



County Technical Assistance Service

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Develop Written Policies and Procedures

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS electronic library known as e-Li. This online library is maintained daily by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other e-Li material.

Sincerely,

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Develop Written Policies and Procedures

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Both large and small offices can benefit from having written records management policies on certain issues. The policies should adopt the Records Retention Schedules, incorporate any Records Disposition Authorizations developed by your office, and include policies for dealing with inactive records, for allowing public access to records and making copies, for responding to emergencies that threaten records, for maintaining confidential records, for keeping records in alternative storage media, and for interacting with the county public records commission, the Tennessee State Library and Archives, and a records center or archive if one is in existence in your county. If you think your office has had or may have a problem with files being lost, stolen, or misplaced, develop a policy and procedures for tracking files as well. Require anyone removing a file from its storage space to fill out a "sign-out" sheet indicating who they are, what record they are taking, and the date of its removal. This procedure should help your office track down misplaced records and cut down on losses. If you have an active records commission in your county, it may have already used its authority to develop policies on some of these issues. In that case, you could simply incorporate the commission's policies into your office procedures.

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