

Public Body Checklist for Posting a Meeting Notice

Issued by the Attorney General's Division of Open Government – September 25, 2017

Notice Contents

- The notice contains the date, time, and location of the meeting. G.L. c. 30A, § 20(b).
- If the meeting is a joint meeting of several public bodies, the names of all bodies meeting are listed at the top of the notice.
- The notice contains all of the topics that the chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed at the meeting. The topics are sufficiently specific to reasonably advise the public of the issues to be discussed at the meeting, including executive session topics. G.L. c. 30A § 20(b); 940 CMR 29.03(1)(b).
- The notice is printed in a legible, easily understandable format. G.L. c. 30A, § 20(b).
- The date and time that the notice is posted is conspicuously recorded on or with the notice. 940 CMR 29.03(1)(d). If the notice is amended within 48 hours of a meeting, not including Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, then the date and time that the meeting notice is amended must also be conspicuously recorded on or with the notice. 940 CMR 29.03(1)(d).

Notice Publication

- The notice is published at least 48 hours before the meeting, not including Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays. G.L. c. 30A, § 20(b).
- The notice is posted with the proper authority:
 - Local public bodies – Filed with the municipal clerk, who must post it in a location conspicuously visible to the public at all hours in or on the municipal building where the clerk's office is located, or to the municipal website if adopted by the municipality as the official method of posting notices. G.L. c. 30A, § 20(c); 940 CMR 29.03.
 - State public bodies – Posted to a website, and a copy sent to the Secretary of State's Regulations Division. G.L. c. 30A, § 20(c).
 - Regional public bodies – Posted in every municipality within the region, unless the public body has adopted an alternative notice posting method. G.L. c. 30A, § 20(c); 940 CMR 29.03.
 - County public bodies – Filed with the office of the county commissioners and a copy of the notice is publicly posted in a manner conspicuously visible to the public at all hours in such place or places as the county commissioners shall designate for the purpose, unless the county has adopted its website as the official method for posting notices. G.L. c. 30A, § 20(c); 940 CMR 29.03.

Note that this checklist is intended as an educational guide, and does not constitute proof of compliance with the Open Meeting Law. These checklists are updated periodically, so please check that you are using the most current version. For questions, please contact the Attorney General's Division of Open Government at 617-963-2540 or via email at openmeeting@state.ma.us. For more information on the Open Meeting Law, please visit www.mass.gov/ago/openmeeting.