



BALDWIN COUNTY COMMISSION

POLICY #2.13		
Subject	Public Records Access and Rates Schedule	
Date Adopted	February 21, 2017	
Agenda Item	BA3	
Obsolete Versions	April 21, 1992	Minutes Book 11, pg. 292
	February 17, 1974	Minutes Book 4, pg. 119
	May 4, 1993	Minutes Book 13, pg. 214
	February 19, 2008	Minutes Page 26
	January 17, 2012	Agenda Item EA1

POLICY STATEMENT

This policy describes the procedures regarding public records access requests, and sets the rate schedule for related fees.

The County Commission and its departments will accept written requests for information from the public. Once staff receives the Public Records Access Request, the requested information shall be made available to the requestor within ten (10) business days; however, it is noted that some requests may require substantial time to collect and therefore could take additional time. In such cases when staff anticipates the collection of documents will exceed ten (10) business days, staff will inform the requestor of a date and time when the documentation will be available for review. In order to provide said public records and continue to maintain proper office operation, a time will be arranged for the citizen to come to the County office where the requested records are located to inspect and view the files, provided that requested records are not covered by known Right to Privacy Limitations or other sensitive document restrictions. The citizen has the right to request assistance in locating said records and to have copies made of the same.

COSTS: The County is permitted by law to recoup reasonable costs incurred in providing public records which can include retrieval, research, and duplication and preparation time. The requestor will be provided in advance with estimated cost for materials, labor and shipping or delivery.

LABOR: No labor charge is imposed when a nominal amount of staff time is needed to respond to a request. Requests requiring more than 15 minutes of staff time shall be charged at the hourly rate of the least-paid staff member of the applicable department who can respond to the request. Any review/research time by the County Attorney shall be charged at the hourly rate of \$225.00.

DEPOSIT: A deposit is required when the Records Manager determines that more than one (1) hour of staff time will be needed to respond to a request. If the final cost is less than the deposit, the difference will be refunded; if greater, the additional cost must be paid prior to delivery or review of the records.

RATES SCHEDULE	
Standard copies (up to 11 x 17 in size)	25¢ per page Charges for maps, plats and other large documents are set by the applicable department.
Certifications	\$1.00 per certification
Staff Labor	Hourly pay rate of the least-paid employee of the applicable department who can respond to the request including benefits as posted on Baldwin County salaries online, billed at quarter hour increments.
County Attorney Review	\$225.00 per hour, billed at quarter hour increments
Deposit	A deposit is required if the Records Manager determines that more than one (1) hour of staff time is needed to respond to a request.

PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENT

In order to carry out this policy, the following steps must be taken:

1. Once the Baldwin County Public Records Access Request Form is received from the requestor at the Records Manager's Office, staff forwards the request via email to the Department Head of the appropriate County Department. The requested records will be made available to the requestor within ten (10) working days. An appointment will be made for the requestor to view the records in the

County facility where said records are located. Copies of the documents will be made by staff as requested.

2. Each department is responsible for logging staff time and for providing the requested information/documents and a detailed invoice to the Records Manager. The Records Manager provides the invoice to the requestor which must be paid prior to the delivery of the information.

3. Staff will retain copies of all information/documentation provided to the requestor.

FORMS/ATTACHMENTS/EXHIBITS

1. Baldwin County Public Records Access Request Form

BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA
PUBLIC RECORDS ACCESS REQUEST

Availability Statement: The Baldwin County Commission (Commission) acknowledges the public records access as provided by Code of Alabama (36-12-40); and further defined under Code of Alabama (41-13-1); however, in order to provide said public records and continue to maintain proper office operation, the Commission stipulates that requests for all public records shall be made in writing and upon receipt of the written request, the Commission further stipulates that the requested documents will be made available to the requester within ten (10) working days of the request, provided that requested records are not covered by known Right to Privacy Limitations or other sensitive document restrictions.

I, _____, request access to the below described public records. I further acknowledge that I have the right to request assistance in the locating of said records, and to have copies made of the same; and that any time spent by county personnel for records location research shall be charged at the hourly pay rate of the employee conducting the research. Any review/research time by the County Attorney shall be charged at the hourly rate of \$225.00. I understand that a deposit will be required if more than one (1) hour of staff time will be needed to respond my request. The established cost for copies of records has been set at .25 cents per page for standard copies up to 11 x 17 in size. Charges for maps, plats and other large documents are set by the applicable department. Certification of documents has been set at \$1.00 per certification. I fully acknowledge and guarantee payment for these services to the Baldwin County Commission.

Print name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mailing address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Contact number: _____ Email: _____

Records requested: _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Request Received (Staff Date/Initial):	
Employee(s)/Department(s) Responding to Request:	
Additional Information/Notes:	