

**§ 321.7 Request for correction or amendment.**

(a) *General.* Upon request and proper identification by any individual who has been granted access to DSS records pertaining to himself or herself, that individual may request, either in person or through the mail, that the record be amended. Such a request must be made in writing and addressed to the Defense Security Service, Office of FOI and Privacy, 1340 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314-1651.

(b) *Content.* The following information must be included to insure effective action on the request:

(1) Description of the record. Requesters should specify the number of pages and documents, the titles of the documents, form numbers if there are any, dates on the documents and names of individuals who signed them. Any reasonable description of the document is acceptable.

(2) Description of the items to be amended. The description of the passages, pages or documents to be amended should be as clear and specific as possible.

(i) Page, line and paragraph numbers should be cited where they exist.

(ii) A direct quotation of all or a portion of the passage may be made if it isn't otherwise easily identifiable. If the passage is long, a quotation of its beginning and end will suffice.

(iii) In appropriate cases, a simple substantive request may be appropriate, e.g., 'delete all references to my alleged arrest in July 1970.'

(iv) If the requester has received a copy of the record, he may submit an annotated copy of documents he wishes amended.

(3) Type of amendment. The requester must clearly state the type of amendment he is requesting.

(i) Deletion or expungement, i.e., a complete removal from the record of data, sentences, passages, paragraphs or documents.

(ii) Correction of the information in the record to make it more accurate, e.g., rectify mistaken identities, dates, data pertaining to the individual, etc.

(iii) Additions to make the record more relevant, accurate or timely may be requested.

(iv) Other changes may be requested; they must be specifically and clearly described.

(4) Reason for amendment. Requests for amendment must be based on specific reasons, included in writing. Categories of reasons are as follows:

(i) Accuracy. Amendment may be requested where matters of fact are believed incorrectly recorded, e.g., dates, names, addresses, identification numbers, or any other information concerning the individual. The request, whenever possible, should contain the accurate information, copies of verifying documents, or indication of how the information can be verified.

(ii) Relevance. Amendment may be requested when information in a record is believed not to be relevant or necessary to the purposes of the record system.

(iii) Timeliness. Amendment may be requested when information is thought to be so old as to no longer be pertinent to the stated purposes of the records system. It may also be requested when there is recent information of a pertinent type that is not included in the record.

(iv) Completeness. Amendment may be requested where information in a record is incomplete with respect to its purpose. The data thought to have been omitted should be included or identified with the request.

(v) Fairness. Amendment may be requested when a record is thought to be unfair concerning the subject, in terms of the stated purposes of the record. In such cases, a source of additional information to increase the fairness of the record should be identified where possible.

(vi) Other reasons. Reasons for requesting amendment are not limited to those cited above. The content of the records is authorized in terms of their stated purposes which should be the basis for evaluating them. However, any matter believed appropriate may be submitted as a basis of an amendment request.

(vii) Court orders and statutes may require amendment of a file. While they do not require a Privacy Act request for execution, such may be brought to the attention of DSS by these procedures.

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(c) *Assistance.* Individuals seeking to request amendment of records pertaining to themselves that are maintained by DSS will be assisted as necessary by DSS officials. Where a request is incomplete, it will not be denied, but the requester will be contacted for the additional information necessary to his request.

(d) This section does not permit the alteration of evidence presented to courts, boards and other official proceedings.

### § 321.8 DSS review of request for amendment.

(a) *General.* Upon receipt from any individual of a request to amend a record pertaining to himself and maintained by the Defense Security Service, Office of FOI and Privacy will handle the request as follows:

(1) A written acknowledgment of the receipt of a request for amendment of a record will be provided to the individual within 10 working days, unless final action regarding approval or denial can be accomplished within that time. In that case, the notification of approval or denial will constitute adequate acknowledgment.

(2) Where there is a determination to grant all or a portion of a request to amend a record, the record shall be promptly amended and the requesting individual notified. Individuals, agencies or components shown by accounting records to have received copies of the record, or to whom disclosure has been made, will be notified, if necessary, of the amendment by the responsible official. Where a DoD recipient of an investigative record cannot be located, the notification, if necessary, will be sent to the personnel security element of the parent Component.

(3) Where there is a determination to deny all or a portion of a request to amend a record, the office will promptly:

(i) Advise the requesting individual of the specifics of the refusal and the reasons;

(ii) Inform the individual that he may request a review of the denial(s) from 'Director, Defense Security Service, 1340 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314-1651.' The request should be

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brief, in writing, and enclose a copy of the denial correspondence.

(b) DSS determination to approve or deny. Determination to approve or deny and request to amend a record or portion thereof may necessitate additional investigation or inquiry be made to verify assertions of individuals requesting amendment. Coordination will be made with the Director for Investigations and the Director of the Personnel Investigations Center in such instances.

### § 321.9 Appeal of initial amendment decision.

(a) *General.* Upon receipt from any individual of an appeal to review a DSS refusal to amend a record, the Defense Security Service, Office of FOI and Privacy will assure that such appeal is handled in compliance with the Privacy Act of 1974 and DoD Directive 5400.11 and accomplish the following:

(1) Review the record, request for amendment, DSS action on the request and the denial, and direct such additional inquiry or investigation as is deemed necessary to make a fair and equitable determination.

(2) Recommend to the Director whether to approve or deny the appeal.

(3) If the determination is made to amend a record, advise the individual and previous recipients (or an appropriate office) where an accounting of disclosures has been made.

(4) Where the decision has been made to deny the individual's appeal to amend a record, notify the individual:

(i) Of the denial and the reason;

(ii) Of his right to file a concise statement of reasons for disagreeing with the decision not to amend the record;

(iii) That such statement may be sent to the Defense Security Service, Office of FOI and Privacy, (GCF), 1340 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314-1651, and that it will be disclosed to users of the disputed record;

(iv) That prior recipients of the disputed record will be provided a copy of the statement of disagreement, or if they cannot be reached (e.g., through deactivation) the personnel security element of their DoD component;

(v) And, that he may file a suit in a Federal District Court to contest