



Grand Forks County MEDIA RELATIONS POLICY

It is Grand Forks County's policy that open, productive and responsible media relations serve the best interest of the county and its residents. It is the intent to deliver complete, timely, accurate and balanced information regarding the policies and actions of the county.

The County's media policy will be to provide timely and transparent information about County operations in full compliance with North Dakota open meetings law. The business of Grand Forks County government conducted by and through the County Board of Commissioners is a matter of public interest, and public record, and Grand Forks County provides full access to the news media for all regular and special County Board meetings and committee meetings. The exception would be when the Board meets in closed session pursuant to standards outlined in North Dakota open meetings law and any meeting in closed session shall be clearly noted on the record.

Media Inquiries and Guidelines

Journalist may obtain information pertaining to Board Meetings from Grand Forks County website and agenda packets may be requested preceding the Board Meeting by contacting the County Finance and Tax office at (701) 780-2000. Additional handouts may be obtained during the meeting or immediately following the meeting.

Media representatives shall be referred to the appropriate Public Information Officer (PIO) or County Department Head when they call or arrive at a County facility, unless other arrangements have been previously agreed upon.

Media representatives will not enter any personal or private office spaces without the knowledge and permission of the occupant.

If additional assistance is requested by a media representative, the appropriate Public Information Officer (PIO) or County Department Head will review the request and, as appropriate, provide the requested assistance in a timely manner.

All media inquiries should be routed through the appropriate Public Information Officers.

Sheriff Department – **Sheriff Andrew Schneider**

States Attorney's Office – **Haley Wamstad**

Highway Department – **Nick West**

Correctional Center – **Bret Burkholder**

Juvenile Detention – **Bridgie Hanson**

All other County Business – **Tom Ford**