

Racscience

From: Racscience <racscience@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 2:22 PM
To: DOA Public Records Board Comments
Subject: Open records should be open

Although there has been discussion about what transitory records are and whether records should be saved and what records should be saved, we should not be having this discussion. All records and documents created by government officials, meaning all of them, should be stored and available for public inspection as provided by state statutes. When it comes to the process of governing, there is no such thing as a “transitory record.” All of them are important if the public is to understand what is being done by its servants.

The public's business may be concealed from the public by well-meaning people acting in error, but creating concepts such as “transitory records” is an invitation to concealment by people who are not well-meaning but want to bend the law in order to shield ethically uncertain or blatantly illegal acts. There have been enough news stories in recent years to illustrate how freedoms can be scraped away and public money drained away when governments act in the shadows. A board charged with overseeing public records should be wise enough to understand this and should guard the public interest, not undercut it.

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