

Understanding Discovery vs. Open Records

If you need a copy of the police report or other records related to your citation or arrest, there are two different ways to request those records. This handout explains the differences between Discovery and Open Records and how to proceed with each option.

Option 1: Discovery (for Municipal Court Cases)

Purpose: Discovery is used during your court case to help you understand the evidence against you and prepare a defense.

Key Facts:

- Discovery is not automatic in the municipal court.
- You must file a written motion with the municipal court under Wis. Stat. § 800.07.
- You may file the motion in writing or appear in person to request it at the municipal court.

If the judge approves your motion, the court (or prosecutor) will provide the necessary records.

To request discovery, contact the Somerset Municipal Court:

Phone: 715-247-1208

Email: court@villageofsomerset.us

Address: PO BOX 313, Somerset, WI 54025

In Person: 110 Spring Street, Somerset, WI 54025

Option 2: Open Records Request (Wis. Stat. § 19.35)

Purpose: Wisconsin's Open Records Law allows any person to request public records, including police reports.

Key Facts:

- You do not need to be in court to submit an open records request.
- Some information may be redacted (e.g., victim names, juvenile information, or data protected by the DPPA).

Requests are typically processed within 10-20 business days.

To submit a request, contact the Somerset Police Department:

Phone: 715-247-3319

Email: info@somersetpolicedept.com

Address: PO BOX 158, Somerset, WI 54025

In Person: 110 Spring Street, Somerset, WI 54025

Need Help Deciding?

- Want full access to legal evidence in your case? → File a discovery motion with the court.
- Just need a copy of the police report? → Submit an open records request to the police department.

We're here to help. Contact the court or the police department with any questions.