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Creating Records in an Electronic Format

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website (ctas.tennessee.edu). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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Creating Records in an Electronic Format

Reference Number: CTAS-1203

Any records required to be kept by a government official in Tennessee may be maintained on a computer, removable computer storage media, or in any appropriate electronic medium, instead of bound books or paper records.^[1] But in order to do so, the following standards must be met:

1. The information must be available for public inspection, unless it is required by law to be a confidential record;
2. Due care must be taken to maintain any information that is a public record for the entire time it is required by law to be retained;
3. All daily data generated and stored within the computer system must be copied to computer storage media daily, and the computer storage media that is more than one week old must be stored off-site (at a location other than where the original is maintained); and
4. The official with custody of the information must be able to provide a paper copy of the information to a member of the public requesting a copy.^[2]

These standards, however, do not require the government official to sell or provide the computer media upon which the information is stored or maintained.

[1] T.C.A. § 10-7-121.

[2] T.C.A. § 10-7-121.

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