
**COURT & CLERK RECORDS: ACCESS
& MAINTENANCE**

**PUBLIC REQUESTS FOR BULK
DISTRIBUTION AND
COMPILED INFORMATION**
Administrative Rule 9(F)

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Under [Ind. Administrative Rule 9\(F\)](#)(1) through (3), the public may request approval from the Indiana Supreme Court, Indiana Office of Court Services (IOCS) for distribution of compiled court record information. Requests under sections 9(F) (1) through (3) encompass public information only. Requests from parties with a substantial interest or bona fide research activity for scholarly, journalistic, political, governmental, research, evaluation or statistical purpose can apply under 9(F)(2)(b) for summary approval if they meet requirements more stringent than those for general requests.

Requests for release of confidential information are also submitted to IOCS, but may only be approved by the Supreme Court under section 9(F)(4) which requires clear and convincing evidence that meets the standards state in 9(F)(4)(a) and (d).

**Requests for Bulk Distribution of Information Not Excluded from
Public Access**

While IOCS reviews and approves the official request for information, Ind. Admin. R. 9 authorizes the courts (and related trial court clerks) to decline provision of the bulk distribution if it will interfere with the normal operations of the court, challenge the court's resources or otherwise pose a substantial difficulty for the court/clerk.

In the event the court determines that the distribution is possible, it must ensure that the distribution only includes information available for public access. Though the recipient contracts to protect confidential information, the initial "line of defense" lies with the court.

[Forms](#) related to Requests for Bulk Data/Compiled Information Distribution the requesting party will file with the Division are published to the Division website. The Division requires specific information from the requesting party and posts the names of [approved entities](#) along with the signed contracts and related attachments on its website.

In November of each year, IOCS alerts all approved requesting parties that their contracts will expire the following January 31st. The requesting parties have the opportunity to renew their contracts during the month of January and will receive information on the

protocol. Upon approval, the new contracts are posted on the Division's website, replacing the current ones.

If a trial court clerk or court receives a request for bulk data distribution and is not provided a copy of the approval letter and contract provided by the Division, please contact the Division immediately.

Frequently Asked Questions

Are there different forms for Bulk Distribution Approval based on type of requesting party?

No, IOCS uses the same forms but if there are portions of the form that do not apply to the request, the requester may indicate "N/A" accordingly.

Once approved, are the counties obligated to provide the data distribution as requested?

No. Although IOCS encourages the courts to provide the data, bulk distribution or providing compiled information should not be authorized if providing the data will interfere with the normal operation of the court. Further, the grant of a request may be made contingent upon the requester paying the fair market value of the information.

Can an entity request routine distributions of bulk data from a county?

Yes, the request can be for one distribution of data or routine distributions on daily, weekly, monthly or other basis to which the county and entity agree.

Can an entity request for approval for bulk distributions from the entire state, or individual courts or counties?

A requesting entity can submit a request for data from one, several or all counties or courts.

Can a requesting party distribute the data received in bulk to another party?

No. Currently the Court prohibits a requester from further distributions of data in bulk (meaning the whole or a substantial part of the bulk file received from the court).

Requests for Bulk Distribution of Confidential Information

Requests for bulk distribution or compiled information that includes information excluded from public access under sections (G) or (H) of Rule 9 are also submitted to IOCS for administrative review, but only the Supreme Court may grant these requests. The requirements for approval of such requests are set forth in section (F)(4) and are more stringent than for approval of requests for bulk distribution of non-confidential information.

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