

1 SENATE BILL 171
2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

3 INTRODUCED BY
4 Linda M. Trujillo
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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO PUBLIC RECORDS; PROVIDING FOR REDACTION OF CERTAIN
12 INFORMATION; AMENDING A SECTION OF THE NMSA 1978.
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14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

15 SECTION 1. Section 14-8-9.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2011,
16 Chapter 134, Section 21, as amended) is amended to read:

17 "14-8-9.1. PUBLIC RECORDS--INSPECTION--EXCEPTIONS.--

18 A. Except as provided in this section, all
19 documents filed and recorded in the office of the county clerk
20 are public records.

21 B. The county clerk shall publicly post in the
22 office of the county clerk and on the county's web page a
23 notice that documents recorded in the office of the county
24 clerk are public records, subject to inspection and disclosure.

25 C. Before purchasing or digitizing of documents by

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underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material]~~ = delete

1 third parties, [~~protected personal identifier information, as~~
2 ~~defined in the Inspection of Public Records Act~~] the following
3 information shall be redacted:

4 (1) the month and day of birth of a person's
5 date of birth;

6 (2) all but the last four digits of a social
7 security number; and

8 (3) all but the last four digits of a driver's
9 license number.

10 D. Documents containing health information that
11 relates to and identifies specific individuals as patients are
12 exempt as a public record pursuant to Section 14-6-1 NMSA 1978.

13 E. Discharge papers of a veteran of the armed
14 forces of the United States recorded in the office of the
15 county clerk shall be segregated from public records in the
16 office of the county clerk. Discharge papers recorded before
17 July 1, 2005 that have been commingled with public records and
18 that remain unsegregated are available for inspection in the
19 office of the county clerk but shall not be purchased, copied
20 or digitized by any third party, except by those persons
21 authorized in this section. As the technology becomes
22 available, county clerks shall segregate commingled discharge
23 papers from the public records in the office of the county
24 clerk. Discharge papers recorded in the office of the county
25 clerk are available only to:

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- 1 (1) the veteran who filed the papers;
2 (2) the veteran's next of kin;
3 (3) the deceased veteran's properly appointed
4 personal representative or executor;
5 (4) a person holding the veteran's general
6 power of attorney; or
7 (5) a person designated by the veteran in an
8 acknowledged statement to receive the records.

9 F. Death certificates that have been recorded in
10 the office of the county clerk may be inspected, but shall not
11 be purchased, copied or digitized by any third party unless
12 fifty years have elapsed after the date of death. Death
13 certificates and other vital records recorded in the office of
14 the county clerk are exempt from the restrictions contained in
15 Subsection A of Section 24-14-27 NMSA 1978. The act of
16 recording a death certificate in the office of the county clerk
17 is considered a convenience; provided that no person shall be
18 required to record a death certificate in the office of the
19 county clerk to effect change of title or interest in
20 property."