



C A L I F O R N I A

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Rob Bonta
Attorney General

DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
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October 2, 2025

Via Email to:

Jason Davis
Jason@calgunlawyers.com

Re: Public Records Act Request; DOJ No. 2022-01268

Dear Jason Davis:

This letter is in response to your correspondence received by the California Department of Justice (Department) on June 23, 2022, requesting records under the Public Records Act. (Gov. Code, § 6250 et seq.) Specifically, you requested the following:

All writings as that term are used in Evidence Code section 250 used in the training of CIS I, II, and III for training or retraining of the dealer record of sale background check process. Specifically, all Background clearance Unit DROS Procedures and documents are contained in the Background Clearance Procedure Binders, and all internal memorandums cited therein.

On September 14, 2022, the Department sent you the first production of records. You can now obtain a second, and final, production of records through the File eXchange – the Department's secure file transfer protocol site. You can access the records for the next seven days using the same link you used to access this letter.

The records have been redacted of information that is exempt through provisions of law that are thus expressly incorporated into the PRA for the following reasons:

- The Department redacted certain private identifying or personal information as permitted or required by law, such as dates of birth, based on considerations of personal privacy. (Cal. Const., art. I, § 1; Gov. Code, § 7922.000.) The Department additionally withheld the names and direct contact information of individuals whose information is linked to a federal agency who we understand does not routinely disclose the names of employees for privacy and/or safety reasons.

- The attorney-client privilege is contained in Evidence Code section 954 and protects confidential communication between the attorney and the client. In the case of *Roberts v. City of Palmdale* (1993) 5 Cal.4th 363, the Supreme Court held that Government Code section 7927.705 expressly exempts from disclosure matters privileged under the Evidence Code, which includes the attorney-client privilege. Thus, information reflecting legal advice from counsel has been redacted from the attached records.
- The Department also redacted criminal history information (often referred to as “Criminal Offender Record Information” or “CORI”). This information may only be disseminated to statutorily authorized recipients. (See Pen. Code, §§ 11105, 11076.) By mandating disclosure under these specific circumstances, the Legislature has confirmed that the information maintained by the Department is confidential and not subject to disclosure to the public through the Public Records Act.
- The Department redacted information relating to specific firearm purchases or owners. The Department keeps data regarding firearms sales and transfers as part of its general duty “to assist in the investigation of crime, the prosecution of civil actions by city attorneys . . . , the arrest and prosecution of criminals, and the recovery of lost, stolen, or found property.” (Pen. Code, § 11106, subd. (a)(1).) California law limits with whom the Department can share much of this data to “officers referred to in [Penal Code section] 11105” and others for law enforcement purposes as well as to researchers as detailed in Penal Code section 11106, subdivision (d.) By mandating disclosure under these specific circumstances, the Legislature has confirmed that the information maintained by the Department is confidential and not subject to disclosure to the public through the PRA.
- The Department redacted information security protocols and procedures. This includes information where disclosure of databases and systems may reveal vulnerabilities to, or otherwise increase the potential for an attack on the Department’s systems and information technology. (Gov. Code, § 7929.210.) The public likewise has a compelling interest in the Department being able to safely and securely conduct its business and protect its internal records, systems, and data from unlawful intrusion. (Gov. Code, § 7922.000.)

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This concludes our response to your request.

Sincerely,

Sidney Villareal

SIDNEY VILLAREAL, Staff Services Manager I
Bureau of Firearms

For ROB BONTA
Attorney General

Attachment(s)