Let The Sun Shine In!
Tennessee's Open Meetings Law and Library Boards
Your Presenters: Faith Holdredge
Caney Fork & Upper Cumberland Regional Libraries
Susan Simmons
Clinch-Powell & Nolichucky Regional Libraries

Adobe® Connect® Pro™
• Features:
  • Chat box
  • Attendee List
  • Attendee Command Center

If you have a question or comment, type it into the chat box.

Tennessee Open Meetings Law
• Tennessee Code Annotated 8-44-101 through 8-44-201
• Broad Law
• Applies to Governing Bodies and Boards
• Check with Local City or County Attorney
Policy 8-44-101

Formation of public policy and decisions is public business and shall not be conducted in secret

Definitions 8-44-102

- Governing Body
- Meeting
- Chance Meetings
- Adequate Notice

Notice of Public Meetings 8-44-103

- Regular Meetings
- Special Meetings
Minutes 8-44-104

- Recorded
- Available to Public
- Secret Votes

Action Nullified 8-44-105

It didn’t happen if it wasn’t a real open meeting

Enforcement 8-44-106

- Legal Court
- Court of Public Opinion
Participation by Electronic Or Other Means 8-44-108

- Who may use electronic means?
- Physical quorum at normal meeting site
- Necessity
- Can't circumvent Open Meeting Law
- Notice of meeting = electronic
- Audible to public at location
- Supporting docs provided before meeting
- Roll Call Vote

Electronic Communication 8-44-109

- Available at all times
- Public notice
- Who can communicate
- Archive for One Year
- Public viewing of forum (public library)
- Not a substitute for decision making
- Submit plan to Office of Open Records Counsel

Exceptions 8-44-201

- Labor negotiations
- Attorney-Client discussions
About the Public at Meetings

• Allow for public comment
• Limit speaking time

Library Law Webinar III

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