



## Access to Public Records

The primary legislative statement regarding the right of individuals to inspect and copy public records of the state is contained in 36- 12-40 [1975], as follows:

*Every citizen has a right to inspect and take a copy of any public writing of this state, except as otherwise expressly provided by statute.*

The Alabama open records law contains only two general exemptions from the right of citizens to inspect and copy public writings: library circulation records and records expressly made confidential by statute. Specific statutory requirements throughout the code may limit access to designated programmatic records, or to classes of records, such as the records documenting adoptions.