



California Newspaper Publishers Association

CNPA Services, Inc.

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2701 K St., Sacramento CA 95816 · 916-288-6000 · [cnpa.com](http://cnpa.com)

Dear CNPA member,

We are excited to report that Gov. Jerry Brown signed AB 748 and SB 1421 yesterday, which CNPA helped pass with our co-sponsors at the ACLU. As new laws, they overturn 40 years of restrictive rules that prohibited public access to the actual documents and recordings held by police agencies, about both specific critical incidents and the personnel records that reflect the agency's response to police shootings or misconduct.

The new laws will help news reporters cover serious incidents involving law enforcement in their communities, including police shootings, and will allow the public at large to demand access to 911 calls, surveillance footage gathered as evidence, body and dash camera footage, and other video and audio footage related to a shooting or serious use of force that causes injury to a citizen. The new laws also require police agencies to release documents in a police officer's personnel record to help the public determine how the agency investigated a critical incident and disciplined the officer, if warranted. These new laws will benefit public defenders and prosecutors who must rely on police testimony in court in convicting individuals, improving the integrity of the criminal justice system in the state.

CNPA staff wants to extend its gratitude to each newspaper that covered these issues for so long, providing much needed and effective editorial support and news reports to create a substantial record showing why California needed to change the law. Gov. Brown signed police secrecy laws into effect 40 years ago, and has now undone the decades of imposed secrecy. We are very excited to see the stories your news reporters can now tell with the right to access these records.

Sincerely,  
Nikki, Jim and Tom

**Training Notice:** CNPA Legal Counsel Nikki Moore currently has five newsroom training sessions scheduled in October - in Long Beach, Santa Monica, Lodi, Healdsburg and Sacramento, with a few more in the works through November. She will be doing a special presentation at each training on the new laws: advising reporters on how to interpret and read them, and to know what they can expect to be able to access, how to ask for it, and answer any questions. If you have reporters in these areas, please consider sending them to the sessions so they can get up-to-date information on how these laws will play out. If you are interested in hosting a session, email [nikki@cnpa.com](mailto:nikki@cnpa.com) to schedule one.

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