



**Course Title:** Maine's Freedom of Access Act

**MLEAP Standard:** This course meets MLEAP Standard 5.01 – Privacy and Security of Records

**Time:** 4 hours

**Instructor:** Paul Cavanaugh

**Course Description:** This course provides essential training for law enforcement personnel on the legal and ethical responsibilities related to public access to records. Focused on the Maine Freedom of Access Act, participants will learn how to navigate the complex balance between transparency and protecting sensitive information. The course addresses both the obligations to disclose and the statutory restrictions that govern confidentiality in law enforcement. Attendees will leave with practical tools and reference materials to assist in evaluating and responding to public records requests.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Understand the purpose and history of “sunshine laws” such as the Maine Freedom of Access Act.
- Gain a working knowledge of how the Freedom of Access Act applies to law enforcement records.
- Define “confidential” in the context of law enforcement information and documentation.
- Identify key statutes that regulate public access to governmental records.
- Recognize law enforcement-specific statutes that designate certain records as confidential.