

Open Meeting Law Guide



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

MAURA HEALEY

MARCH 18, 2015

Dear Massachusetts Residents:

One of the most important functions of the Attorney General's Office is to promote openness and transparency in government. Every resident of Massachusetts should be able to access and understand the reasoning behind the government policy decisions that affect our lives. My office is working to achieve that goal through fair and consistent enforcement of the Open Meeting Law, along with robust educational outreach about the law's requirements.

The Open Meeting Law requires that most meetings of public bodies be held in public, and it establishes rules that public bodies must follow in the creation and maintenance of records relating to those meetings. Our office is dedicated to providing educational materials, outreach and training sessions to ensure that members of public bodies and citizens understand their rights and responsibilities under the law.

Whether you are a town clerk or town manager, a member of a public body, or a concerned citizen, I want to thank you for taking the time to understand the Open Meeting Law. If you would like additional guidance on the law, I encourage you to contact my Division of Open Government at (617) 963-2540 or visit our website at www.mass.gov/ago/openmeeting for more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maura Healey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Maura" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Healey".

Maura Healey
Massachusetts Attorney General