

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO INSPECT PUBLIC RECORDS

By law under the Inspection of Public Records Act, every person has the right to inspect *public* records of the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS). Compliance with a request to inspect public records is an integral part of the routine duties of the officers and employees of the Department of Veterans' Services.

PROCEDURES FOR REQUESTING INSPECTION. Requests to inspect public records should be submitted to the Public Information Officer, located at NMDVS 407 Galisteo Street, Room 142, Santa Fe, NM 87501; (505) 827-6352; fax number – (505)827-6323; ray.seva@state.nm.us.

A person desiring to inspect records may submit a request to the records custodian orally or in writing. The procedures and penalties, however, prescribed by the Act only apply to written requests. A written request must contain the name, address and telephone number of the person making the request. Written requests may be submitted in person or sent via US mail, email, or facsimile. The request must describe the records sought in sufficient detail to enable the records custodian to identify and locate the requested records.

The records custodian must permit inspection immediately or as soon as practicable, but no later than 15 calendar days after the records custodian receives the inspection request. If an inspection is not permitted within three business days, the person making the request will receive a written response explaining when the records will be available for inspection or when the public body will respond to the request. If any of the records sought are not available for public inspection, the person making the request is entitled to a written response from the records custodian explaining the reason inspection has been denied. The written denial shall be delivered or mailed within 15 calendar days after the records custodian receives the request for inspection.

PROCEDURES FOR REQUESTING COPIES AND FEES. If a person requesting inspection would like a copy of a public record, a copy should be requested and a reasonable fee may be charged. The fee for downloading copies of public records to a computer storage device is equal to the cost of the device, if provided by NMDVS. If a person requests that a copy of a public record be transmitted by U.S. mail, email, or facsimile a fee equal to the cost incurred by NMDVS may be charged. The records custodian may request the applicable fees for copying public records be paid in advance, before copies are made. A receipt indicating that the fees have been paid will be provided upon request to the person requesting the copies.