Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13

[13.XX] TRANSPARENCY FOR FRAUD INVOLVING TAXPAYER FUNDS

Subdivision 1. Scope.

This section applies to any alleged fraud involving state-funded, taxpayer-supported, or state-administered programs, services, contracts, grants, appropriations, accounts, or funds.

Subd. 2. Public disclosure upon formal action.

Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, upon the occurrence of any of the following events:
(1) the filing of criminal charges;
(2) the commencement of a civil enforcement action;
(3) the execution of a plea agreement;
(4) the entry of a civil judgment or settlement; or
(5) the formal closure of an investigation,

the data described in subdivision 3 are public.

Subd. 3. Data subject to disclosure.

Upon an event described in subdivision 2, the following data are public:
(a) investigative summaries and reports;
(b) audit findings and internal review documents;
(c) financial loss calculations and impact assessments;
(d) contracts, grants, invoices, payment records, and disbursement histories involving taxpayer funds;
(e) communications between state agencies and vendors directly related to the alleged fraud;
(f) oversight analyses, compliance reviews, and corrective action plans;
(g) the identity of any individual or entity formally charged; and
(h) the total amounts of public funds received, requested, or disbursed in connection with the alleged fraud.

Subd. 4. Limited redactions.

Redactions are permitted only for:
(1) Social Security numbers, bank account numbers, and other direct financial account identifiers;
(2) protected health information under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996;
(3) federal tax return documents and data protected under United States Code, title 26, section 6103;
(4) information identifying minor children not charged in the action; and

(5) active criminal investigative techniques, but only while disclosure would materially compromise an ongoing investigation.

Redactions must be narrowly tailored to the minimum extent necessary.

Subd. 5. Financial transparency clarification.

Nothing in subdivision 4 prohibits disclosure of:
(a) total amounts of public funds received or paid;
(b) summaries of financial representations made to a state agency;
(c) discrepancies between reported income and state payments; or
(d) financial data submitted to a state agency in connection with the alleged fraud, except where expressly protected under federal law.

Subd. 6. Prohibited withholding.

Data must not be withheld or redacted for the purpose of:
(1) avoiding embarrassment;
(2) concealing agency error, negligence, or oversight failure;
(3) shielding contractor or vendor reputation; or
(4) limiting public scrutiny of taxpayer expenditures.

Subd. 7. Specific citation required.

Each redaction must identify the precise statutory authority authorizing the redaction. Generalized claims of confidentiality are prohibited.

Subd. 8. Release timeline.

Data required to be public under this section must be released within 30 days of the event described in subdivision 2.

Subd. 9. Construction.

Any data not expressly enumerated in subdivision 4 are public under this section.