The eRM-3src Form

Documenting the authorized destruction of public records is required by the Code of Virginia <u>§42.1-86.1</u>. It also provides agencies at all levels of Virginia government with a layer of defensibility when questions arise regarding a records existence or disposition. Proper documentation shows that records were disposed of in accordance with Library of Virginia (LVA) Records Retention and Disposition Schedules, and with records management best practices.

For An Overview of Records Destruction, please see the fifth <u>Records Management Training</u> video.

To initiate the authorization of records destruction, the Form Creator will:

- 1) Open the online Certificate of Records Destruction
- 2) Under Organization Information
 - a) Click the *State Agency or* Locality dropdown box and select either *State Agency* or *Locality / Regional Entity*
 - b) Click the Agency Name box that appears and select the agency.
 - i) If the agency name is not found, then that indicates the agency is not on file with the
 - ii) This may be confirmed via the <u>RO Contacts Search page</u>. An agency designates a RO by correctly completing and submitting the *Records Officer Designation and Responsibilities (RM-25 Form)*, found at the bottom right of the <u>Forms page</u>.
 - c) If this authorization for destruction is for records of the agency as a whole, rather than
 - d) As needed, select from their respective dropdown boxes the appropriate *Division/ Department* (*Dept.*) and any appropriate *Sub-Department* (*Sub-dept.*).
 - i) For state agencies and regional entities, *Dept.* will not be populated and *Sub-dept.* will not appear if no RO has been respectively designated and the department/.
 - ii) For localities, *Dept.* will be populated with a standard set of county, city, and town departments.
 - (1) For localities that have designated ROs for other non-standard *Depts.* and *Subdepts.*, those will likewise appear in their respective dropdown boxes.
 - iii) Other may be chosen from under *Departments* and another department name typed into the "Other" Department Name free-form field that appears.
 - (1) If there is no agency-wide RO designated, *Other* will appear in the *Dept*. box, but Designated Records
 - -department.

(2)

- e) If an agency needs to add departments or sub-departments, advise your RO, who will
- f) Select the appropriate Designated Records Officer (RO).
- i)

respectively, the agency-wide RO(s) will appear at the bottom of the dropdown box, Sub-

ii) If no RO appears, or the RO expected to appear does not, then that is an indication that

notify the assigned LVA analyst about this.

3) In the Approving Official freeform fields, enter the name, e-mail address, and title of the person agency/dept/sub-dept who will know whether there is a hold (litigation, audit, FOIA, request, investigation, etc.) in place or be reasonably aware of one forthcoming, that would require the affirm that no holds are in place or are reasonably anticipated. The *Title* field does not

affirm that no holds are in place or are reasonably anticipated. The *Title* field does not accept any type of punctuation mark. [Note: an incorrect e-mail address here will irrevocably prevent the form from getting to the approving official.]

- 4) Complete all fields under *Organization Address* or mailing address. The central contact information for the agency may be used, or that for the dept/sub-dept responsible for the records.
- 5) Under Records to be Destroyed:
 - a) Click Add New Record.
 - b) Select the Schedule and Series for the records subject to destruction
 - i) The optional *Series Notes* field may be used to indicate an internal title used for these records.
 - c) *Begin* and *End* dates. Approximate, if needed. Dates may be entered in MM/DD/YY format.
 - d) Select the Volume Unit.
 - i) For paper or other analog records, choose *Cubic Feet*. You may wish to consult the <u>Volume Equivalency Table</u> for help in estimating the cubic footage.
 - ii) For electronic records, choose an appropriate byte unit.
 - e)

of records that will be destroyed,

- going out no further than two decimal places.
- f) Choose the appropriate Destruction Method.
- i) For analog records that require confidential destruction, the options are *Burned, Pulped, Shredded,* and *Media Destruction* (for audio/video tapes, film, etc.).
 - (1) For series allowing non-confidential destruction, the same options are available, plus *Recycled* and *Trashed*.
- ii) For electronic records that require confidential destruction, the options are

Overwritten, Degaussed (for magnetic media), and *Physically Destroyed* (destruction of the drive, disc, or other storage media containing the records).

(1) The same options are available for non-confidential destruction, plus Deleted.

- g) Optional *Location*: type brief indication of where the records have been stored.
- h) Click the *Add New Record* button, if needed, to include up to fifteen (15) series per form. The Form Creator may remove a record entry prior to submitting this form.
- i) Destruction of records in the same series should be entered into a form only once, unless there is a gap in the date ranges or both analog and electronic destruction is being reported for the same series.
- 6) Under *Destruction Details*

i)

ii)

a) If records are in storage at the State Records Center (more information available in

Query and Export Boxes Instructions):

- Identify boxes that are eligible for destruction (1) С (2) dropdown menu (3) date range (4) Export the search results (1) Select results to export (skip this step to export all results) (2) (3) (4) menu (5)
 - (6)
 - (7) Save exported results as spreadsheet
- iii) Click the
- iv) Select the saved file of your exported search results
- V)

 b) If records are being transferred to the State Records Center for destruction, select These records are being transferred to the State Records Center from our organization for tate Records Center to schedule pickup.

7) Under *Form Creator, enter* your name, e-mail address, telephone number, and title in the respective fields. The *Title* field does not accept any type of punctuation mark.

8)

a) A web page will thank you for submitting the certificate and ask you to check your inbox for a verification e-mail in order to proceed. Close the browser/tab.

- 9) Open the verification e-mail that arrives in your inbox.
 - a) Click the *Confirm Email* button. This ensures that the Form Creator actually has access to this e-mail address (a security measure).
 - b) Receive a message in a new browser window that the form has been sent to the Approving Official designated in step 3. Close browser/tab and delete the e-mail.

For the Approving Official (AO) to affirm records for / withhold records from destruction:

10) The AO will:

a)

- #FormNum from Form Creator's Name
- b) Open the e-mail to confirm

-mail address.

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- i) If they are not recognized, close the e-mail, delete it, and do nothing more.
- ii) If they are recognized, click the *Begin Approving* button to open a web form.

11) Review all entries created by the FC for accuracy and any holds.

- 12) <u>If the form appears accurate and there are no current, pending, or reasonably anticipated</u> <u>holds</u> (audits, subpoenas, FOIA requests, investigations or any other reason to delay destruction) on these records, then under *Affirmation*:
 - i) Click the check box that affirms that there is no reason to withhold the records from destruction
 - ii) Click the Approve Certificate button.
 - iii) Close the browser window containing the message that the form has been sent to the Records Officer for approval.
 - iv) Delete the FC e-mail.
 - v) The process continues at Step 14.

If the Approving Official (AO) determines that the form contains inaccuracies or record series for which a hold is in place or anticipated:

13) the AO must:

- a) Click the flag next to any or all respective, inaccurate field(s)
- b) Enter a brief *Reason for Flagging* in the appearing text box(es).
- c) Click the *Return for Revision* button that now appears at the bottom of the form.
- d) Close the browser window indicating the form has been sent to the creator for editing. e) Delete the FC e-mail.

14) The FC will:

- a) Receive the e-mail containing the subject Edits Required for RM-3 #FormNum
- b) Open the message and click the *Begin Editing* button.
- c) Scroll through the form to find and correct all flagged fields.
- i) If the flag appears next to all of the series under *Records to be Destroyed,* with the text indicating that all series are subject to a hold, then the FC will:
 - (1) Close the browser window and delete the AO e-mail.
 - (2) Unless the hold is lifted prior to receiving it, delete the e-mail that will arrive in eleven (11) days with a reminder to complete the editing process. If the hold has been lifted, the process may resume.
 - (3) If the hold is not lifted within the eleven days, delete the e-mail that will arrive in 45 days with notice that the stalled process has been terminated.
- ii) If the form can be corrected, the FC will:
 - (1) Complete the corrections
 - (2) Click the Submit Completed Form button at bottom of the form.
 - (3) Close the browser window that indicates the edits have been sent to the AO.
 - (4) Edits Required e-mail.
 - (5) The process returns to Step 9.

15) After the Approving Official has affirmed that there are no holds, the Records Officer (RO) will:

- -3 #FormNum from FCname"
- b) Open the e-mail and confirm the FC and AO names and e-mail addresses are accurate.
- c) Click the Begin Approving link to review the form for completeness and accuracy.

16) If no incompleteness or inaccuracies are found:

- a) Enter any optional notes in the Records Officer Notes free-form field.
- b) Under Affirmation, if the statements can be affirmed, click the check box.
- c) Click Approve Certificate.

a)

- d) Close the browser indicating *notification has been sent to the State Records Center approving destruction of the records* and delete the AO e-mail.
- e) The process moves to Step 18

17) If any incompleteness or inaccuracies are found:

- a) Click the flag next to the errant field(s) and enter a brief Reason for Flagging.
- b) Click the *Return for Revision* button at the bottom of the form.
- c) Close the browser window indicating the form has been sent to the creator for editing. d) Delete the AO e-mail.
- e) The process returns to Step 13, omitting sub-step c) i).

- 18) The form goes to the State Records Center to complete records destruction.
- a) The State Records Center will review destruction approval
 - i) If there are any incompleteness or inaccuracies, the State Records Center will return the form to the Records Officer for revision.
 - ii) If no incompleteness or inaccuracies are found, the State Records Center will continue the destruction process:
 - (1) If records are being transferred for destruction, the State Records Center will arrange pickup and confidentially destroy the records.
 - (2) If records are stored at the State Records Center, the State Records Center will pull records from the shelf and destroy them according to the method listed on the form.
- b) The State Records Center will affirm destruction once the process is completed.
- 19) Following the affirmation of destruction by the State Records Center, the Form Creator (FC) and the Records Officer (RO) will receive an e-

Form #FormNum

- a) Open the e-mail and cl
- b) A browser window will open, displaying the completed form and a *Print Form* button at the top.
- c) The completed form may be reviewed and printed to paper or pdf, or not at all. The agency will no longer have to keep a copy. All forms completed via this process will be available on the web.
- d) Close the browser form and delete the Destruction Form e-mail.