

2-D-11 | REMOTE ACCESS

Section 119.07(2)(a), F.S., states that “[a]s an additional means of inspecting or copying public records, a custodian may provide access to public records by remote electronic means, provided exempt or confidential information is not disclosed.” And see s. 119.01(2)(e), F.S. Thus, an agency is authorized but not required to permit remote electronic access to public records.

Similarly, access to public records by remote electronic means is merely an additional means of inspecting or copying public records; this “additional means of access, however, is insufficient where the person requesting the records specifies the traditional method of access via paper copies.” *Lake Shore Hospital Authority v. Lilker*, 168 So. 3d 332, 333 (Fla. 1st DCA 2015).

Section 119.07(2)(b), F.S., requires the custodian to provide safeguards to protect the contents of the public records from unauthorized electronic access or alteration and to prevent the disclosure or modification of those portions of the records which are exempt from disclosure.

Unless otherwise required by law, the custodian may charge a fee for remote electronic access, granted under a contractual arrangement with a user, which fee may include the direct and indirect costs of providing such access. However, fees for remote electronic access provided to the general public must be in accordance with the provisions of s. 119.07, F.S. Section 119.07(2)(c), F.S.

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