

In New York State (NYS), **FOIA** and **FOIL** refer to similar concepts related to accessing government records, but they are applied in different contexts:

### 1. FOIA (Freedom of Information Act)

- **Federal law:** FOIA is a federal law that applies to federal agencies.
  - **Scope:** It allows individuals to request access to records from U.S. federal government agencies (e.g., the FBI, EPA, or Department of Justice).
  - **Authority:** FOIA is governed by federal law (5 U.S.C. § 552).
  - **Use case:** If you want documents from a federal agency, you would file a FOIA request.
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### 2. FOIL (Freedom of Information Law)

- **New York State law:** FOIL applies specifically to state and local government agencies in New York.
  - **Scope:** It allows individuals to request access to records from state and local agencies, municipalities, and public authorities within New York.
  - **Authority:** FOIL is governed by the New York State Public Officers Law, Article 6.
  - **Use case:** If you want documents from a NYS agency (e.g., the NYS Department of Education, a town clerk, or a city police department), you would file a FOIL request.
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#### Key Differences:

Aspect	FOIA (Federal)	FOIL (New York State)
Jurisdiction	Federal agencies	NY State and local agencies
Governing Law	Federal (5 U.S.C. § 552)	NYS Public Officers Law, Art. 6
Applies to	Federal government records	State/local government records
Request Example	FBI, EPA, Dept. of Justice	NYPD, state universities, town offices

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#### Practical Example:

- **FOIA:** You'd file a FOIA request if you want to access records about federal environmental regulations from the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**.
- **FOIL:** You'd file a FOIL request if you want to access local police reports or meeting minutes from your **town clerk's office** in New York.