



LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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HOW DO I GET A LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT?

Reports compiled by the Lake County Sheriff's Office or other law enforcement agencies are "confidential criminal justice information" under Montana law. See Montana Code Annotated 44-5-103(3) and 103(6).

Confidential criminal justice information may be released in three ways.

If you are a defendant in the case:

The Lake County Attorney's Office will provide the report to your attorney in a process called "discovery." If you are representing yourself, the Lake County Attorney's Office will provide the report to you after you have been charged in court.

If you are a victim in the case:

You must request that the Lake County Attorney's Office provide you with a copy of the report. See Montana Code Annotated 44-5-303(2).

If you are not a defendant or a victim in the case:

You must file a Petition for Release of the desired information in the District Court. See Montana Code Annotated 44-5-303(1). The Lake County Attorney's Office cannot represent you in this process. The information can be released upon written order of a District Court Judge.

Public criminal justice information includes an Initial Offense Report. See Montana Code Annotated 44-5-103(13)(e)(i). The information provided in an Initial Offense Report has been defined by the Administrative Rules of Montana 23.12.203.

The Initial may only contain: The general nature of the offense, the location and in some cases information about the accused, the victim and the witnesses. An Initial Offense Report can be requested in writing and submitted to the Lake County Sheriff's Administrative Office. The request will be reviewed by an Administrator and produced as time permits. Production of Initial Offense Reports can take a week or more. A fee may be charged for the production of numerous records.

Motor vehicle crash reports may be obtained from the investigating agency. The Lake County Sheriff's Office does not investigate motor vehicle accidents.