

POLICY

The only official employee personnel file shall be maintained by the Personnel Officer. Access to employee personnel files is limited according to prescribed procedures. Employee data maintained elsewhere is not considered part of the employee's personnel file. All personnel files and employee data shall be confidentially maintained.

Nothing in this Policy shall prevent the secure storage and use of electronic copies of original documents and records.

RESPONSIBILITY

It shall be the responsibility of the **Personnel Officer** to confidentially maintain official personnel files.

It shall be the responsibility of the **District Manager, Fire Chief, and fire officers** to forward employee documents to the Personnel Officer and to protect the confidentiality of employee data and records.

PERSONNEL FILE CONTENT PRACTICES

1. An employee's personnel file, which does not have to be a singular, physical file, must contain the following documentation if the documentation existed:
 - a. Educational transcripts and verifications;
 - b. Awards, honors, letters of commendation connected with employment;
 - c. A copy of all written requests for verification of employment, reference checks and completed documents;
 - d. Certificates or notices of employee accomplishments in the area of training or employee development;
 - e. Individual education and training records and credentials, e.g., CPR card, EMR certificate, EMT license, etc.;
 - f. Orientation and periodic policy review affirmations;
 - g. ***Employment Application Form 218-1***;

- h. **Internal Application Form 218-2**, if employee has applied for internal vacancies;
- i. Written requests for motor vehicle driving records if driving is a bona fide occupational qualification (BFOQ), criminal records, background or reference checks, e.g., **Information Release Waiver & Indemnity Form 218-3**, and reference check information;
- j. Certificate to Employ a Child 14 or 15 Years of Age **DOLIR Form LS-67** or **Form DOL LS-68**, if employee is or was fourteen (14) or fifteen (15) years of age while employed at the District;
- k. Personnel forms, e.g., **Data Form 254-1**; **Action Form 254-2**; etc.;
- l. Checklists, e.g., **Applicant Form 254-4**; **New Member Form 254-5**; etc.;
- m. Accident and disability beneficiary forms,
- n. Emergency contact information, family information, family notification, and funeral preferences;
- o. Employment contracts;
- p. Performance management documentation; e.g., evaluations; warnings; employee development plans; performance improvement plans (PIPs);
- q. Summary reports of internal investigations and grievances if disciplinary action results;
- r. Termination documentation, including exit interview documentation (also see 7. c. in this section);
- s. Retirement application, if retired or retiring; and
- t. Non-disclosure agreements, e.g., **Employee Confidentiality Agreement Form 730-1** for health privacy.

2. The following documents and records must be kept in separate and secure payroll files instead of personnel files:
 - a. Garnishment orders and benefits documentation with personally identifiable information;
 - b. Training repayment documentation, e.g., agreements;
 - c. Allowances documentation, e.g., pager agreements with third parties; **Authorization for Allowances Form 840-1**; attestations; etc.;
 - d. **Federal Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate IRS Form W-4**;
 - e. **Missouri Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate DOR Form MO W-4**;
3. The following documents and records must be kept in finance files instead of personnel files:
 - a. Wage, salary, and benefits documentation with no personally identifiable information, e.g., time and pay records, **Create Payroll Form 838-2**; benefit statement acknowledgements, COBRA notification and election forms; **Authorization for Compensation Form 838-1**, etc.;
 - b. Fleet Fuel Program documentation, e.g., **User Agreement Form 886-1**; **Add User Form 886-2**; **Update User Form 886-3**; **Dispute Form 886-4**; etc.
 - c. Purchase Card documentation, e.g., **Agreement Form 884-1**; **Lost/Stolen Report Form 884-2**; **Dispute Form 884-3**; and **Return Form 884-4**; and
 - d. Travel and business expense documentation; e.g., **Business Expense Reimbursement Request Form 830-1**; **Mileage Log Form 830-2**; **Travel Advance Form 830-3a**; **Travel Advance Worksheet Form 830-3b**; etc.
4. Medical- or disability-related information must be kept in a separate, secure medical file maintained by the Personnel Officer with only those who would need to know having access:
 - a. Employment-related physical examination reports;

- b. Injury or workers compensation claims;
 - c. Diagnostic records
 - d. Laboratory test results;
 - e. Medical Leave of Absence and return to work documents;
 - f. Drug and alcohol testing; and
 - g. Any other medical records with personally identifiable information about individual employees.
5. ***Employment Eligibility Verification Form I-9*** and supporting documentation must be kept in a separate, secure employment eligibility file maintained by the Personnel Officer with only those who would need to know having access.
6. ***Employment Eligibility Verification Form I-9*** and supporting documentation shall be kept for three (3) years after the employee's hire date or one (1) year after the employee's termination date, whichever comes later.
7. The following documents and records must be in a separate, secure legal file maintained by the Personnel Officer instead of personnel files:
- a. Detailed investigation notes and reports;
 - b. Workplace wrongdoing complaints or investigative reports that are not supported by fact or documentation;
 - c. Exit interview documentation with accusations that are not supported by fact or documentation;
 - d. Whistleblower complaints; and
 - e. Legal case documentation and records.

8. The following documents and records must be in an Operations file maintained by the Fire Chief instead of personnel files:
 - a. Issued equipment documentation;
 - b. Internal education and training records, e.g., rosters;
9. The following documents and records must be in a separate, secure offboarding file maintained by the Personnel Officer:
 - a. Unemployment documentation;
10. The following documents and records must be in a separate, secure equal employment file maintained by the Personnel Officer:
 - a. Any equal employment opportunity documents, e.g., voluntary self-identification forms;

ACCESSING PERSONNEL FILE PRACTICES

1. The following persons shall have the right of access to an employee's personnel file:
 - a. The employee who is the subject of the file;
 - b. Those persons the employee has authorized, in writing, to view their file;
 - c. The Personnel Officer;
 - d. The Board of Directors;
 - e. The District Manager or Fire Chief, with the appropriate fire officers;
 - f. Other individuals empowered to do so by court order or other lawful request;
 - g. Attorneys representing the District in an appeal, legal complaint or investigation.

2. Upon request, an employee may review their personnel file by making an appointment with the Personnel Officer.
3. Only the Personnel Officer will be allowed to remove the personnel file or portions thereof.
4. One copy of an employee's file will be provided to the requesting employee at no charge. Additional copies will be provided at the District's prescribed rate in ***Sunshine Law Policy 872***.

PERSONNEL FILE REVIEW PRACTICES

1. An employee may request, in writing, to the Personnel Officer, a review of their personnel file on the basis that information in the file is in error, unjustifiable or misleading.
2. The Personnel Officer shall advise the employee of appropriate options which include submission of additions to the file through conciliation or the grievance procedure.

VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT/REFERENCE CHECK PRACTICES

1. All inquiries for verification of employment or reference checks will be forwarded to the Personnel Officer for review and completion.
2. The Personnel Officer will release the following information for verification of employment or reference checks:
 - a. Dates of employment; and
 - b. Position.
3. The Personnel Officer may release additional information with a signed release statement from the employee to comply with legal requirements or governmental investigative agencies (also see 1. c. in the PERSONNEL FILE CONTENT PRACTICES).

POLICY: **Personnel Files**
EFFECTIVE DATE: **07/16/26**
PAGE: **7 of 7**

#254

RELATED POLICIES

Employment Definitions 118
Equal Employment Opportunity 206
Employment of Minors 224
Conciliation 612
Grievances 624
Performance Improvement Counseling 618
Disciplinary Process 621
Privacy 730
Security 854
Sunshine Law 872
Information Security 858

REVISION HISTORY

Revision Date	Author	Revision Details
May 13, 2021	Monte Olsen	Initial version
March 3, 2022	Monte Olsen	Added Employee Confidentiality Agreement and Privacy Policy 730
July 16, 2026	Monte Olsen	Added clarification on use of electronic copies versus original documents and records; removed superfluous or duplicate information; clarified what education and training records are maintained in personnel files; removed unnecessary DOR Form 4681 and SHP Form 158; added driving records and criminal records to use of Form 218-3; added information related to emergencies, notification, and funeral preferences; moved issued equipment out of personnel files; defined the specific files in which non-personnel file documents and records are maintained; added detailed investigation notes and reports; added whistleblower complaints; grammatical and typographical corrections; added footer; added Employment of Minors 224 and Sunshine Law 872 to Related Policies; updated DOL Form 500-1538 to DOLIR Forms LS-67 or LS-6