

Thank you so much for joining us today. This hearing is now in session and is being recorded to maintain a permanent record. My name is Julie Vaughn and I am the presiding officer. Today is October 22, 2025 and the time is 2:06 p.m.

The purpose of this hearing is to take public comment on proposed changes to the rules governing the disclosure of public records maintained by the Oregon Department of Corrections. This administrative rule division establishes uniform procedures and guidelines for regulating public record disclosure to ensure protection, operational integrity and cost recovery.

Consistent with applicable laws and administrative rules, governing the disclosure of public records and consistent with the need to protect such records to prevent interference with the regular discharge of duties and to recover fees reasonably calculated to reimburse the department for its costs and making such records available. it is the policy of the Department of Corrections that public records maintained by the department will be available to all persons.

In July 2025, the Department of Corrections adopted temporary amendments to its administrative rules on request for department records, OAR 291-037-0015, which are effective through January 2, 2026.

In (02:00) September 2025, a notice of proposed rule making was filed to permanently adopt the temporary amendments and additional changes.

These proposed rule changes are needed to update the public records request process for both adults in custody and the public. The change is aimed to improve efficiency, transparency and accessibility while ensuring consistency in terminology and reducing administrative delays.

These proposed amendments to the department's Division 037 rules are needed to: P

- Permanently adopt temporary amendments resulting from implementation of an online GovQA portal linked on the existing DOC website that: U
 - Updated process for requesting public records request from the department and for submitting written requests in person;
 - Provided information required for a public record request and information to facilitate a request for public records; and
 - Clarified the process when a request for public records is submitted to the wrong unit.

These rules are also needed to:

- Establish a process to collect credit card payments from requesters
- Replace the term “inmate” with the term “adult in custody” or replace the term “offender” with the term adult on supervision; and
- (04:02) Update definitions to align with department-adopted standard definitions and improve consistency with applicable statute, DOC policy and other department rules.

The agency invites comments about whether other options should be considered for achieving the rules goals while reducing the negative economic impact on businesses or the public. In addition to presenting oral comments at this hearing, anyone may submit written comments until 12:00 noon on November 30, 2025, which is the close of the public comment. Details for submitting written comments by mail, email or online form to the Department of Corrections rules

coordinator is on your screen. This information is also going to be posted in the chat and I'll do that right now. That's in the chat for your reference.

The mailing address to submit written comments to the Department of Corrections rules coordinator is also provided on the notice of proposed rule making, which can be found on the DOC website at www.oregon.gov/doc/rules-and-policies.

Comments received after the close of the public comment period will not be reviewed or considered by the agency.

Going to take (06:04) one last check to see if there are any last-minute request to provide comment today. One moment.

There have been no requests to present or testify at today's hearing. With that, we are going to close the hearing and we appreciate your time. Thank you to everyone who joined us today and we will close this hearing at 2:13 p.m. Thank you so much and have a great rest of your day.

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