TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF STUDENT PRESS LAW

ACCESS LAW

Questions

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1. Requests for government records pursuant to a freedom of information law can only be made by persons aged 18 and above.

2. Most freedom of information laws require government officials to ensure that a person's reason for requesting records is legitimate before releasing government records.

3. Every state in the country has its own open records and open meetings law.

4. To file a formal, written request for a government record, you must fill out Form 1322A and pay a $5.00 administrative fee.

5. A state's open records law does not require private school officials to disclose how much money the school spent on new football uniforms last year.

6. Journalists have the right to cross police lines without permission as long as they are engaged in bona fide new reporting and covering a "hot" news story.

7. Government officials are not required to create records to respond to a freedom of information request.

8. Most open meetings laws allow journalists to take notes, but forbid tape recorders, cameras and other electronic recording devices at a public meeting.

9. Federal law requires schools to provide a student with a copy of their educational records (transcripts, test scores, teacher recommendations, etc.) upon request.

10. To attend a public meeting, you must first apply for and obtain a free visitor pass from the head of the government agency (for example, school board, city council, etc.) conducting the meeting.

"Test Your Knowledge of Student Press Law" was made possible by a generous grant from the Newspaper Association of America Foundation (www.naa.org).