



**STATE OF TENNESSEE  
COMPTROLLER OF THE TREASURY  
OFFICE OF OPEN RECORDS COUNSEL**

**MEDIATION OF OPEN RECORDS ISSUES**

**PURPOSE:**

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-4-601(c), the Office of Open Records Counsel ("OORC") is authorized to informally mediate and assist with the resolution of issues concerning the open records laws compiled in Title 10, Chapter 7 of the Tennessee Code Annotated. The following policy sets forth the guidelines and circumstances for mediation of open records issues by the OORC.

**POLICY:**

Mediation is the informal process through which a neutral party conducts discussions among disputing parties in order to enable the parties to reach a mutually acceptable agreement among themselves on any or all of the issues in dispute. The OORC may informally mediate and assist with the resolution of disputes when:

- I. The issues in dispute pertain to the Tennessee Public Records Act, Tenn. Code Ann. § 10-7-501 et seq.<sup>1</sup>;
- II. The disputing parties mutually consent to have the OORC informally mediate the dispute and agree to enter into mediation with the goal of resolving the matters; and
- III. The parties have both submitted a statement of the issues in dispute and their respective position on the issues.

If the aforementioned requirements are met, the OORC will schedule a time and place convenient for the parties to discuss the issues in dispute and work on informal resolution of the issues.

*Submitted to ACOG: November 8, 2016.  
Effective: January 20, 2017*

---

<sup>1</sup> In accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-4-601(c), the Office of Open Records Counsel is only authorized to informally mediate issues concerning the Public Records Act.