

## Local Records Retention Schedules

Missouri Revised Statutes Chapter 109 (Public and Business Records) Section 255 authorizes the Local Records Board to establish minimum retention periods for the administrative, fiscal and legal records created by local governments.

Retention and disposition of records that are common to many offices are included in the General Schedule. Records unique to particular offices are addressed in individual office schedules.

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December 2011

## Sheriff Records Retention Schedule

See also the [General Records Retention Schedule](#).

### Using this Records Retention Schedule

Every day local government offices throughout Missouri produce records that document the rights of citizens, the actions of the government that serves them and the history of the community in which they live. It is the responsibility of local government to effectively maintain and manage these records and to ensure the continued preservation of those records of essential evidence that have enduring and permanent value.

The introduction to this retention schedule provides local government officials with basic information on records and the application of retention schedules.

### What is a Record?

A "**record**" is defined as any "document, book, paper, photograph, map, sound recording or other material, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made or received pursuant to law or in connection with the transaction of official business" (109.210(5) RSMo). This definition includes those records created, used and maintained in electronic form.

### Non-Records

Even though records include a broad spectrum of recorded information, not all recorded information is a record. According to Section 109.210(5) RSMo, the following are not records: "...Library and museum material made or acquired and preserved solely for reference or exhibition purposes, extra copies of documents preserved only for convenience of reference, and stocks of publications and of processed documents are not included within the definition of records..."

Other examples of non-records include the following materials:

- Identical copies of documents maintained in the same file.
- Extra copies of printed or processed materials (official copies of which are retained by the office of record).
- Superseded manuals and other directives (maintained outside the office of record).
- Materials documenting employee fringe activities (blood donors, charitable funds, social and professional meetings, etc.)
- Work papers and drafts of reports or correspondence. Transcribed stenographic materials.
- Blank forms.
- Materials received from other activities that require no action (official copies of which are retained by the office of record).
- Catalogs, trade journals and other publications or papers received from government agencies, commercial firms or private institutions that require no action and are not part of an action case record.
- Survey forms.

Non-records do not require retention scheduling or destruction authorization or reporting. To control excessive accumulation, it is necessary to keep only current, useful materials and to destroy non-records immediately after needs have been satisfied. Avoid filing non-record material with records.

### **The Value of Local Government Records**

Some records, because of their enduring administrative, fiscal, legal or historical value, should be permanently retained. These records require that special care and consideration be given to their storage conditions and the feasibility of preservation microfilming. Examples of permanent records include year-end reports; minutes; property records such as deeds; and birth, death and marriage records.

Most records do not have values that warrant their permanent preservation. Those records with short-term value should, upon reaching end of the retention period, be destroyed.

### **Statutory Authority for Establishing Records Retention Requirements**

In 1965, the Missouri General Assembly established a State Records Commission to approve retentions for records produced by state agencies. In 1972, Missouri's Business and Public Records Law (Chapter 109) was expanded to include local government. Thus, the Missouri Local Records Board was established to set retention times for local government records. The 16-member board, chaired by the Secretary of State, consists of local government officials from all classes of counties and cities, elementary and secondary education, higher education and a person active in historical society groups.

Supplemental to the Local Records Board, the Records Management and Archives Service of the Secretary of State's office provides assistance to local governments and implements board policy.

### **Application of the Records Retention Schedule**

This schedule establishes minimum retention periods and authorizes dispositions for many of the administrative, fiscal and legal records common to most local governments. Retention periods are based upon federal and state mandates, record surveys, business needs, and general knowledge as to how long records should be kept. Using the schedule as a guide and without seeking further approval from the Local Records Board, any local government may regularly dispose of any of its records that appear on this schedule. The schedule is subject to the following exceptions and limitations:

- A. Local government offices may retain any of their records beyond the retention periods set by the schedule, as they deem necessary. The schedule establishes only a minimum period of retention. Before retaining a record longer than the minimum time required, however, the office should be certain that it has good reason to do so. Unnecessary retention of records can be expensive in space and filing equipment and may expose the office to costly litigation and discovery requirements.
- B. This schedule does not relieve local governments of retention requirements mandated by other state and federal statutes and regulations. When such an obligation does exist, then the longer retention period takes precedence.
- C. This schedule generally reflects audit requirements in its prescribed retention periods, but audits are not always completed in a timely fashion. Therefore, any record required for an audit must be retained until completion of that audit, regardless of its stated retention period in the schedule.
- D. This schedule does not authorize destruction of records that could be deemed relevant to current or pending litigation.

Retention and disposition of records that are common to many offices are included in the General Schedule. Records unique to particular offices are addressed in individual office schedules. All schedules are available on the Secretary of State's website at <http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/localrecs/schedules>

### **Destruction of Records**

The records classification and retention periods in this manual constitute legal authority for retention and disposal of official records. No records can be destroyed until they meet the minimum retention period listed in this manual. In cases where there is no schedule for a particular record series, the Local Records Board must grant permission for the destruction.

The disposition of records should be recorded in a document such as the minutes of the city council or other legally constituted authority that has permanent record status. The record should include the description and quantity of each record series disposed of, manner of destruction, inclusive dates covered and the date on which destruction was accomplished.

The retention schedule does not prescribe the method of destruction (shredding, burning, landfills, etc.), however, record series with a disposition of *Destroy securely* contain confidential data. These records should be destroyed under the supervision of a competent person(s) designated (or appointed) to ensure that no records fall into unauthorized hands and that the data cannot be reconstructed.

### **Preservation of Permanent Records**

A fundamental, yet often neglected obligation of local government is to care for its permanent records-in this case, some of the records that it generates and receives. The records that have been identified as permanent require special handling and storage if they are to be preserved. The continuous interaction between a record's medium-paper, magnetic tape, film, etc. -and the quality of the environment in which it is kept-temperature, humidity, light, and air-determines the severity and rate of its deterioration.

By microfilming older, deteriorating, but permanently valuable records, local governments can generate durable copies for research and prevent further damage or deterioration of the original. When filmed, processed, and maintained to archival specifications, the master negative will ensure that permanently valuable records are preserved for generations to come.

*The Missouri Local Records Grant program can provide financial assistance in the form of grants-in-aid to supplement local funds for preservation initiatives, such as archival supplies, shelving and preservation microfilming.*

### **A Note about Electronic Records**

Permanent records existing solely in electronic form are in danger of becoming inaccessible through media decay and hardware/software obsolescence. Periodic migration and transfer of permanent records to stable preservation media, such as microfilm, should be considered as a best practice for local government to fulfill its statutory responsibility to maintain permanent records.

### **A Note about Retention Periods**

This schedule provides minimum retentions. Local authorities may choose to keep a particular series or record for a longer period of time. It should be kept in mind, however, that a record kept beyond its listed retention must be made available for inspection upon request.

### **Retention Definitions:**

**COA=Completion of Audit.** Note that COA is coupled with a lot of 5-year entries to help encourage regular audits. Not all jurisdictions are required to have audits by statute. Audits for some municipalities are governed by the level of federal financing for bonds and public improvements, and thus are governed by federal retentions. Most municipalities are governed by their local authority (alderman, council, mayor, etc.) for auditing policy. Local jurisdictions may consult RSMo 29 to review the State Auditor's chapter for petition audits (see RSMo 250 for large capital projects such as bonds for water and sewer). For general auditing explanations and advice we recommend that clerks contact the State Auditor's office at 573.751.4213.

**DCA=Destroy in Current Area/Reference.** Series with these retentions are considered "reference" records and may be destroyed when they are no longer of use.

### **Modifications and Additions**

Because records reflect activities that are constantly changing, the retention requirements for them sometimes require revision as well. Consequently, records retention and disposition schedules often need modification or additions in order to be realistic and effective. Furthermore, because local governments are so large, it is impractical to consult with every office regarding specific schedule entries. There may be some retention periods and disposition requirements within this schedule that fail to account for all relevant factors and there may be some important record series not addressed here which need to be added. The Local Records Program welcomes all comments and suggestions concerned with improvement of record retention schedules through modifications and additions.

**For further information on any records management or preservation issue, please contact:**

Missouri Secretary of State  
Local Records Preservation Program  
PO Box 1747, Jefferson City, MO 65101-1747  
Telephone: (573) 751-9047  
Fax: (573) 526-3867

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## Sheriff Records Retention Schedule

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See also the [General Records Retention Schedule](#).

*Note: Any record in this schedule that becomes part of an investigative file/report will assume the retention requirements of the investigative file. Do not destroy record pertinent to active investigation/prosecutions*

### **SHF 001**

*Also Called:*

*Function:*

*Content:*

*Retention:*

*Disposition:*

*Note:*

*Approval Date:*

### **Incident Report/File**

Offense Report; Police Report; Investigative Report; Supplemental Report; Case File; Robbery Photo File; Citations; Tickets; Controlled Substance Test Report

Documents an alleged violation of law or ordinance

Date, time, location, description of incident; who, what, when, where and how of an incident; All investigative materials related to incident; Evidence Sheet

If case is filed, retain until final disposition; If no charges are filed: Class A felony, Permanent; Other felony, 3 years; Sex crime involving minor, 30 years after victim reaches 18; Misdemeanor, 1 year; Infraction, 6 months

If Permanent, Archive; all others, Destroy

Retentions based on statute of limitations, see RSMo 556.036-037

August 25, 2009; Revised December 21, 2011

### **SHF 002**

*Also Called:*

*Function:*

*Content:*

*Retention:*

*Disposition:*

*Note:*

*Approval Date:*

### **Non-Criminal Incident Report/File**

Lost Property, Found Property, False Alarm, Private Property Accident, Civil Situation, Tow sheets, Abandoned Vehicle Tows, Motorist Assist

Documents an incident that is not criminal in nature, but may be a requirement of insurance or other industry

Date, time, location, description of incident; who, what when where and how of an incident; Evidence Sheet

1 Year

Destroy

August 20, 2008

### **SHF 003**

*Also Called:*

*Function:*

*Content:*

*Retention:*

*Disposition:*

*Note:*

*Approval Date:*

### **Accident Report/File**

Crash Report

Documents accident on public property or highway

Date, time, location, description of incident; who, what when where and how of an incident; Evidence Sheet

7 Years--felony case; 5 Years all others

Destroy

August 20, 2008

### **SHF 004**

*Also Called:*

*Function:*

*Content:*

*Retention:*

*Disposition:*

*Note:*

*Approval Date:*

### **Missing Person/Runaway Report**

Juvenile Missing, Juvenile Runaway

Documents report of missing person or runaway

Date, time, location, description of incident; who, what when where and how of an incident; Evidence Sheet

Person not found, Permanent; Person located safe, 1 Year; Person located deceased, not suspicious, 1 Year; Person located deceased, suspicious, retain until resolved

Destroy

August 25, 2009

**SHF 005**

*Also Called:*

*Function:*

*Content:*

*Retention:*

*Disposition:*

*Note:*

*Approval Date:*

**Messages/Teletypes**

911 printouts, MULES Messages, Weather Reports  
Interdepartmental messages between jurisdictions

911 printouts, 2 Years; MULES Messages, 13 months; Weather Reports/Administrative messages/Training messages/etc., Reference  
Destroy

August 25, 2009

**SHF 006**

*Also Called:*

*Function:*

*Content:*

*Retention:*

*Disposition:*

*Note:*

*Approval Date:*

**Arrest Records**

Arrest Log, Arrest Files, Arrest Register, Arrest Register ID, Fingerprints, Booking Sheet  
Document arrest

Name, d.o.b., Social Security Number, Address, Phone Number, cause of arrest

5 Years

Destroy Securely

Fingerprints are normally sent to Highway Patrol Central Repository; if copies are kept locally, they are merely reference

August 25, 2009

**SHF 007**

*Also Called:*

*Function:*

*Content:*

*Retention:*

*Disposition:*

*Note:*

*Approval Date:*

**Orders of Protection/Full Orders**

Ex-Parte

Court orders of protection

Reference

Destroy

Court keeps original copy 12 years

August 20, 2008

**SHF 008**

*Also Called:*

*Function:*

*Content:*

*Retention:*

*Disposition:*

*Note:*

*Approval Date:*

**Racial Profiling Statistics**

1 Year after submission to the Attorney General

Destroy

August 25, 2009

**SHF 009**

*Also Called:*

*Function:*

*Content:*

*Retention:*

*Disposition:*

*Note:*

*Approval Date:*

**Audio/Video Recordings**

Car Audio/Video recording; Booking Surveillance; Surveillance

30 Days--Evaluate\*

\*Managers should extract significant information that may impact criminal or major case investigation prior to deleting video/re-using the tape. Extracted video must be retained until administrative/judicial proceedings are complete. This retention does not apply to interrogation videos which are by their nature evidentiary and should be part of the investigative files—See SHF 001

August 25, 2009; Revised August 23, 2011

**SHF 010**

*Also Called:*

*Function:*

*Content:*

*Retention:*

*Disposition:*

*Note:*

*Approval Date:*

**Outstanding Warrants**

Bench Warrants; Fugitive Files; out-of-jurisdiction files

Class A Felony, 75 years; Class B Felony, 3 years; Misdemeanor, 1 year

Destroy

May destroy immediately if recalled by the court

August 20, 2008

**SHF 011**

*Also Called:*

*Function:*

*Content:*

*Retention:*

*Retention Change:*

*Disposition:*

*Note:*

*Approval Date:*

**Conceal Carry Permits**

3 Years from issue or Renewal; Denied applications, 1 year

Destroy

August 24, 2010

**SHF 012**

*Also Called:*

*Function:*

*Content:*

*Retention:*

*Disposition:*

*Note:*

*Approval Date:*

**General Log of Jail Activities**

Details when cell blocks are checked, when prisoners are transported, etc.; see RSMo 516.120

5 Years

Destroy

2005

**SHF 013**

*Also Called:*

*Function:*

*Content:*

*Retention:*

*Disposition:*

*Note:*

*Approval Date:*

**Inmate files**

Prisoner File, Inmate Education File, Inmate Medical and Social Services File

Includes incarceration, medical history, personal property files, inmate finance account record, confinement orders, personal history, etc.

5 Years after release; financial files, COA

Destroy

2005

**SHF 014**

*Also Called:*

*Function:*

*Content:*

*Retention:*

*Disposition:*

*Note:*

*Approval Date:*

**Jail Record Ledger Book**

Completion of Audit

Destroy

2005

**SHF 015**

*Also Called:*

*Function:*

*Content:*

*Retention:*

*Disposition:*

*Note:*

*Approval Date:*

**Jail Visitor Logs**

contains medical care given prisoners, phone calls made and received by prisoners, mail sent and received by prisoners, visitors

5 Years

Destroy

2005

**SHF 016**

*Also Called:*

*Function:*

*Content:*

*Retention:*

*Disposition:*

*Note:*

*Approval Date:*

**Record of Prisoners Delivered to Department of Corrections**

Completion of Audit

Destroy

includes Fulton Diagnostic Center

2005

**SHF 017***Also Called:**Function:**Content:**Retention:**Disposition:**Note:**Approval Date:***Garnishments, Sequestrations, and Executions**

Ledger of garnishments and sequestrations served, monies collected and disbursements to the courts; Copies of Garnishments Served with record of money received and disbursed; copies of Sequestrations served; Garnishment and Sequestration ledger; Month end tally of money in escrow, not yet returnable; General Executions from Courts; General Execution Sale

Financial records related to garnishments, sequestrations or executions

Completion of Audit

Destroy

2005

**SHF 018***Also Called:**Function:**Content:**Retention:**Disposition:**Note:**Approval Date:***Daily Prisoner Report**

1 Year

Destroy

2005

**SHF 019***Also Called:**Function:**Content:**Retention:**Disposition:**Note:**Approval Date:***Jury Records**

Jury list

Completion of Audit

Destroy

2005

**SHF 020***Also Called:**Function:**Content:**Retention:**Disposition:**Note:**Approval Date:***Fees**

Log of Civil fees for Service; Log of Criminal fees for Service; Record of fees for housing prisoners; Record of fees received from U.S. Marshal for Housing Federal Prisoners; Record of Bonds Collected; Record of Witness Fees Paid; Record of Restitution Collected and Disbursed

Completion of Audit

Destroy

2005

**SHF 021***Also Called:**Function:**Content:**Retention:**Disposition:**Note:**Approval Date:***Warrant/Subpoena Records**

log of warrants; log of subpoenas

date received, date served, by whom

Completion of Audit

Destroy

2005

**SHF 022**

*Also Called:*

*Function:*

*Content:*

*Retention:*

*Disposition:*

*Note:*

*Approval Date:*

**Entry Sheets**

Warrants entered

1 Year

Destroy

2005

**SHF 023**

*Also Called:*

*Function:*

*Content:*

*Retention:*

*Disposition:*

*Note:*

*Approval Date:*

**Sex Offender Registry**

Missouri Offender Registry

75 Years

Destroy Securely

Per RSMo 589.400.2 and RSMo 589.410, this record is maintained at, both, the state and local level

August 25, 2009

**SHF 024**

*Also Called:*

*Function:*

*Content:*

*Retention:*

*Disposition:*

*Note:*

*Approval Date:*

**Felon Registration**

Record of Parolees in jurisdiction

Offender information; offense; address; employment information; referring agency

Until released from probation/parole

Destroy Securely

Per RSMo 217.695 this record is maintained by the Department of Corrections and the Chief Law Enforcement officer of the county/city not within a county

August 25, 2009

**SHF 025**

*Also Called:*

*Function:*

*Content:*

*Retention:*

*Disposition:*

*Note:*

*Approval Date:*

**Logs**

Desk Books; Activity Logs; Car Logs; Daily Logs; Officer Logs; P.M. Appointments; Watchman File-Printout; Commander Book; Holdover Inspection; Complaint Numbers Log; Unsecure Building Report; Standby Book/list/notification; Case Assignment Book

Record of daily, weekly or monthly activities

Date, time, activity, care number, officer DSN

5 years or completion of audit

Destroy

August 25, 2009

**SHF 026**

*Also Called:*

*Function:*

*Content:*

*Retention:*

*Disposition:*

*Note:*

*Approval Date:*

**Subpoenas**

Order for Sheriff records or personnel to attend court proceedings

1 year from court date

Destroy

August 25, 2009

**SHF 027**

*Also Called:*

*Function:*

*Content:*

*Retention:*

*Disposition:*

*Note:*

*Approval Date:*

**Information Received, Confidential**

Tip line; CrimeStoppers; Information Received; Intelligence Files; Preliminary Complaint Record of information received

1 year

Destroy

If information proves pertinent to an investigation, then it becomes part of the investigative file and assumes that retention

August 25, 2009

**SHF 028***Also Called:**Function:**Content:**Retention:**Disposition:**Note:**Approval Date:***Sheriff's Sale Records**

General Execution Sale; Surplus Property Sale; Partition Sale

Completion of Audit

Destroy

August 25, 2009

**SHF 029***Also Called:**Function:**Content:**Retention:**Disposition:**Note:**Approval Date:***Special Investigative Fund**

Record of money expended in an investigation--i.e. drug buys

May include balance sheets; sign-in/sing-out lists

Same as Case File

Destroy after audit

August 25, 2009

**SHF 030***Also Called:**Function:**Content:**Retention:**Disposition:**Note:**Approval Date:***VIN Verification**

Record of VIN accuracy checks for the Department of Revenue

90 days

Destroy

August 25, 2009

**SHF 031***Also Called:**Function:**Content:**Retention:**Disposition:**Note:**Approval Date:***Sheriff Administrative Reports**

UCR Reports; MIBRS Reports; Quarterly Stolen Vehicle; Quarterly VIN Reports; Yearly Purge List

2 years

Destroy

See also: GS 001; GS 076

August 25, 2009

**SHF 032***Also Called:**Function:**Content:**Retention:**Disposition:**Note:**Approval Date:***Internal Affairs Records**

Documents internal investigations

Complaint Report, Not Sustained, 1 Year; Complaint Face Sheet, Not Sustained, until termination; Complaint Report, Sustained, 5 years; Complaint Face Sheet, Sustained, until termination; Unfounded, Exonerated, Withdrawn Complaints, until settlement

Destroy Securely

August 25, 2009

**SHF 033***Also Called:**Function:**Content:**Retention:**Disposition:**Note:**Approval Date:***Grand Jury Report**

Destroy in Current Area

Destroy

These transfer to the circuit clerk

2005

**SHF 034***Also Called:**Function:**Content:**Retention:**Disposition:**Note:**Approval Date:***Extradition Files**

Completion of Audit

Destroy

These are primarily financial records

2005

**SHF 035***Also Called:**Function:**Content:**Retention:**Disposition:**Note:**Approval Date:***Audits**

1 year

Destroy

Conducted by County Auditor

2005

**SHF 036***Also Called:**Function:**Content:**Retention:**Disposition:**Note:**Approval Date:***Payroll Requisitions**

Completion of Audit

Destroy

2005

**SHF 037***Also Called:**Function:**Content:**Retention:**Disposition:**Note:**Approval Date:***Notice and Demand for Payment of Dishonored Check**

Destroy in Current Area

Destroy

2005

**SHF 038***Also Called:**Function:**Content:**Retention:**Disposition:**Note:**Approval Date:***Commissions Issued**

Record of Deputy Sheriff Commissions Issued

5 years

Destroy

Personnel records are in county clerk's office; Commissions should be entered into the County Court minute book

2005

**SHF 039***Also Called:**Function:**Content:**Retention:**Retention Change:**Disposition:**Note:**Approval Date:***Gun Acquisition Permit**

Handgun Permit; Concealable Weapon Permit; Gun Permit Log; Gun Permit Index Documents eligibility of individual to purchase a handgun

Destroy in Current Area

Destroy

This record series was made obsolete with the repeal of RSMo 571.090 in 2007 August 2008

**SHF 040**

*Also Called:*

*Function:*

*Content:*

*Retention:*

*Retention Change:*

*Disposition:*

*Note:*

*Approval Date:*

**Permit to Sell Guns**

Destroy in Current Area

Destroy

This permit is issued by the Federal Government--copy at Sheriff's office is for reference,  
destroy when it is no longer useful

August 2008