

Office of Special Counsel

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(2) Filers may use another written format, but the submission should include:

(i) The name, mailing address, and telephone number(s) of the person(s) making the disclosure(s), and a time when that person(s) can be safely contacted by OSC;

(ii) The department or agency, location and organizational unit complained of; and

(iii) A statement as to whether the filer consents to the disclosure of his or her identity to the agency by OSC in connection with any referral to the appropriate agency.

[65 FR 64883, Oct. 31, 2000]

§ 1800.3 Advisory opinions.

The Special Counsel is authorized to issue advisory opinions only concerning Chapter 15 of Title 5, United States Code (dealing with political activity of State or local officers and employees) and Subchapter III of Chapter 73 of Title 5, United States Code (dealing with political activity of Federal officers and employees). Requesters may telephone the Office of Special Counsel toll free at 1-800-872-9855, or (202)/FTS 653-7143 in the Washington, DC, area, or make such requests in writing to the Office of Special Counsel, 1730 M Street, NW., Suite 201, Washington, DC 20036-4505.

[54 FR 47341, Nov. 14, 1989, as amended at 59 FR 64843, Dec. 16, 1994; 65 FR 81325, Dec. 26, 2000]

PART 1810—INVESTIGATIVE AUTHORITY OF THE SPECIAL COUNSEL

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 1212(e).

§ 1810.1 Investigative policy in discrimination complaints.

The Special Counsel is authorized to investigate allegations of discrimination prohibited by law, as defined in 5 U.S.C. 2302(b)(1). Since procedures for investigating discrimination complaints have already been established in the agencies and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Special Counsel will normally avoid duplicating those procedures and will defer to those procedures rather than

initiating an independent investigation.

[54 FR 47342, Nov. 14, 1989]

PART 1820—PUBLIC INFORMATION

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(3), 552(a)(4), 1212(g), 1219.

SOURCE: 54 FR 47342, Nov. 14, 1989, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1820.1 Public list.

(a) Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 1219, the Special Counsel maintains and makes available to the public a list of:

(1) Noncriminal matters referred to heads of agencies under 5 U.S.C. 1213 (c) and (g)(1), and reports received as a result of such referrals;

(2) Matters referred by the Special Counsel to heads of agencies under 5 U.S.C. 1215(c)(2); and

(3) Matters referred to heads of agencies under 5 U.S.C. 1214(e), together with certifications from the heads of agencies under such subsection.

(b) The list is available to the public between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays (except legal holidays) in the Office of Special Counsel, 1730 M Street, NW., Suite 201, Washington, DC 20036-4505.

[55 FR 47342, Nov. 14, 1989, as amended at 55 FR 47839, Nov. 16, 1990; 59 FR 64843, Dec. 16, 1994; 65 FR 81325, Dec. 26, 2000]

§ 1820.2 Procedures for obtaining records under the Freedom of Information Act.

Requests for records shall be made in writing. Requests should be addressed to the Office of Special Counsel, 1730 M Street, NW., Suite 201, Washington, DC 20036-4505. Requests must be clearly and prominently marked "Freedom of

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Information Act Request” on both the envelope and the letter.

[54 FR 47342, Nov. 14, 1989, as amended at 59 FR 64843, Dec. 16, 1994; 65 FR 81325, Dec. 26, 2000]

§ 1820.3 Categories of requesters under the Freedom of Information Act.

There are four categories of requesters:

(a) *Commercial use requesters.* These requesters seek information for themselves or on behalf of someone else for a use or purpose that furthers commercial, trade, or profit interests of the requester or the person on whose behalf the request is made. A requester will not be presumed to be a “commercial use requester” merely by submitting a request on corporate letterhead without further explanation of the use to which he plans to put the requested information. Similarly, a request submitted on the letterhead of a nonprofit organization without further explanation will not be presumed to be for a noncommercial purpose. The Office of Special Counsel will seek clarification from the requester where there is a reasonable doubt as to the intended use of the information.

(b) *Educational and noncommercial scientific institution requesters.* (1) An “educational institution” requester is associated with a preschool, a public or private elementary or secondary school, an institution of undergraduate or graduate higher education, or an institution of vocational or professional education, that operates a program or programs of scholarly research, and seeks the information for a scholarly or scientific research goal of the institution, rather than for an individual goal.

(2) A “noncommercial scientific institution” requester is associated with an institution that is not operated on a “commercial” basis (as that term is defined by paragraph (a) of this section), and which is operated solely for the purpose of conducting scientific research, the results of which are not intended to promote any particular product or industry.

(c) *News media requesters.* These requesters actively gather news for entities that are organized and operated to

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publish or broadcast news to the public. Freelance journalists may be news media requesters if they can demonstrate a solid basis for expecting publication through a news organization (such as by producing a publication contract or citing their past publication records), even though not actually employed by it. “News” means information about current events or information that would be of current interest to the public. News media “entities” include, but are not limited to, television or radio stations broadcasting to the public at large, and publishers of periodicals (but only in those instances when they can qualify as disseminators of “news”) who make their products available for purchase or subscription by the general public.

(d) All other requesters.

§ 1820.4 Free or partially free search time and partially free copying.

(a) *Free search time and partially free copying.* Educational and noncommercial scientific institution requesters and news media requesters who are requesting records for noncommercial use are entitled to free copying for the first 100 pages and free search time.

(b) *Partially free search time and partially free copying.* Requesters who are not commercial use requesters, educational or noncommercial scientific institution requesters, or news media requesters are “all other requesters”, and are entitled to two hours of free search time and free copying for the first 100 pages. Requests from record subjects for records about themselves filed in a system of records will continue to be treated under the fee provisions of the Privacy Act, which permits the assessment of fees only for copying.

§ 1820.5 Waiver or reduction of fees.

(a) The Associate Special Counsel for Investigation, the Deputy Associate Special Counsel for Prosecution, the Associate Special Counsel for Prosecution, the Deputy Special Counsel, and the Special Counsel may authorize waiver or reduction of fees that could otherwise be assessed if disclosure of the information requested:

(1) Is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to