

Document Retention Policy

Use this template to retention schedule for [document types] at a law firm.

Template Metadata

Field	Details
Category	Legal
Owner	[Team or owner]
Version	[Version number]
Effective Date	[Date]
Review Cycle	[Monthly / Quarterly / Annual / Event-based]
Status	[Draft / In Review / Approved]

Policy Statement

State the firm's commitment to systematic document retention and destruction. Reference applicable rules of professional conduct and regulatory requirements.

Item	Details	Owner	Status
[Item or requirement]	[Describe the relevant detail, evidence, or decision]	[Owner]	[Open / Complete]
[Item or requirement]	[Describe the relevant detail, evidence, or decision]	[Owner]	[Open / Complete]

Notes

[Add context, assumptions, exceptions, evidence links, screenshots, calculations, or reviewer comments.]

Retention Schedule

Create a comprehensive table listing document categories, description, retention period, trigger event (e.g., matter closure, termination of engagement), and legal authority or rationale for the retention period.

Item	Details	Owner	Status
[Item or requirement]	[Describe the relevant detail, evidence, or decision]	[Owner]	[Open / Complete]
[Item or requirement]	[Describe the relevant detail, evidence, or decision]	[Owner]	[Open / Complete]

Notes

[Add context, assumptions, exceptions, evidence links, screenshots, calculations, or reviewer comments.]

Destruction Procedures

Describe the approved methods for destroying physical and electronic documents. Include authorization requirements, verification steps, and documentation of destruction.

Item	Details	Owner	Status
[Item or requirement]	[Describe the relevant detail, evidence, or decision]	[Owner]	[Open / Complete]
[Item or requirement]	[Describe the relevant detail, evidence, or decision]	[Owner]	[Open / Complete]

Notes

[Add context, assumptions, exceptions, evidence links, screenshots, calculations, or reviewer comments.]

Legal Hold Exceptions

Explain when and how the standard retention schedule is suspended. Cover litigation holds, regulatory investigations, and audit preservation notices. Describe the process for issuing, tracking, and releasing legal holds.

Item	Details	Owner	Status
[Item or requirement]	[Describe the relevant detail, evidence, or decision]	[Owner]	[Open / Complete]
[Item or requirement]	[Describe the relevant detail, evidence, or decision]	[Owner]	[Open / Complete]

Notes

[Add context, assumptions, exceptions, evidence links, screenshots, calculations, or reviewer comments.]

Responsible Parties

Define roles and responsibilities for policy implementation, including the Records Manager, Practice Group Leaders, and individual attorneys. Use tables. Be precise about retention periods and cite applicable rules.

Item	Details	Owner	Status
[Item or requirement]	[Describe the relevant detail, evidence, or decision]	[Owner]	[Open / Complete]
[Item or requirement]	[Describe the relevant detail, evidence, or decision]	[Owner]	[Open / Complete]

Notes

[Add context, assumptions, exceptions, evidence links, screenshots, calculations, or reviewer comments.]

Review and Signoff

Document review conclusions, approvals, unresolved items, and next review date.

Role	Name	Date	Notes
Preparer	[Name]	[Date]	[Notes]
Reviewer	[Name]	[Date]	[Notes]

Role	Name	Date	Notes
Approver	[Name]	[Date]	[Notes]