

COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST
FOR MEETINGS SUBJECT TO THE MARYLAND OPEN MEETINGS ACT *

Name of public body _____ Date of Meeting: _____

1. ____ Did you give “reasonable advance notice” and keep a copy or screenshot?
2. ____ Did you make an agenda available when notice was posted, or, if not yet determined, as soon as practicable, but at least 24 hours before the meeting?
3. ____ Did you make arrangements for the public to attend?
4. ____ Is someone prepared to keep minutes in writing or, otherwise, to run the equipment for minutes in the form of live and archived video or audio streaming?
5. ____ If part of this meeting might be closed to the public, have you first:
 - ____ Made sure that the public body designated a member to take training in the Act? (eff. 10/1/17)
 - ____ Made sure that the topic to be discussed falls entirely within one or more of the 14 “exceptions” that allow the closed session? (see over for the list)
 - ____ Given notice of the open meeting to be held right before the closed session, so that the presiding officer can hold the required public vote to close?
 - ____ Made sure that the initial open meeting will be attended by a member designated to take training in the Act, and, if a designated member cannot attend, made sure that the public body is ready to complete this compliance checklist at the open meeting and keep it to attach to the minutes? (eff. 10/1/17)
 - ____ Equipped the presiding officer to prepare a written statement with the required disclosures? (for a model form with instructions, go to <http://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/OpenGov/Openmeetings/default.aspx>)
 - ____ Equipped the presiding officer to limit the closed session discussion to the exceptions and topics cited on the written closing statement?
 - ____ Arranged for closed-session minutes to be kept and adopted as sealed?
 - ____ Equipped someone in the closed session to keep a record of each item of information that must be disclosed in the minutes of the next open meeting? (for the list, see the model closing statement).
 - ____ For a meeting recessed to hold a closed administrative session, arranged to disclose, in the minutes of the next open meeting, the date, time, and place, persons present, and subjects discussed?
6. ____ Have you arranged for the preparation, the adoption as soon as practicable, and posting online if practicable, of minutes of the open meeting, including summaries of any prior closed sessions, and this form (when required), completed on this side?

**This checklist is designed for general use as well as for use at open meetings of public bodies that hold closed meetings on or after 10/1/2017, when a member designated for training cannot attend the initial open meeting. See GP § 3-213(d). Like the earlier checklists, this checklist gives general guidance, does not guarantee “compliance” with every provision of the Open Meetings Act, and will be revised occasionally.*