Surveillance Technology Questions

Twelve questions for public meetings, agency conversations, and records requests.

Choose the questions that fit the system. Ask for the written policy, contract, retention schedule, sharing agreements, and available audit or public reports.

01 PURPOSE & COLLECTION

1. What specific problem is this technology meant to address, and how will the agency measure whether it works?
2. What information does it collect, about whom, and under what circumstances?

02 ACCESS

3. Who can search or view the information, including contractors and other agencies?
4. What approval or documented reason is required before someone uses the system?

03 RETENTION

5. How long is the information kept, and what rule controls deletion?
6. Do backup copies or vendor-held data remain after the agency deletes its copy?

04 SHARING

7. Which agencies, vendors, or outside groups can receive the information?
8. Can they search, retain, or share it further, and under what written agreement?

05 LOGGING

9. Does the system record who accessed or searched the data, when, and for what stated purpose?
10. Who reviews those logs, and how are improper searches detected?

06 OVERSIGHT

11. Who approved the technology, and where can the public find its policy, contract, and cost?
12. How are misuse and errors investigated, corrected, and reported to the public?