



PERSONNEL RECORDS

Official Personnel Record

The City of Portland complies with all applicable federal, state, and local laws to maintain records of employees and/or prospective employees. The official personnel record for each City employee shall be housed in the Bureau of Human Resources. The Bureau of Human Resources is responsible for maintaining and securing those employee records. For records held in other areas of the City of Portland, the responsibility for security and maintenance lies within that bureau or work unit

Rule Applicability

The provisions of this administrative rule apply to

- City Employees
 - Former City Employees
 - Prospective Employees
 - Members of the Public
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Definition of Personnel File

For purposes of this Administrative Rule, the official personnel file consists of information gathered by the Bureau of Human Resources which relates to the:

- Individual's application
- Selection or non-selection
- Promotions, demotions, transfers
- Salary and leave
- Performance evaluations
- Disciplinary actions, and termination of employment
- Work history, status and tenure

Employees shall have the right to include in their personnel file letters of commendation, training certifications, educational records and other documents relevant to their employment.

Information about employees should include only that which is necessary and relevant to employment and should be used only for employment related purposes.

Notice

No information reflecting critically on an employee shall be placed in the employee's personnel file unless the employee is notified.

Remedies of Employees Objecting to Material in File

Documents may be purged from the employee's official personnel file only upon mutual agreement of the Director of Human Resources or designee, the bureau director and the employee or the employee's representative.

Records Open to Inspection

Confidential records shall only be disclosed within the City to aid in personnel administration. External inquiries regarding the record of an employee or a former employee shall be responded to in accordance with disclosure laws, or released upon the employee's written authorization in accordance with the Administrative Rule on Reference Checks and Employment Verification.

The Director of Human Resources shall determine procedural requirements regarding the release of personnel data.

Medical Records

Medical records shall not be retained in the official personnel file, but in a confidential file which is physically separate from the official personnel file as prescribed by the Americans with Disabilities Act. All records and documents relating to medical information are to be kept in a separate file, treated as confidential medical records and maintained by bureaus. Access to medical files is restricted.

Bureau Personnel Record

Each bureau or work unit will designate a record location for employees and prospective employees. Bureaus have the responsibility of maintaining and securing the confidentiality of any and all types of records, forms, data relating to the selection, status, performance, salary, discipline, and training of employees.

In order to insure the security and confidentiality of records, each bureau or work unit shall establish administrative, technical and physical controls to protect confidential information from unauthorized access or disclosure.

Union Access to Personnel Files

The employee's authorized representative may inspect and obtain copies of the employee's official personnel file, upon the employee's written release.

Employee Access to Employee Files

Employees shall have the right to inspect and obtain copies of their own personnel records within the prescribed guidelines of this rule to the extent provided by applicable law.

Employees requesting to see their official personnel file will be directed to contact Human Resources. At no time during the examination of the employee's file shall the file be out of the direct supervision of the record keeper.

Employee Access to Bureau Employee Files

Employees have the same right to inspect their bureau personnel file as they do their official personnel file.

Disclosure of Information in Personnel Files

External inquiries regarding the record of an employee or a former employee shall be responded to in accordance with the Administrative Rules on Reference Checks and Employment Verification.

File of Employee Transferred or Separated from Service

The Bureau employee file of an employee transferred/promoted to another department, will be forwarded to the employee's new department. The department employee file of a separated employee will be kept in the bureau for one (1) year from the separation. After one year, the file will be forwarded to the Bureau of Human Resources to be incorporated with the official personnel file.

Personnel Record Retention

All employee files will be retained in accordance with [the Record Retention Requirements](#) as determined by the Auditor's Office as well as federal, state and local laws.

Responsibility of Employees

Employees are expected to promptly notify their supervisor and the Bureau of Human Resources of changes of name, home address and telephone number to assure proper records management.

Fees

The Bureau of Human Resources may charge fees for providing information to requestors. These charges may not exceed the actual cost of providing the information but may include copying costs and costs for labor involved in locating and copying the information.

Administrative Rule History

Adopted by Council March 6, 2002
Effective April 5, 2002
