

NEFAC - Right To Know session with NH Fellows

Oct. 9, 2025

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New Hampshire's constitution and right to know law presume the public has the right to access governmental meetings and record - and protects that right.

- [N.H. Constitution](#), Part I, Article 8
[Art.] 8. [Accountability of Magistrates and Officers; Public's Right to Know.] All power residing originally in, and being derived from, the people, all the magistrates and officers of government are their substitutes and agents, and at all times accountable to them. Government, therefore, should be open, accessible, accountable and responsive. **To that end, the public's right of access to governmental proceedings and records shall not be unreasonably restricted.**
- [N.H. Right to Know Law, RSA 91-A](#)
91-A:1 Preamble. – Openness in the conduct of public business is essential to a democratic society. **The purpose of this chapter is to ensure both the greatest possible public access to the actions, discussions and records of all public bodies, and their accountability to the people.**
- **Don't be overcharged**
[RSA 91-A:4](#) limits charges for electronic communications
You can be charged for the cost of copying records, **but not for the time it takes to gather and redact them**, though some town officials think otherwise. There are also limits on fees for electronic communications, including emails and text and chat messages. **State law prohibits charges for the first 250 electronic communications, including the attachments and replies to those communications.**

Resources for understanding and knowing the law and your rights.

[NH Attorney General Guide to RTK law](#)

This is a very detailed guide to what is - and is not - a public record

Right to Know NH

You'll find templates and guides for RTK requests

- [Open records FAQ](#)
- [How to file a request](#)
- [Sample right to know request form](#)