

PART 700—PRODUCTION OR DISCLOSURE OF MATERIAL OR INFORMATION OF THE OFFICE OF INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

Subpart A—Protection of Privacy and Access to Individual Records Under the Privacy Act of 1974

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Subpart B—Exemption of the Office of Independent Counsel's Systems of Records Under the Privacy Act

- 700.31 Exemption of the Office of Independent Counsel's systems of records—limited access.

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Subpart A—Protection of Privacy and Access to Individual Records Under the Privacy Act of 1974

§ 700.10 General provisions.

(a) *Purpose and scope.* The subpart contains the regulations of the Office of Independent Counsel implementing the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a. The regulations apply to all records that are contained in systems of records maintained by the Office of Independent Counsel and that are retrieved by an individual's name or personal identifier. These regulations extend

forth the procedures by which an individual may seek access under the Privacy Act to records pertaining to him, may request correction of such records, or may seek an accounting of disclosures of such records by the office.

(b) *Transfer of law-enforcement records.* The head of the Office, or his designee, is authorized to make written requests under 5 U.S.C. 552a(b)(7) for transfer of records maintained by other agencies that are necessary to carry out an authorized law-enforcement activity of the Office.

(c) *Definitions.* As used in this subpart, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) *Agency* has the meaning given in 5 U.S.C. 551(1) and 5 U.S.C. 552a(a)(1).

(2) *Record* has the same meaning given in 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(4).

(3) *Request for access* means a request made pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(d)(1).

(4) *Request for correction* means a request made pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(d)(2).

(5) *Request for an accounting* means a request made pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(c)(3).

(6) *Requester* means an individual who makes either a request for access, a request for correction, or a request for an accounting.

(7) *System of records* means a group of any group of any records under the control of the Office from which information is retrieved by the name of an individual or by some identifying number, symbol, or other identifying particular assigned to that individual.

§ 700.11 Request for access to records.

(a) *Procedure for making requests for access to records.* An individual may request access to a record about him by appearing in person or by writing the Office. A requester in need of guidance in defining his request may write to the FOIA/PA Officer, Office of Independent Counsel, suite 701 West, 555 Thirteenth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20004. Both the envelope and the request itself should be marked: "Privacy Act Request."

(b) *Description of records sought.* A request for access to records must describe the records sought in sufficient detail to enable Office personnel to locate the system of records containing

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the record with a reasonable amount of effort. Whenever possible, a request for access should describe the nature of the records sought, the date of the record or the period in which the record was compiled, and the name or identifying number of the system of records in which the requester believes the record is kept.

(c) *Agreement to pay fees.* The filing of a request for access to a record under this subpart shall be deemed to constitute an agreement to pay all applicable fees charged under § 700.17 up to \$25.00. The Office shall confirm this agreement in its letter of acknowledgment to the requesters. When filing a request, a requester may specify a willingness to pay a greater amount, if applicable.

(d) *Verification of identity.* Any individual who submits a request for access to records must verify his identity in one of the following ways, unless the notice published in the FEDERAL REGISTER describing the relevant system of records provides otherwise.

(1) Any requester making a request in writing must state in his request his full name, current address, and date and place of birth. In addition, a requester must provide with his request an example of his signature, which shall be notarized. In order to facilitate the identification and location of the requested records, a requester may also, at his option, include in his request his Social Security number.

(2) Any requester submitting a request in person may provide to the Office a form of Official photographic identification, such as a passport or an identification badge. If a requester is unable to produce a form of photographic identification, he may provide to the Office two or more acceptable forms of identification (such as a driver's license or credit card) bearing his name and address.

(e) *Verification of guardianship.* The parent or guardian of a minor (or the guardian of a person judicially determined to be incompetent) who submits a request for access to the records of the minor or incompetent must establish:

(1) His own identity and the identity of the subject of the record, as required in paragraph (d) of this section,

(2) That he is the parent or guardian of the subject of the record, which may be proved by providing a copy of the subject's birth certificate showing parentage or by providing a court order establishing the guardianship, and

(3) That he seeks to act on behalf of the subject of the record.

§ 700.12 Responses to requests for access to records.

(a) *Authority to grant or deny requests.* The head of the Office, or his designee, is authorized to grant or deny any request for access to a record.

(b) *Initial action by the Office.* When the Office receives a request for access to a record in its possession, the Office shall promptly determine whether another Government agency is better able to determine whether the record is exempt, to any extent, from access. If the Office determines that it is the agency best able to determine whether the record is exempt, to any extent, from access, then the Office shall respond to the request. If the Office determines that it is not the agency best able to determine whether the record is exempt from access, the Office shall respond to the request, after consulting with the agency best able to determine whether the record is exempt from access. Under ordinary circumstances, the agency that generated or originated a requested record shall be presumed to be the agency best able to determine whether the record is exempt from access. However, nothing in this section shall prohibit the agency that generated or originated a requested record from consulting with the Office, if the agency that generated or originated the requested record determines that the Office has an interest in the requested record or the information contained therein.

(c) *Law-enforcement information.* Whenever a request for access is made for a record containing information that relates to an investigation of a possible violation of criminal law or to a criminal law-enforcement proceeding and that was generated or originated by another agency, the Office shall consult with that other agency, as appropriate.

(d) *Classified information.* Whenever a request for access is made for a record