

FIRST TWO VISITS: OCT. 27
NOV. 12

Portsmouth

Documents Not Received



School Committee Minutes:

- Readability: Average
- Thoroughness: Average
- Layout: Poor
- Legal Compliance: Full

City/Town Council Minutes:

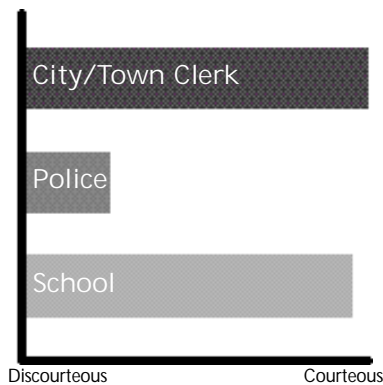
- Readability: Average
- Thoroughness: Poor
- Layout: Average
- Legal Compliance: Full

The Portsmouth Police was one of 19 departments in the state to refuse the requests to view the log and recently completed arrest reports. Combined with the refusal of the School Department to provide the contract settlement, Portsmouth ranks at the bottom of Rhode Island cities and towns for simple compliance with the Open Records Law. Employees asked researchers to identify themselves 40 percent of the time; the reason for requesting the documents was asked 60 percent of the time.

The Portsmouth Police were very discourteous when asked for the arrest reports. Besides denying access, the officer who responded to the inquiry was condescending and later refused to give a name or badge number. In contrast, the School Department was rated as “very courteous.” They provided four of the five items and without hassle. All materials provided in Portsmouth were obtained with one visit to the respective offices.

“The employees in the Town Clerk’s office were, by far, the best people with which I dealt. No questions were asked, no identification was needed. They just gave me what I was looking for. The worst treatment I received came from the Portsmouth Police. When I asked for the arrest and brutality reports, I was told if I was so interested in this information, I should sign up for a volunteer clinic where I would learn about all of this. The officer was rude and kept talking down to me. When I asked for his name, he gave me the female clerk’s first name instead.”

How We Were Treated



Comparison: Cities/Towns

