



Using Records Retention Schedules: How Long Do Police Body Cam Recordings Need to Be Kept?

Purpose: Provide guidance to law enforcement agencies on how long recordings from police body cameras need to be retained.

The minimum retention periods for recordings from police body cameras are listed in the *Law Enforcement Records Retention Schedule*:

Incident Identified – Until Matter Resolved and Exhaustion of Appeals Process

DISPOSITION AUTHORITY NUMBER (DAN)	DESCRIPTION OF RECORDS	RETENTION AND DISPOSITION ACTION	DESIGNATION
LE09-01-08 Rev. 3	<p>Recordings from Mobile Devices – Incident Identified</p> <p>Recordings, created by the law enforcement agency using mobile recording devices, and whether manually or automatically triggered, that are <i>known</i> to have captured a unique or unusual action from which litigation or criminal prosecution is expected or likely to result.</p> <p>Includes all mobile recordings, regardless of where recording device is mounted, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bodycam (device on officer’s chest, shoulder, head, cap, sunglasses, pole/stick, etc.); • Dashcam (or any other device mounted on the inside or outside of the vehicle – car, motorcycle, boat, all terrain vehicle (ATV), bike, scooter, etc.); • Dogcam (on an animal’s body - canine, equine, etc.); • Drone (unmanned aerial vehicle or any other remote controlled equipment). <p>Excludes records covered by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Intercepted Communications/Conversations – Recorded (DAN LE2010-075);</i> • <i>Recordings from Mobile Devices – Buffered Data/Images (DAN LE2017-001).</i> 	<p>Retain until matter resolved <i>and</i> until exhaustion of appeals process <i>then</i> Destroy.</p>	NON-ARCHIVAL NON-ESSENTIAL OFM

No Incident Identified – 60 days

DISPOSITION AUTHORITY NUMBER (DAN)	DESCRIPTION OF RECORDS	RETENTION AND DISPOSITION ACTION	DESIGNATION
LE2016-001 Rev. 2	<p>Recordings from Mobile Devices – Incident Not Identified (Body Worn Cameras)</p> <p>Recordings, created by the law enforcement agency using body worn cameras, <i>provided that</i> the recording is <i>not known</i> to have captured a unique or unusual incident or action from which litigation or criminal prosecution is expected or likely to result.</p> <p>Excludes records covered by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Intercepted Communications/Conversations – Recorded (DAN LE2010-075);</i> • <i>Recordings from Mobile Devices – Buffered Data/Images (DAN LE2017-001);</i> • <i>Recordings from Mobile Devices – Incident Identified (DAN LE09-01-08);</i> • <i>Recordings from Mobile Devices – Incident Not Identified (DAN LE09-01-09);</i> <p><i>Note: Retention based on 60-day requirement for certain body worn camera recordings (RCW 42.56.240).</i></p>	<p>Retain for 60 days after date of recording <i>then</i> Destroy.</p>	NON-ARCHIVAL NON-ESSENTIAL OFM

The *Law Enforcement Records Retention Schedule* is available from Washington State Archives’ website.

**Additional advice regarding the management of public records is available from
Washington State Archives:**

**www.sos.wa.gov/archives
recordsmanagement@sos.wa.gov**