

Subject: RE: Iowa Open Records Request - Jasper County IA - 563 - CM-X2 - Status Request - II/II

From: "Ryan Eaton" <reaton@jasperia.org>

Date: 8/4/23, 12:09

To: "Michael J. Merritt" <cipher.hunter@cipherphoenix.com>, "cipherus.x1@cipherphoenix.com" <cipherus.x1@cipherphoenix.com>

CC: "Scott Nicholson" <snicholson@jaspercoatty.org>, "Brandon Talsma" <btalsma@jasperia.org>, "Doug Cupples" <dcupples@jasperia.org>

Mr. Merritt,

I have been tasked with reviewing your latest requests and I am afraid the Iowa Public Information Board already ruled for Jasper County, and we will not provide you with "user names" for Jasper County Facebook accounts.

The Supervisor's Facebook pages are their own and not administered or connected to Jasper County. You will need to address that with them.

I appreciate your confusion about the fees charged by different entities for E-discovery services. Indeed, the security requirements play a significant role in determining the cost. Organizations dealing with sensitive data like CJIS (Criminal Justice Information Services) have stricter security requirements, and therefore, they may need to more experienced and certified IT staff, which can lead to higher fees.

On the other hand, educational institutions, like schools, may not handle such sensitive data, so they can potentially use alternative, cost-effective solutions. Utilizing a paid intern or cyber security student to perform the E-discovery under supervision can help reduce expenses while still ensuring compliance with privacy regulations and removing personal identification information (PII) to protect individual privacy.

It's essential for organizations to understand their specific data security requirements and tailor their E-discovery approach accordingly. By doing so, they can strike a balance between cost-effectiveness and maintaining the necessary level of security.

As the only staff member with training and a license to use Gimmal's Discovery Attender for Open Records Requests, they are performed by me. You will find this in smaller departments where resources may be limited, it can be more costly for both the organization and the requestor.

The NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) framework or NIST 800-53 is widely used for information security and access control in various organizations and government agencies. The principle of least privilege is a fundamental concept in this framework, where each user or account is granted only the minimum level of access necessary to perform their specific tasks, reducing the risk of unauthorized access and potential security breaches.

Jasper County has implemented a process for searching and granting access to specific accounts, but this access is given on a temporary basis. The process involves the following steps:

1. Access Request: When someone needs access to a particular account or resource, they must submit a request.
2. Individual Permission: Each account is individually granted access based on the principle of least privilege. This means that users will only be given access to the specific resources they need and nothing more.
3. Processing: The access is granted and processed after business hours. The specific details of the access request and the time it takes to process are automatically recorded in a report.
4. Access Removal: Once the authorized user has completed their task, the access is removed. This ensures that the temporary access is not left open unnecessarily.

The time taken to process an access request varies depending on the size of the account. Accounts with larger data volumes (e.g., 25 GB) may take several hours to process, while smaller accounts may be completed in 30 minutes or less.

By implementing this access control process, Jasper County is ensuring that only authorized personnel have access to specific resources for the duration required, minimizing the risk of unauthorized access and potential security threats. Additionally, the logging and reporting of access times provide transparency and accountability for access-related activities.

MXtoolbox.com or dnsstuff.com can be used to view our Jasper County's MX records to see it is on Microsoft's Government Cloud. Again, as required by Federal Law, CJIS data must be stored within the United States and with ever increasing cyber-attacks, it is more cost effective to use third party security than attempt to protect it in house.

Previously we have provided approximately 40 hours of both IT staff and Attorney time/wages on your requests at no charge. It seems there was a misunderstanding, and any organization can bill for staff's time to complete requests. My wages increased on July 1st and the current cost at 1.5 for afterhours "time only" is \$83.35.

You will need to discuss the fees for the County Attorney's staff hourly rate to review the results and redact any Personal Identifiable Information (PII), Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), Public Law 104-191, or Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS) protected data. That will be redacted according to Federal laws.

Based on your previous emails regarding building databases and the potential for collecting information contained in metadata on attachments, all requests will be printed and sent by certified mail to the address you have provided.

I have an outstanding open request from you for emails from Jon Dunwell to any jasper county email account. Per your request I included the cost per hour and received no confirmation that you accepted or would pay that fee. That will need to be paid for before additional requests are reviewed and completed.

Please Contact the Jasper County Attorney's Office – general@jaspercoatty.org to confirm fees and authorize the billing for the work you have requested.

Ryan Eaton
Chief information Officer
Jasper County, Iowa

From: Scott Nicholson <snicholson@jaspercoatty.org>

Sent: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 4:23 PM

To: Ryan Eaton <reaton@jasperia.org>

Subject: FW: Iowa Open Records Request - Jasper County IA - 563 - CM-X2 - Status Request - II/II

Here is one that came in today.

From: General Attorney <general@jaspercoatty.org>

Sent: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 1:29 PM

To: Scott Nicholson <snicholson@jaspercoatty.org>

Subject: FW: Iowa Open Records Request - Jasper County IA - 563 - CM-X2 - Status Request - II/II

Brenda Lillard

Legal Assistant
Jasper County Attorneys Office
114 W 3rd St N
Newton, IA 50208
P: 641-841-1139
F: 641-792-8327
blillard@jaspercoatty.org

From: cipherus.x1@cipherphoenix.com <cipherus.x1@cipherphoenix.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 9:45 AM
To: General Attorney <general@jaspercoatty.org>
Subject: Iowa Open Records Request - Jasper County IA - 563 - CM-X2 - Status Request - II/II

[**NOTICE:** This message originated outside of Jasper County -- **DO NOT CLICK** on **links** or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

This public record status request is being electronically served to Jasper County IA in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 22.4(2.).

Iowa Code Chapter 22.4(2.) Public records requests.

(2.) "In writing, by telephone, or by electronic means. The lawful custodian of the records shall post information for making such requests in a manner reasonably calculated to apprise the public of that information."

Iowa Code Section 23.7(1.) Filing of complaints with the board.

(1.) "The board shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A providing for the timing, form, content, and means by which any aggrieved person, any taxpayer to or citizen of this state, the attorney general, or any county attorney may file a complaint with the board alleging a violation of chapter 21 or 22. The complaint must be filed within sixty days from the time the alleged violation occurred or the complainant could have become aware of the violation with reasonable diligence. All complaints filed with the board shall be public records."

Respectfully,

Michael J. Merritt, USN Retired/Writer
Founder: phoenixharbor.com
Creative Writer/Musician
Information Warfare Specialist
Information Systems Manager
PO BOX 187
Newton, IA 50208
cipherus.x1@cipherphoenix.com

"Bricks made with testimony lacking evidence are equivalent to bricks made with straw without clay."

Cipher Hunter

PHOENIXID Authentication: <https://cipherphoenix.com/phoenixid/>

Cipherus X1 sent this electronic mail on behalf of Michael J. Merritt.

— Attachments: —

Record Request - 1686706919547.pdf	92.9 KB
Iowa Open Records Request - Jasper County IA - 563 - CM-X2.pdf	77.5 KB
Unnamed attachment.pdf	81.6 KB
PRR 3187 Invoice.pdf	196 KB
Record Request - 1686700206365.pdf	94.1 KB
Cipher Phoenix Mail - Iowa Open Records Request - Greene County IA - 503 - CM-X2- Status Request - 01 of 02.pdf	80.3 KB
Record Request - 1686700018752.pdf	93.7 KB
Cipher Phoenix Mail - Electronic Service - Iowa Open Records Request.pdf	73.9 KB
Record Request - 1686700007298.pdf	93.5 KB
Cipher Phoenix Mail - Public records requestfsd.pdf	65.6 KB
Record Request - 1686700180772.pdf	93.5 KB
Unnamed attachment.pdf	20.9 KB
Record Request - 1686700223126.pdf	94.0 KB
Iowa Open Records Request - Update - Michael J Merritt - 31 JUL 2023.pdf	88.5 KB