

Public Records Requirements

Addendum A

1. Public Records Access Requirements.

- a. If the Contractor is acting on behalf of the Department in its performance of services under the Contract, the Contractor must allow public access to all documents, papers, letters, or other material, regardless of the physical form, characteristics, or means of transmission, made or received by the Contractor in conjunction with the Contract (Public Records), unless the Public Records are exempt from public access pursuant to section 24(a) of Article I of the Florida Constitution or section 119.07(1), F.S.
- b. The Department may unilaterally terminate the Contract if the Contractor refuses to allow public access to Public Records as required by law.

2. Public Records Requirements Applicable to All Contractors.

- a. For purposes of the Contract, the Contractor is responsible for becoming familiar with Florida's Public Records law, consisting of Chapter 119, F.S., section 24(a) of Article I of the Florida Constitution, or other applicable state or federal law (Public Records Law).
- b. All requests to inspect or copy Public Records relating to the Contract must be made directly to the Department. Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary, disclosure of any records made or received by the State in conjunction with the Contract is governed by Public Records Law.
- c. If the Contractor has a reasonable, legal basis to assert that any portion of any records submitted to the Department are confidential, proprietary, trade secret, or otherwise not subject to disclosure ("Confidential" or "Trade Secret") under Public Records Law or other authority, the Contractor must simultaneously provide the Department with a separate redacted copy of the records the Contractor claims as Confidential or Trade Secret and briefly describe in writing the grounds for claiming exemption from the Public Records Law, including the specific statutory citation for such exemption. The un-redacted copy of the records shall contain the Contract name and number, and shall be clearly labeled "Confidential" or "Trade Secret." The redacted copy of the records should only redact those portions of the records that the Contractor claims are Confidential or Trade Secret. If the Contractor fails to submit a redacted copy of records it claims are Confidential or Trade Secret, such action may constitute a waiver of any claim of confidentiality.
- d. If the Department receives a Public Records request, and if records that have been marked as "Confidential" or "Trade Secret" are responsive to such request, the Department shall provide the Contractor-redacted copies to the requester. If a requester asserts a right to the portions of records claimed as Confidential or Trade Secret, the Department shall notify the Contractor that such an assertion has been made. It is the Contractor's responsibility to assert that the portions of records in question are exempt from disclosure under Public Records Law or other authority. If the Department becomes subject to a demand for discovery or disclosure of the portions of records the Contractor claims as Confidential or Trade Secret in a legal proceeding, the Department shall give the Contractor prompt notice of the demand, when possible, prior to releasing the portions of

records the Contractor claims as Confidential or Trade Secret (unless disclosure is otherwise prohibited by applicable law). The Contractor shall be responsible for defending its determination that the redacted portions of its records are Confidential or Trade Secret. No right or remedy for damages against the Department arises from any disclosure made by the Department based on the Contractor's failure to promptly legally protect its claim of exemption and commence such protective actions within ten days of receipt of such notice from the Department.

- e. If the Contractor claims that the records are "Trade Secret" pursuant to section 624.4213, F.S., and all the requirements of section 624.4213(1), F.S., are met, the Department will respond to the Public Records Request in accordance with the provisions specified in that statute.
- f. The Contractor shall ensure that exempt or confidential and exempt Public Records are not disclosed except as permitted by the Contract or by Public Records Law.

3. Additional Public Records Duties of Section 119.0701, F.S., If Applicable.

If the Contractor is a "contractor" as defined in section 119.0701(1)(a), F.S., the Contractor shall:

- a. Keep and maintain Public Records required by the Department to perform the service.
- b. Upon request, provide the Department with a copy of requested Public Records or allow the Public Records to be inspected or copied within a reasonable time at a cost that does not exceed the cost provided in Chapter 119, F.S., or as otherwise provided by law.
- c. A Contractor who fails to provide the Public Records to the Department within a reasonable time may be subject to penalties under section 119.10, F.S.
- d. Ensure that Public Records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from Public Records disclosure requirements are not disclosed except as authorized by law for the duration of the Contract term and following completion of the Contract if the Contractor does not transfer the Public Records to the Department.
- e. Upon completion of the Contract, transfer, at no cost, to the Department all Public Records in possession of the Contractor or keep and maintain Public Records required by the Department to perform the service. If the Contractor transfers all Public Records to the Department upon completion of the Contract, the Contractor shall destroy any duplicate Public Records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from Public Records disclosure requirements. If the Contractor keeps and maintains Public Records upon completion of the Contract, the Contractor shall meet all applicable requirements for retaining Public Records. All Public Records stored electronically must be provided to the Department, upon request from the Department's custodian of Public Records, in a format specified by the Department as compatible with the information technology systems of the Department. These formatting requirements are satisfied by using the data formats as authorized in the Contract or Microsoft Word, Outlook, Adobe, or Excel, and any software formats the Contractor is authorized to access.
- f. **IF THE CONTRACTOR HAS QUESTIONS REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF CHAPTER 119, F.S., TO THE CONTRACTOR'S DUTY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC RECORDS RELATING TO THE CONTRACT, CONTACT PUBLIC RECORDS AT:**

Telephone: (850) 413-3149
Email: PublicRecordsInquiry@myfloridacfo.com
Mailing Address: The Department of Financial Services
Office of the General Counsel, Public Records
200 E. Gaines Street, Larson Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0311