Delta County Prosecutor's Office

Lauren M. Wickman
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November 20, 2025

[redacted]
Re: FOIA Request #25-257

[redacted]

I acknowledge receipt of your Freedom of Information Act request dated October 31, 2025 received by the Delta County Prosecutor's Office on November 3, 2025. An extension was filed on November 6, 2025 by the Public Body. Your request is for the following documents:

FOIA REQUEST 25-257

Pursuant to the Michigan Freedom of Information Act (MCL 15.231 et seq.), I respectfully request access to and copies of existing records showing criminal-case dispositions and plea agreements for the years **2020 through 2024**.

Specifically, I request the following:

1. **Any reports, data exports, or spreadsheets** generated from the office's case-management system (such as ProsecutorbyKarpel) or other databases that list criminal cases **with a final disposition of "Plea," Plea accepted," or an equivalent code** during each calendar year **2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024.**
2. For each case contained in those existing records, please include the following available fields:
    - Case number
    - Defendant name or initials (if publicly available in the system)
    - Offense description or statue number
    - Charge level or offense class (felony or misdemeanor)
    - Date of plea or final disposition
    - Prosecutor of record (if available)
3. Any **existing logs, annual summaries, or internal communications** that already discuss or compile plea-agreement activity during these years.

Please provide the responsive records **broken down by year** or in whatever yearly format they exist (for example: separate exports per year, or a dataset that includes a "year" field).

If records for one or more of the listed years **do not exist or are not readily available**, please still produce **the records for any remaining years** that do exist, rather than deny the request in full.

This request does not ask your office to create new records or summaries. It only seeks **existing records or data exports** that already reflect the requested information. If the records exist electronically, please provide them in a existing, readable format such as Excel (.xlsx), CSV or PDF.

In response to your request for "[a]ny reports, data exports, or spreadsheets generated from the office's case-management system (such as ProsecutorbyKarpel) or other databases that list criminal cases with a final disposition of "Plea," Plea accepted," or an equivalent code during each calendar year 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024" is **DENIED** as the Delta County Prosecutor does not possess or maintain any "reports, data exports, or spreadsheets" related to cases dispositions, whether by plea or not. Therefore, the undersigned hereby certifies that, after a search for records and to the best of the undersigned's knowledge and belief, the public records requested do not exist within the records of the public body under the name nor any other name reasonably known to the public body.

However, the data related to the request is available. To obtain the information you have requested in its "raw" form, the Prosecutor's Office would be required to review each resolved case and locate/review documentation documented the requested information. As outlined in a previous, similar request[1], this would require the review of approximately 1200 files per year. Each file review would be estimated to take approximately 5 minutes, as several documents would have to be reviewed. These documents would include but not limited to the disposition sheet issued by the Court and the charging document (complaint or Felony Information). Upon determination that the file fits the criteria of the request, separation of exempt information from non-exempt information would have to occur, which would require redaction pursuant to, but not limited to MCL 15.243(1)(a), MCL 15.243(1)(b)(iii), MCL 15.243(d) (specific to the Crime Victims Rights Act). The separation of the exempt materials from non-exempt will take approximately 3 minutes per file.

Given the breadth of your request and the number of records which must be searched and reviewed to respond to such a request, the public body has determined that failing to charge for the costs of the search, examination, review, and deletion and separation of exempt from nonexempt information would result in unreasonably high costs to the County beyond those typically incurred in responding to FOIA requests. Such costs are

[1] This request is substantially similar to a request for documentation in FOIA Request 25-177. In that request, the time frame was limited to January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. An estimate of cost itemization was sent regarding that matter on or about August 22, 2025. At the time of this response, that estimate has not been paid or fulfilled.

specifically outlined in the attached FOIA Fee Itemization but include the significant time and cost for searching for and locating the records.

Because the estimated fee in this case is great than fifty dollars ($50.00), the public body requires a deposit of fifty percent (50%) of the estimated fee to be paid before providing the responsive documents. The total estimate can be found on the attached fee itemization form. Half of the amount is the required deposit. The public body estimates it will take approximately 180 days from receipt of the deposit to provide you with the responsible, nonexempt public records.

Your request for information associated with the cases/information provided in Paragraph 1, specifically "[f]or each case contained in those existing records, please include the following available fields: Case number; Defendant name or initials (if publicly available in the system); Offense description or statue number; Charge level or offense class (felony or misdemeanor); Date of plea or final disposition; Prosecutor of record (if available)" is **DENIED.** As referenced above related to Paragraph 1 of your request, the Delta County Prosecutor does not possess or maintain any "reports, data exports, or spreadsheets" related to cases dispositions, whether by plea or not. Therefore, the undersigned hereby certifies that, after a search for records and to the best of the undersigned's knowledge and belief, the public records requested do not exist within the records of the public body under the name nor any other name reasonably known to the public body.

However, as further referenced above in Paragraph 1 of your request, the data related to the request is available. To obtain the information you have requested in its "raw" form, the Prosecutor's Office would be required to review each resolved case and locate/review documentation documented the requested information. As outlined in a previous, similar request[2], this would require the review of approximately 1200 files per year. Each file review would be estimated to take approximately 5 minutes, as several documents would have to be reviewed. These documents would include but not limited to the disposition sheet issued by the Court and the charging document (complaint or Felony Information). Upon determination that the file fits the criteria of the request, separation of exempt information from non-exempt information would have to occur, which would require redaction pursuant to, but not limited to MCL 15.243(1)(a), MCL 15.243(1)(b)(iii), MCL 15.243(d) (specific to the Crime Victims Rights Act).

Given the breadth of your request and the number of records which must be searched and reviewed to respond to such a request, the public body has determined that failing to charge for the costs of the search, examination, review, and deletion and separation of exempt from nonexempt information would result in unreasonably high costs to the County beyond those typically incurred in responding to FOIA requests. Such costs are

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specifically outlined in the attached FOIA Fee Itemization but include the significant time and cost for searching for and locating the records.

Because the estimated fee in this case is great than fifty dollars ($50.00), the public body requires a deposit of fifty percent (50%) of the estimated fee to be paid before providing the responsive documents. The total estimate can be found on the attached fee itemization form. Half of the amount is the required deposit. The public body estimates it will take approximately 90 days from receipt of the deposit to provide you with the responsible, nonexempt public records.

Please note this is not a "double estimate" as the records that would be produced in response to Paragraph 1 would be duplicative of records produced for Paragraph 2. As such, while language is included twice, it would not be required to pay the cost estimate twice.

Your request for "[a]ny existing logs, annual summaries, or internal communications that already discuss or compile plea-agreement activity during these years" is **DENIED** as a review of the records held, maintained, or possessed by the Delta County Prosecutor's Office reveals the records requested do not exist. Therefore, the undersigned hereby certifies that, after a search for records and to the best of the undersigned's knowledge and belief, the public records requested do not exist within the records of the public body under the name nor any other name reasonably known to the public body.

If you disagree with this decision, you may submit an appeal to the chairperson of the Delta County Board of Commissioners, or seek judicial review in the Delta County Circuit Court. If you prevail in Circuit Court, you may be entitled to receive attorney fees, costs, and disbursements as well as actual or compensatory damages, and punitive damages of $1,000.00.

I have also included the website utilized to find Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Written Policies, Guidelines, and Forms as well as the FOIA Appeal Form.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Best Regards,

Lauren M. Wickman
Chief Prosecuting Attorney

Emily Desalvo
FOIA Coordinator

Encl.