority may impose a fee upon a requester for locating a record, not exceeding the actual, necessary and direct cost of location, if the cost is \$50 or more.

(d) An authority may impose a fee upon a requester for the actual, necessary and direct cost of mailing or shipping of any copy or photograph of a record which is mailed or shipped to the requester.

Wis. Stat. § 19.35 (1993)

(e) An authority may provide copies of a record without charge or at a reduced charge where the authority determines that waiver or reduction of the fee is in the public interest.

(f) An authority may require prepayment by a requester of any fee or fees imposed under this subsection if the total amount exceeds \$5.

(4) (a) Each authority, upon request for any record, shall, as soon as practicable and without delay, either fill the request or notify the requester of the authority's determination to deny the request in whole or in part and the reasons therefor.

(b) If a request is made orally, the authority may deny the request orally unless a demand for a written statement of the reasons denying the request is made by the requester within 5 business days of the oral denial. If an authority denies a written request in whole or in part, the requester shall receive from the authority a written statement of the reasons for denying the written request. Every written denial of a request by an authority shall inform the requester that if the request for the record was made in writing, then the determination is subject to review by mandamus under s. 19.37 (1) or upon application to the attorney general or a district attorney.

(c) If an authority receives a request under sub. (1) (a) or (am) from an individual or person authorized by the individual who identifies himself or herself and states that the purpose of the request is to inspect or copy a record containing personally identifiable information pertaining to the individual that is maintained by the authority, the authority shall deny or grant the request in accordance with the following procedure:

1. The authority shall first determine if the requester has a right to inspect or copy the record under sub. (1) (a).

2. If the authority determines that the requester has a right to inspect or copy the record under sub. (1) (a), the authority shall grant the request.

3. If the authority determines that the requester does not have a right to inspect or copy the record under sub. (1) (a), the authority shall then determine if the requester has a right to inspect or copy the record under sub. (1) (am) and grant or deny the request accordingly.

(5) No authority may destroy any record at any time after the receipt of a request for inspection or copying of the record under sub. (1) until after the request is granted or until at least 60 days after the date that the request is denied. If an action is commenced under s. 19.37, the requested record may not be destroyed until after the order of the court in relation to such record is issued and the deadline for appealing that order has passed, or, if appealed, until after the order of the court hearing the appeal is issued. If the court orders the production of any record and the order is not appealed, the requested record may not be destroyed until after the request for inspection or copying is granted.

(6) No elected official is responsible for the record of any other elected official unless he or she has possession of the record of that other official.

WISCONSIN STATUTES

*** THIS DOCUMENT IS CURRENT THROUGH ALL 1993 LEGISLATION ***

GENERAL ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE, EXCEPT THE JUDICIARY
CHAPTER 19. GENERAL DUTIES OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS
SUBCHAPTER II. PUBLIC RECORDS AND PROPERTY

Wis. Stat. @ 19.36 (1993)

19.36 Limitations upon access and withholding

(1) Application of other laws. Any record which is specifically exempted from disclosure by state or federal law or authorized to be exempted from disclosure by state law is exempt from disclosure under s. 19.35 (1), except that any portion of that record which contains public information is open to public inspection as provided in sub. (6).

(2) Except as otherwise provided by law, whenever federal law or regulations require or as a condition to receipt of aids by this state require that any record relating to investigative information obtained for law enforcement purposes be withheld from public access, then that information is exempt from disclosure under s. 19.35 (1).

(3) Each authority shall make available for inspection and copying under s. 19.35 (1) any record produced or collected under a contract entered into by the authority with a person other than an authority to the same extent as if the record were maintained by the authority. This subsection does not apply to the inspection or copying of a record under s. 19.35 (1) (am).

(4) A computer program, as defined in s. 16.971 (4) (c), is not subject to examination or copying under s. 19.35 (1), but the material used as input for a computer program or the material produced as a product of the computer program is subject to the right of examination and copying, except as otherwise provided in s. 19.35 or this section.

(5) An authority may withhold access to any record or portion of a record containing information qualifying as a trade secret as defined in s. 134.90 (1) (c).

(6) If a record contains information that is subject to disclosure under s. 19.35 (1) (a) or (am) and information that is not subject to such disclosure, the authority having custody of the record shall provide the information that is subject to disclosure and delete the information that is not subject to disclosure from the record before release.

(7) (a) In this section, "final candidate" means each applicant for a position who is seriously considered for appointment or whose name is certified for appointment and whose name is submitted for final consideration to an authority for appointment to any state position, except a position in the classified service, or to any local public office, as defined in s. 19.42 (7w). "Final candidate" includes, whenever there are at least 5 candidates for an office or position, each of the 5 candidates who are considered most qualified for the office or position by an authority, and whenever there are less than 5 candidates for an office or position, each such candidate. Whenever an appointment is to be made from a group of more than 5 candidates, "final candidate" also includes each candidate in the group.

(b) Every applicant for a position with any authority may indicate in writing the authority that the applicant does not wish the authority to reveal his or her identity. Except with respect to an applicant whose name is certified for appointment to a position in the state classified service or a final candidate, if an applicant makes such an indication in writing, the authority shall not provide access to any record related to the application that may reveal the

identity of the applicant.

(8) (a) In this subsection:

1. "Informant" means an individual who requests confidentiality from a law enforcement agency in conjunction with providing information to that agency or, pursuant to an express promise of confidentiality by a law enforcement agency or under circumstances in which a promise of confidentiality would reasonably be implied, provides information to a law enforcement agency or, is working with a law enforcement agency to obtain information, related in any case to any of the following:

a. Another person who the individual or the law enforcement agency suspects has violated, is violating or will violate a federal law, a law of any state or an ordinance of any local government.

b. Past, present or future activities that the individual or law enforcement agency believes may violate a federal law, a law of any state or an ordinance of any local government.

2. "Law enforcement agency" has the the meaning given in s. 165.83 (1) (b), and includes the department of corrections.

(b) If an authority that is a law enforcement agency receives a request to inspect or copy a record or portion of a record under s. 19.35 (1) (a) that contains specific information including but not limited to a name, address, telephone number, voice recording or handwriting sample which, if disclosed, would identify an informant, the authority shall delete the portion of the record in which the information is contained or, if no portion of the record can be inspected or copied without identifying the informant, shall withhold the record unless the legal custodian of the record, designated under s. 19.33, makes a determination, at the time that the request is made, that the public interest in allowing a person to inspect, copy or receive a copy of such identifying information outweighs the harm done to the public interest by providing such access.

WISCONSIN STATUTES

*** THIS DOCUMENT IS CURRENT THROUGH ALL 1993 LEGISLATION ***

GENERAL ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE, EXCEPT THE JUDICIARY
CHAPTER 19. GENERAL DUTIES OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS
SUBCHAPTER II. PUBLIC RECORDS AND PROPERTY

Wis. Stat. @ 19.365 (1993)

19.365 Rights of data subject to challenge; authority corrections

(1) Except as provided under sub. (2), an individual or person authorized by the individual may challenge the accuracy of a record containing personally identifiable information pertaining to the individual that is maintained by an authority if the individual is authorized to inspect the record under s. 19.35 (1) (a) or (am) and the individual notifies the authority, in writing, of the challenge. After receiving the notice, the authority shall do one of the following:

(a) Concur with the challenge and correct the information.

(b) Deny the challenge, notify the individual or person authorized by the individual of the denial and allow the individual or person authorized by the individual to file a concise statement setting forth the reasons for the individual's disagreement with the disputed portion of the record. A state authority that denies a challenge shall also notify the individual or person authorized by the individual of the reasons for the denial.

(2) This section does not apply to any of the following records:

(a) Any record transferred to an archival depository under s. 16.61 (13).

(b) Any record pertaining to an individual if a specific state statute or federal law governs challenges to the accuracy of the record.

WISCONSIN STATUTES

*** THIS DOCUMENT IS CURRENT THROUGH ALL 1993 LEGISLATION ***

GENERAL ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE, EXCEPT THE JUDICIARY
CHAPTER 19. GENERAL DUTIES OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS
SUBCHAPTER II. PUBLIC RECORDS AND PROPERTY

Wis. Stat. @ 19.37 (1993)

19.37 Enforcement and penalties

(1) If an authority withholds a record or a part of a record or delays granting access to a record or part of a record after a written request for disclosure is made, the requester may pursue either, or both, of the alternatives under pars. (a) and (b).

(a) The requester may bring an action for mandamus asking a court to order release of the record. The court may permit the parties or their attorneys to have access to the requested record under restrictions or protective orders as the court deems appropriate.

(b) The requester may, in writing, request the district attorney of the county where the record is found, or request the attorney general, to bring an action for mandamus asking a court to order release of the record to the requester. The district attorney or attorney general may bring such an action.

(2) (a) The court shall award reasonable attorney fees, damages of not less than \$100, and other actual costs to the requester if the requester prevails in whole or in substantial part in any action filed under sub. (1) relating to access to a record or part of a record under s. 19.35 (1) (a). Costs and fees shall be paid by the authority affected or the unit of government of which it is a part, or by the unit of government by which the legal custodian under s. 19.33 is employed and may not become a personal liability of any public official.

(b) In any action filed under sub. (1) relating to access to a record or part of a record under s. 19.35 (1) (am), if the court finds that the authority acted in a wilful or intentional manner, the court shall award the individual actual damages sustained by the individual as a consequence of the failure.

(3) If a court finds that an authority or legal custodian under s. 19.33 has arbitrarily and capriciously denied or delayed response to a request or charged excessive fees, the court may award punitive damages to the requester.

(4) Any authority which or legal custodian under s. 19.33 who arbitrarily and capriciously denies or delays response to a request or charges excessive fees may be required to forfeit not more than \$1,000. Forfeitures under this section shall be enforced by action on behalf of the state by the attorney general or by the district attorney of any county where a violation occurs. In actions brought by the attorney general, the court shall award any forfeiture recovered together with reasonable costs to the state; and in actions brought by the district attorney, the court shall award any forfeiture recovered together with reasonable costs to the county.

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Wis. Stat. @ 19.39 (1993)

19.39 Interpretation by attorney general

Any person may request advice from the attorney general as to the applicability of this subchapter under any circumstances. The attorney general may respond to such a request.

946.72. Tampering with public records and notices

(1) Whoever with intent to injure or defraud ~~destroys, damages, removes or conceals~~ any public record is guilty of a Class D felony.

* * *

973.015 Misdemeanors, special disposition.

(1) When a person under the age of 21 at the time of the commission of an offense for which the person has been found guilty in a court for violation of a law for which the maximum penalty is imprisonment for one year or less in the county jail, the court may order at the time of sentencing that the record be expunged upon successful completion of the sentence if the court determines the person will benefit and society will not be harmed by this disposition.

(2) A person has successfully completed the sentence if the person has not been convicted of a

subsequent offense and, if on probation, such probation has not been revoked. Upon successful completion of the sentence the detaining or probationary authority shall issue a certificate of discharge which shall be forwarded to the court of record and which shall have the effect of expunging the record.

History: 1975 c. 39; 1975 c. 189 s. 105; 1975 c. 199.

"Expunge" under this section means to strike or obliterate from the record all references to defendant's name and identity. 67 Atty. Gen. 301.

Circuit courts do not possess inherent powers to expunge or destroy conviction records. 70 Atty. Gen. 115.