



Introducing the Institute for Public Safety Records Management (IPSRM)

A New National Standard for Public Safety Records Management

February 2026



Records management in law enforcement, corrections, and fire-rescue organizations has never been **more complex—or more critical**—as they face unprecedented scrutiny related to timeliness, accuracy, and accessibility. Public records requests, CJIS compliance, expungement laws, NIBRS/NFIRS reporting, digital evidence, and data accuracy all carry real operational, legal, and reputational risk.

This field operates at the intersection of law, technology, risk management, and public trust, without any nationally organized coalition or representation.

To meet this moment, PRI will soon be launching a first of its kind, the **Institute for Public Safety Records Management (IPSRM)**—a new professional institute dedicated to advancing national standards, leadership development, and certifications.

IPSRM is committed to recognizing, educating, and connecting essential records management personnel across the country and will champion the cause of compliance, modernization, and staffing these professionals need to advance the importance of their work and the value of the positions they hold.

Through professional development and networking, the Institute ensures members receive the resources, training, and support needed to make an enduring impact on their careers and agencies they serve, and on public safety.

Members will have access to exclusive content, special events, a job board, and an online forum to connect with peers about emerging trends, issues,

technology, and questions regarding the challenges of compliance with the complex legal framework governing their responsibilities. Members will be able to share needed resources such as policies, manuals, training materials, and job classifications.



Certification

Most importantly will be the ability to earn certification. PRI is the leading service provider of public safety information management compliance and standards training for government agencies.

Founded in 2008, **PRI has trained over 40,000 personnel across the United States, and has developed over thirty courses**, some of which are certified by national industry standards and certification organizations including IIMC, ICRM, NAGARA, and ARMA, as well as various state-level organizations.

IPSRM is governed by an Advisory Board comprised of subject matter experts who peer-review the courses required to achieve certification. These courses have been uniquely built and curated by IPSRM, based upon PRI curriculum which has been customized and tailored for the certification programs. This includes the option to pursue a career-specific certification, including:

- **Certified Law Enforcement Records Manager (CLERM)**
- **Certified Law Enforcement Records Professional (CLERP)**
- **Certified Corrections Records Management Professional (CCRMP)**
- **Certified Fire Records Management Professional (CFRMP)**

Why the Institute Matters Now

For too long, records management has been misunderstood by many as clerical work rather than what it truly is: a specialized, highly-litigious discipline.

Public safety records professionals are custodians of various types of operational and administrative records, some of which involve sensitive, consequential, and legally significant information. Their work directly impacts public safety operations, individual rights, court proceedings, crime reporting accuracy, transparency, and public trust.

A central tenet of this discipline is establishing policy, procedure, training, and organizational culture which emphasizes quality assurance and quality control of the records and data an agency produces. Informational errors can lead to adverse outcomes and liability. Incorrect information in a record can lead to incorrect decision making and improper actions by agency personnel. It can also result in inaccurate data which impacts the ability to produce reliable analysis of crime trends, health information, and resource deployment decisions.

The Institute provides records professionals with the knowledge, skills, confidence, and resources they need to advance their careers and reduce agency risk with a renewed sense of mission-driven purpose.

Benefits for Records Personnel

Achieving certification reflects the evolving role of records professionals as compliance leaders, quality control experts, and advocates for modern, efficient, and digital records practices. **Certification provides:**

- Professional credibility backed by a national institute
- Clear validation of specialized knowledge and leadership competence
- A structured path for career development and advancement

Benefits for Chiefs, Sheriffs, and Executives

For agency leadership, supporting certification means:

- Reduced legal and compliance risk
- More accurate and timely crime data
- Stronger audit readiness and defensible performance standards
- Improved policy consistency and records governance
- Greater accountability and performance measurement

Certified records managers are trained to identify risk before it becomes liability—**and to communicate that risk clearly to executive leadership using data, policy, and operational insight.** Learn how by achieving certification.

A Commitment to Ethics and Public Trust

All IPSRM members are governed by a comprehensive Code of Ethics, emphasizing integrity, confidentiality, legal compliance, professionalism, and responsible use of technology. This ethical framework reinforces public trust and ensures certified professionals uphold the highest standards expected of those entrusted with sensitive public safety information.

Join the Institute. Elevate the Profession.

The launch of the Institute for Public Safety Records Management marks an important step forward for the profession—and for the agencies that depend on accurate, compliant, and trustworthy records.

Whether you are a records manager seeking professional recognition or an executive committed to reducing risk and strengthening operations, joining IPSRM and pursuing certification is an investment in excellence.

Learn more about the Institute and be a founding member:
policerecordsmanagement.com/institute

