

Discovery: Business Records Subpoena (except consumer or employment records)

Parties in a lawsuit can use a “business records subpoena” to obtain records and information from **non-party witnesses** such as banks, employers, or police departments. ([Cal. Code of Civil Procedure \(CCP\) § 2020.410](http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=CCP§ionNum=2020.410) (http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=CCP§ionNum=2020.410.)) **The procedure requires several steps and takes several weeks, so start early.**

Templates and Forms

- [Deposition Subpoena for Production of Business Records \(SUBP-010\)](https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/subp010.pdf) (<https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/subp010.pdf>)
- [Attachment \(MC-025\)](https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/mc025.pdf) (<https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/mc025.pdf>)
- [Proof of Service by Mail \(POS-030\)](https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/pos030.pdf) (<https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/pos030.pdf>)

Do Not Use This Guide for “Consumer” or “Employee” Records

*These instructions are only for Subpoenas for documents that are not “consumer” or “employee” records. If you need consumer/employee records, **use these instructions instead.*** (https://saclaw.org/resource_library/discovery-business-records-subpoena-for-consumer-employee-records/)

What is a “consumer record?” [CCP § 1985.3\(a\)\(1\)](http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=CCP§ionNum=1985.3)

(http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=CCP§ionNum=1985.3.) **defines them as:**

Records from telephone companies; banks, insurance and financial services providers; health care providers; schools; attorneys; or accountants.

What is an “employee record?” [CCP § 1985.6](http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=CCP§ionNum=1985.6)

(http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=CCP§ionNum=1985.6.) **defines them as:**

- books, documents, or other writings or electronic data pertaining to employment of any employee or former employee.
- An employee is defined as individual who is or has been employed by the witness whose records are sought.

Outline of Procedure

1. Decide if this is a consumer or employee record and select the correct guide.
2. Choose production date and “Deposition Officer.” Fill out forms.
3. Have the witness (the company or agency with records) *personally* served and have the parties served by mail.

Deposition Officers

What is a Deposition Officer?

Deposition Officers are professional photocopiers registered with the County Clerk. [Cal. Code of Civil Procedures \(CCP\) 2020.420](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=2020.420.&lawCode=CCP) (https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=2020.420.&lawCode=CCP). They may be a photocopy shop or a company that specializes in assisting lawyers in litigation. Parties must use a Deposition Officer when subpoenaing business records.

How do I find a Deposition Officer?

Ask an attorney or paralegal if they can recommend a service, or look under “Litigation Services” or “Attorney Support Services” online or in the Yellow Pages. An online search for “deposition officer for business records subpoena in sacramento” (or whatever region you are in) will give you a list as well.

Fee Waiver does not cover your costs

Note that there will be a fee for the Deposition Officer’s service and that the third party is entitled to witness fees and copying costs. **These costs are not covered by a fee waiver.** You can add the cost to your judgment if you win the case.

Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Determine Whether the Documents Are “Consumer or Employee” Records

If they are, use our [Consumer/Employee Record guide](https://saclaw.org/resource_library/discovery-business-records-subpoena-for-consumer-employee-records/) (https://saclaw.org/resource_library/discovery-business-records-subpoena-for-consumer-employee-records/) instead of this guide.

2. Set a Date and Location for Production, and Hire Your Deposition Officer

Select your date at least 15 days away.

Use the information in the Outline of Procedure to find a Deposition Officer.

3. Have the Court Clerk “Issue” Subpoena (Self-Represented Parties Only)

Take the *Deposition Subpoena for Production of Business Records* (SUBP-010) to the court where your case is pending to be “issued” (stamped with the court seal). In Sacramento, visit the main courthouse at 720 9th St., Room 102 (filing room).

Ask the clerk to issue them for you. When the clerk stamps it with the court’s seal, it becomes an official court order. The clerk will probably do it right then. You can ask them to issue several blank subpoena forms if you think you will need them later. There is no fee for this.

Attorneys can sign subpoenas themselves as “officers of the court” and do not need to take this step.

When you receive the issued subpoena, make enough copies of the stamped subpoena for yourself, the witness, and all parties. You will serve these copies in later steps.

4. Complete the Required Forms

You will need two forms to subpoena business records:

- [Deposition Subpoena for Production of Business Records \(SUBP-010\)](https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/subp010.pdf) (https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/subp010.pdf)
- [Attachment \(MC-025\)](https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/mc025.pdf) (https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/mc025.pdf), describing the records you need (you will number this “Attachment 3”)

Completed samples are at the end of this Guide.

NOTE: When you fill out the *Deposition Subpoena for Production of Business Records* (SUBP-010), there are three options for production in the first paragraph of the first page. Option “a” is having the records delivered to the Deposition Officer. It will be the easiest in most situations. Note that you must arrange to pay the witness their costs before taking delivery of the copies. Talk to your Deposition Officer about how to accomplish this. One option is to ask the Deposition Officer to pay the witness and then bill you.

Under option (b), a Deposition Officer goes to witness’s place of business to pick up the copies. Under (c), the subpoenaing party [you] goes to the witness’s place of business and copies the records. ([CCP §2020.430](http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=CCP§ionNum=2020.430) (http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=CCP§ionNum=2020.430)).

Most self-represented litigants should choose option (a).

5. Serve the Witness (the Company or Agency with the Records) by Personal Service at Least 15 Days before Production Date

a. Serve the Witness

Serve these documents at least 15 days before the production date. ([CCP § 2020.410\(c\)](http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=CCP§ionNum=2020.410) (http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=CCP§ionNum=2020.410)):

- *Deposition Subpoena for Production of Business Records* (SUBP-010)
- *Attachment* (MC-025)
- *Proof of Service by Mail* (POS-030) on all parties (unsigned but otherwise complete).

The server (a person over the age of 18 who is not a party to the case) must personally deliver the required documents on the witness or its representative, along with a check for fees. If the witness is an organization, any officer, director, custodian of records, or any agent or employee authorized by the organization to accept service of a subpoena can be served on behalf of the organization. ([CCP § 2020.220](http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=CCP§ionNum=2020.220) (http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=CCP§ionNum=2020.220)).

The server then signs the proof of service form on the back of the *Deposition Subpoena for Production of Business Records* (SUBP-010) and returns it to you. Keep this in case you need it for a motion later.

Fees Paid to the Witness:

The witness is entitled to payment of reasonable costs prior to providing the documents to the Deposition Officer. These costs include:

Reproduction costs of \$0.10 per page for documents 8 ½” x 14” or less; \$0.20 per page for copying documents from microfilm; and actual costs for oversize documents or documents requiring special

processing.

Other Costs: The witness can request clerical costs of \$24 per hour per person; actual postage costs; and costs for necessary services of third persons, including retrieval from microfilm.

These costs are paid when the witness delivers the business records and an itemized statement listing costs. [Evid C §§ 1563\(b\)\(1\), \(2\), & \(3\).](#)

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=EVID§ionNum=1563.

If you requested to inspect the original documents at the witness's location, the witness is entitled to a flat fee of \$15, so write a check for the server to take along. [Evid C §1563\(b\)\(6\).](#)

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=EVID§ionNum=1563.

b. Serve the Other Party or Parties

Serve by mail all parties (or their attorneys) with copies of

- Stamped Deposition Subpoena for Production of Business Records (SUBP-010) and Attachment (MC-025).

6. Wait for the Documents

You're done for now. The Deposition Officer should receive the documents by your chosen production date.

If your Deposition Subpoena is ignored, or you get nothing but a written objection, you may need to file a motion in court to compel the witness to produce the documents. For more information, see our guide [Motion to Compel Discovery Responses](https://www.saclaw.org/resource_library/motion-to-compel-discovery-responses/) (https://www.saclaw.org/resource_library/motion-to-compel-discovery-responses/).

For Help

For assistance with a business records subpoena, your Deposition Officer may do the entire process (forms, service, and copying) for you for a fee. Ask an attorney or paralegal if they can recommend a service, or look under "Litigation Services" or "Attorney Support Services" online or in the Yellow Pages. An online search for "deposition officer for business records subpoena in sacramento" (or whatever region you are in) will give you a list as well.

For More Information

On the Web:

NOLO Law for All: "[Formal Discovery: Gathering Evidence for Your Lawsuit](http://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/formal-discovery-gathering-evidence-lawsuit-29764.html) (<http://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/formal-discovery-gathering-evidence-lawsuit-29764.html>)"

This respected self-help site offers excellent information on discovery in general.

California Courts: “[Getting Information to Help Your Case \(https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/small-claims/trial/supoenas\)](https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/small-claims/trial/supoenas)”
Information from the Judicial Council’s self-help website. Contains information about subpoenas for admission in a court trial or hearing.

At the Law Library:

The following books have information about preparing business records subpoenas:

- **California Forms of Pleading and Practice KFC 1010 .A65 C3**
- **California Practice Guide: Civil Procedure before Trial KFC 995 .W45** Chap. 8, Discovery, Sec. 540-555.
- **Litigation by the Numbers KFC 995 .G67** Chap.5, Discovery, Sec. 5.3.5.

These books give detailed discussion of the steps needed to use a business records subpoena. *Civil Procedure before Trial* in particular contains discussion of the applicable statutes and cases.

For examples of the types of documents you may want to request in different types of civil cases, see:

- **Deposition Checklists and Strategies KF 8900 .S33**
This book is divided into chapters by type of case (vehicular liability, premises liability, medical malpractice, etc.). Each chapter has a section on “Documents and Exhibits” which lists the types of documents that may be useful in that type of case.
- **California Points and Authorities KFC 1010. B4** (Ready Reference) Vol. 8, Chap. 81, Sec. 240-254
Contains information and forms for consumer/employee objections.

Samples

Deposition Subpoena for Production of Business Records

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address): PAUL SAMPLE 2036 DONNER DRIVE SACRAMENTO, CA 95826 TELEPHONE NO.: 916-123-4567 FAX NO. (Optional): E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional): ATTORNEY FOR (Name): IN PRO PER		SUBP-010 FOR COURT USE ONLY Your name, address, and phone number. "In Pro Per" means you are representing yourself.
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO STREET ADDRESS: 720 NINTH ST MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-1380 BRANCH NAME:		County and address of the court where the case is pending.
PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: PAUL SAMPLE DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT: PETER PERPETRATOR DEPOSITION SUBPOENA FOR PRODUCTION OF BUSINESS RECORDS		Your name and the other party's name as they appear on the complaint
		CASE NUMBER: 34-2011-00112345 Case number
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, TO (name, address, and telephone number) ACME, INC., 987 MAIN ST., SACRAMENTO CA 95814		Name, address, phone number of the "witness" (company with records)
1. YOU ARE ORDERED TO PRODUCE THE BUSINESS RECORDS described in item 3,		
To (name of deposition officer): SPEEDY COPY On (date): JANUARY 15, 2012 At (time): 10AM Location (address): 567 OAK ST. SACRAMENTO CA 95814		Date, place and time for delivery of the copies ("the production date"), the date you chose in Step 2.
Do not release the requested records to the deposition officer prior to the date and time shown above.		
a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> by delivering a true, legible, and durable copy of the business records described in item 3, enclosed in an outer envelope or wrapper, sealed, and mailed to the deposition officer at the address in item 1.		Check: "a" if you are asking the witness to mail copies of the business record to the deposition officer (most common option). Check "b" or "c" to use those options.
b. <input type="checkbox"/> by delivering a true, legible, and durable copy of the business records described in item 3 to the witness's address, on receipt of payment in cash or by check of the reasonable costs under Evidence Code section 1563(b).		
c. <input type="checkbox"/> by making the original business records described in item 3 available for inspection at your business address under reasonable conditions and permitting copying at your business address under reasonable conditions.		
2. The records are to be produced by the date and time shown in item 1 (but not sooner than 20 days after service of this subpoena, or 15 days after service, whichever date is later). Reasonable costs of production, including reasonable costs of copying, are recoverable as set forth in Evidence Code section 1563(b). The records shall be accompanied by an affidavit of the custodian or other qualified witness pursuant to Evidence Code section 1561.		
3. The records to be produced are described as follows:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continued on Attachment 3.		
4. IF YOU HAVE BEEN SERVED WITH THIS SUBPOENA AS A CUSTODIAN OF CONSUMER RECORDS UNDER EVIDENCE CODE SECTION 1563.3 OR 1985.6 AND A MOTION TO QUASH HAS BEEN SERVED ON YOU, A COURT ORDER OR AGREEMENT OF THE PARTIES, WITNESSES, OR OTHER AFFECTED MUST BE OBTAINED BEFORE YOU ARE REQUIRED TO PRODUCE CONSUMER OR EMPLOYEE RECORDS.		Leave this area blank. Check "Continued on Attachment 3."
DISOBEDIENCE OF THIS SUBPOENA MAY BE PUNISHED AS CONTEMPT BY THIS COURT. YOU WILL ALSO BE LIABLE FOR THE SUM OF FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS AND ALL DAMAGES RESULTING FROM YOUR FAILURE TO OBEY THIS SUBPOENA.		
Date issued: DECEMBER 14, 2011		
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME) _____ (SIGNATURE OF PERSON ISSUING SUBPOENA) _____		Leave this area blank. The clerk will fill it in when you take the subpoena to court to get it issued in Step 4.

NOTE: Fill in the names and case number on page 2, and leave the rest blank. The person who serves the subpoena in Step 9 will fill it out.

The "deposition officer" is the copy service you hired in Step 2.

Deposition Subpoena for Production of Business Records (SUBP-010)

SHORT TITLE: Sample v. Perpetrator	MC-025 CASE NUMBER: 34-2011-00112345
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ATTACHMENT (Number): 3

(to be used with any Judicial Council form.)

Short title (party 1 v party 2)

Case number

1. Any and all any and all police reports, arrest reports, case reports, supplementary reports, street files, laboratory reports, notes and memoranda, printed or otherwise, and files relating to the arrest of [Party Name], date of birth of [Party Name], on or about [Date of Arrest or Incident], at or near [Location].

Fill in "3"

2. Any and all phone records for the year of [year or range of dates] pertaining to [name of Consumer/Employee] at [Consumer/Employee's phone number or numbers], including but not limited to text and data and call records.
3. Employment records for Employee [employee's name] whose Social Security number is _____, and whose date of birth is _____, including the following: All documents relating to Employee's employment from [date] to [date], including but not limited to pay checks, pay stubs, review correspondence, and W-2 forms.
4. All documents relating to medical and physical therapy, examinations, treatment and services rendered to [Party] from [date] to the present, including but not limited to reports, summaries, prognoses, x-rays, statements, and billings.
5. All documents relating to operation, maintenance, and repair of the automobile [Party] was operating during the accident which is the subject of this action, including repair estimates, repair receipts, owner's manuals, and records of repairs made by any person or entity, including [Party], from [date] to the present.

Specifically describe each item or reasonably particularize each category of item to be produced ([CCP § 2025.410\(a\)](#)).

Specific information that is identifiable only to the deponent's records system (e.g., a policy number or the date the consumer interacted with the witness) is not required. ([CCP § 2020.410\(a\)-\(b\)](#)).

Sample language for several common situations is listed here. For more information about how to request specific types of records, talk to the Reference Librarian.

(If the item that this Attachment concerns is made under penalty of perjury, all statements in this Attachment are made under penalty of perjury.)

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(Add pages as required)

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ATTACHMENT
to Judicial Council Form

Form Approved for Optional Use
Judicial Council of California
MC-025 (Rev. July 1, 2009) www.courtinfo.ca.gov

Attachment (MC-025), Attached to SUBP-010