



West Seneca Public Library FREEDOM of INFORMATION LAW (FOIL) POLICY

I. Purpose and Scope

This Policy provides information about how members of the public can access records of the West Seneca Public Library. This Policy applies to the West Seneca Public Library only. For information on how to access records of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (B&ECPL) or the records of Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System functions, please refer to the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) Policy which can be found on the B&ECPL Website under Policies > B&ECPL Policies.

The West Seneca Public Library will furnish to the public the information and records required to be disclosed by the New York State Freedom of Information Law (Article 6, Sections 84-90, of the Public Officers Law), and other applicable laws. FOIL allows members of the public the right to access government records, with certain exceptions. The full text of the FOIL law, guidance issued by the New York State Committee on Open Government, and other information about the law can be found on the Committee's website, <http://www.dos.ny.gov/coog/index.html>.

II. Designation of Records Access Officers

A. The Library shall designate an appropriate employee or employees as "Records Access Officers" for the West Seneca Public Library and shall identify the Records Access Officers as such in materials available to the public.

B. The records access officers are responsible for insuring that the West Seneca Public Library appropriately responds to public requests for access to the West Seneca Public Library records. The designation of records access officers shall not be construed to prohibit other the West Seneca Public Library officials, including those who may have been authorized to make records or information available to the public in the past, from continuing to do so.

III. Requests for Public Access to West Seneca Public Library Records

A. All requests for records must be in writing, either in letter format or using the West Seneca Public Library's FOIL Application Form. Requests can be:

- Mailed to the Records Access Officer(s) at the following address:

Director, FOIL Access Officer
West Seneca Public Library
1300 Union Rd
West Seneca, New York 14224

or

- Faxed to (716) 674-9206; or
- E-mailed to the Records Access Officer at WSE@buffalolib.org.

B. All requests for access to records must include contact information of the requestor, including a telephone number and mailing address.

C. All requests must include a detailed description of the records that are being sought including, but not limited to, dates, titles, file designations, or any other information that will assist the West Seneca Public Library in locating the requested records.

IV. West Seneca Public Library Response to Requests for Public Records

A. Within five (5) business days of the receipt of a compliant written request, West Seneca Public Library will:

1. Make the record available to the requestor;
2. Furnish a written acknowledgement of the receipt of the request and a statement of the approximate date when the information will be made available; or
3. Deny access in writing, and state the basis for denying access.

B. A denial of access to any record will be sent in writing, and will summarize the reason for the denial, and provide information on how to appeal such denial.

C. If the West Seneca Public Library does not respond to a request in accordance with Section IV.A, the request should be considered to have been denied.

V. Appealing a Denial of Access

A. All appeals of a denial of a request for a West Seneca Public Library record must be submitted in writing within 30 days of the denied request, either in letter

format or using West Seneca Public Library's FOIL Appeal Form. An appeal may be

1. Mailed to:

Library Board President, FOIL Appeals Officer
West Seneca Public Library
1300 Union Rd
West Seneca, New York 14224

2. Faxed to (716) 674-9206; or

3. E-mailed to the FOIL Appeals Officer at WSE@buffalolib.org.

B. West Seneca Public Library's FOIL Appeals Officer shall be the President of the West Seneca Public Library Board of Trustees.

C. An appeal must include the date of the original FOIL request, a detailed description of the records that are being sought including but not limited to dates, titles, file designations, or any other information that will help the West Seneca Public Library to find the requested records, and the reason provided for the denial.

D. The West Seneca Public Library FOIL Appeals Officer will independently review the withheld records and the basis for withholding them. The West Seneca Public Library FOIL Appeals Officer will respond in writing to the appealing party within ten (10) business days after the appeal is perfected with their determination as to whether the requested records were properly withheld or must be released.

E. Copies of all appeals and the determinations will be sent by the West Seneca Public Library to the Committee on Open Government pursuant to Section 89(4)(a) of the Public Officers Law.

VI. Fees

A. The West Seneca Public Library reserves the right to charge the requestor for costs in accordance with Sections 87(1)(b)(iii) and 87(1)(b) and (c) of the Public Officers law.

B. There shall be no fee charged for merely inspecting or searching for records.

Revised and re-approved by the West Seneca Public Library Board of Trustees on November 20, 2019 and adoption confirmed January 15, 2020. Revised and re-approved September 27, 2023.

**WEST SENECA PUBLIC LIBRARY
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION LAW (FOIL)
APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC ACCESS TO RECORDS**

This form is for application to the West Seneca Public Library.

MAIL TO: Robert Alessi, Director
FOIL Records Access Officer
West Seneca Public Library
1300 Union Road
West Seneca, NY 14224

I hereby apply to (1) inspect () OR (2) obtain a copy of () the following record:

Signature

Date

Print Name

(_____)_____
Telephone

Representing

e-mail

Mailing Address

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

Approved ()

Denied (for the reason(s) checked below)

- () Confidential Disclosure
() Part of investigatory files
() Unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
() Record of which the B&ECPL is legal custodian cannot be found
() Record is not maintained by the B&ECPL
() Exempted by statute other than the Freedom of Information Act
() Other (Specify) _____

Signature

Title

Received by

Date

**WEST SENECA PUBLIC LIBRARY
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION LAW (FOIL)
APPEAL REQUEST FORM**

This form is for application to the West Seneca Public Library.

MAIL TO: President, Library Board of Trustees
FOIL Appeals Officer
West Seneca Public Library
1300 Union Road
West Seneca, NY 14224

I hereby appeal:

Signature

Date

()

Print Name

Telephone

Representing

e-mail

Mailing Address

Date of Original Request: _____

Records Requested: _____

Reason Provided for Denial: _____

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

Denial Upheld ()

Signature: _____

Denial Reversed ()

Title: _____

Date: _____