

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF DISCHARGE PAPERS
RCW 42.56.440

What Discharge Papers Are Public?

Military discharge papers filed at the office of the county auditor before July 1, 2002 and that have been commingled with other recorded documents.

What Discharge Papers Are Not Public?

Military discharge papers filed at the office of the county auditor before July 1, 2002, that have been commingled with other recorded documents that the veteran has recorded a 'REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF DISCHARGE PAPERS' with the county auditor.

Military discharge papers filed prior to July 1, 2002 that are not commingled with other recorded documents.

Military discharge papers filed after July 1, 2002.

Who Can Access Records After Filing?

Upon recording the "REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF DISCHARGE PAPERS", only the veteran, the veteran's next of kin, a deceased veteran's properly appointed personal representative or executor, a person holding the veteran's general power of attorney, or anyone else designated in writing by the veteran to receive the records. The next of kin of deceased veterans have the same rights to full access to the record.

Who Is Considered Next Of Kin?

Next of kin are the veteran's widow or widower who has not remarried, son, daughter, father, mother, brother, and sister.

What Is The Filing Request Cost?

RCW 73.04.030 allows the county auditor to charge a basic recording fee and preservation fee that together shall not exceed a total of seven dollars (\$7.00) for the recording of the 'REQUEST FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF DISCHARGE PAPERS.'

How Is A Designee Assigned?

A veteran or a duly appointed representative may file a 'REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE OF DISCHARGE PAPERS' designating an individual to have access and/or obtain copies of exempted military discharge papers. This form may be recorded with the County Auditor's office at the general public recording fee or may be maintained by the veteran.

NOTE: *An organization cannot be assigned as a designee.*

How Do I Get Access / Copy Of Exempt Discharge Papers?

A veteran, the veteran's next of kin, a deceased veteran's properly appointed personal representative or executor, a person holding the veteran's general power of attorney, or individuals designated, may submit a "REQUEST FOR ACCESS / COPY OF EXEMPT DISCHARGE PAPERS" to the county auditor in order to obtain access/copy of exempt discharge papers.

How Do I Change A Designee On Record?

Another "REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE OF DISCHARGE PAPERS" designating the desired individual(s) to have access and/or obtain copies of exempted military discharge papers must be filed to remove any previously filed designees. This request will be recorded with the County Auditor's office at the general public recording fee.