



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

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### **Governor Bill Richardson Announces Settlement on Public Records**

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson today announced that a settlement has been reached between the Department of Public Safety and several media outlets on a lawsuit dealing with public records.

The settlement agreement sets consistent guidelines for the Department of Public Safety to follow when responding to public records requests for law enforcement records. The agreement also requires Public Safety employees to attend training regarding the release of public records.

“This agreement is good for New Mexico because it strikes a good balance that allows for an open and transparent government, while protecting the integrity of law enforcement investigations,” Governor Richardson.

Under the terms of the settlement, the Department of Public Safety agreed to turn over certain documents related to criminal investigations to media outlets. The Department also agreed to clarify its policies that govern the release of future documents.

“By agreeing to this settlement, I am confident that the Department of Public Safety can now spend more time on law enforcement and stopping criminals,” said Public Safety Secretary John Denko.