**Where to search for civil & criminal records**

*The definition* of **Public Record** *– “Those records maintained by government agencies that are open without restriction to public inspection, either by statute or by tradition.*

**3 common methods used to access public records**

1. **Visit in person** (your local recorders office)

The information trail for criminal records starts at the Court House in the City & County. Weather the case is filed in a State, municipal, or federal court, each case follows a similar process. The term “County Courts” refers to those courts of original jurisdiction (trial courts) with in each States court system that handle…

**Felonies** – Are the most serious classification of crimes generally defined as crimes punishable by one year or more of jail time, Most states have different classifications, some examples - Assault if severe enough, physical violence, use of weapon, Battery when a person causes another person physical harm, Arson, Rape, Murder, sale of illegal drugs, Dui if anyone was hurt.

**Civil Actions** – For money damages (usually greater than $5,000) a lawsuit brought to enforce, redress, or protect rights of private litigants, any lawsuit relating to civil matters and not criminal prosecution.

**Probate** – Estate matters

**Misdemeanors** – Are crimes that do not rise to the severity of a felony, generally defined as minor infractions with a fine or minimal jail time. - Varies by state but some examples, speeding, traffic violations, trespassing, vandalism, public intoxication, theft, 1st DUI

**Evictions** – Landlord/Tenant actions

**Small Claims** – Actions for minor money damages (generally under $5,000) Private disputes not involving large amounts of money.

1. **Mail, fax, or telephone** – To find your local court house go to

[www.brbpub.com](http://www.brbpub.com)

1. **Online –** most but not all States have a States Repository check [www.brbpub.com](http://www.brbpub.com) you can find by name, but helps if you have DOB & SS number