

Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.
Affiliate Chapter Relations Committee

Affiliate Chapter Handbook
Third Edition
Section 28

Trash It or Stash It:
Essential Document Retention Guidelines

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Written/Compiled by the Affiliate Chapter Relations Committee, 2001-2007.

Editor's Note

This section is one in a series of sections of the Affiliate Chapter Handbook intended to assist affiliate chapters in developing and maintaining a functional chapter of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. Each section has been prepared with the needs of the affiliate chapters in mind based on feedback provided to the Affiliate Chapter Relations Committee (ACRC) by the membership during the 2001 RID Convention, Orlando, Florida, and from the Affiliate Chapter Relations Committee survey of affiliate chapters.

The ACRC Mission Statement:

It is the mission of the Affiliate Chapter Relations Committee to clarify and strengthen the organizational structure of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. by acting in an advisory capacity, representing the interest of the affiliate chapters and promoting best practices so that affiliation is valued by chapters and by individual members.

The design, organization and composition of the membership of affiliate chapters across the country vary. To accommodate the diversity of affiliate chapter needs, each section (or parts thereof) may not apply to every affiliate chapter. The challenge was to develop all-inclusive sections with the understanding that each individual affiliate chapter may or may not need the information in its entirety.

The Affiliate Chapter Handbook is intended to be a “living document” with updates, additions and/or deletions made accordingly and in a timely manner by the ACRC. Suggestions and inquiries to the Affiliate Chapter Handbook or the ACRC may be directed through the RID National Office, Membership Services Coordinator, or via e-mail at membership@rid.org.

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Trash It or Stash It: Essential Document Retention Guidelines

Affiliate chapters often request guidance as to what kind of documents should be kept and for how long. The following table provides the minimum requirements:

Type of Document	Minimum Requirement
Accounts payable ledgers and schedules	7 years
Audit reports	Permanently
Bank Reconciliations	2 years
Bank statements	3 years
Checks (for important payments and purchases)	Permanently
Contracts, mortgages, notes and leases (expired)	7 years
Contracts (still in effect)	Permanently
Correspondence (general)	2 years
Correspondence (legal and important matters)	Permanently
Correspondence (with customers and vendors)	2 years
Deeds, mortgages, and bills of sale	Permanently
Depreciation Schedules	Permanently
Duplicate deposit slips	2 years
Employment applications	3 years
Expense Analyses/expense distribution schedules	7 years
Year End Financial Statements	Permanently
Insurance Policies (expired)	3 years
Insurance records, current accident reports, claims, policies, etc.	Permanently
Internal audit reports	3 years
Inventories of products, materials, and supplies	7 years
Invoices (to customers, from vendors)	7 years
Minute books, bylaws and charter	Permanently
Patents and related Papers	Permanently
Payroll records and summaries	7 years
Personnel files (terminated employees)	7 years
Retirement and pension records	Permanently
Tax returns and worksheets	Permanently
Timesheets	7 years
Trademark registrations and copyrights	Permanently
Withholding tax statements	7 years