

Employee of the Department means a current or former officer or employee of the United States appointed by or subject to the supervision of the Secretary, but does not include an officer or employee covered by part 2004 of this title.

FOIA means the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

Legal proceeding includes any proceeding before a court of law or other authority, i.e., administrative board or commission, hearing officer, arbitrator or other body conducting a quasi-judicial or legislative proceeding.

Legal proceeding among private litigants means any legal proceeding in which the United States is not a party.

Legal proceeding in which the United States is a party means any legal proceeding including as a named party the United States, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, or any other Federal executive or administrative agency or department, or any official thereof in his official capacity.

News means information that is about current events or that would be of current interest to the public.

Person means person as defined in 5 U.S.C. 551(2). It includes corporations and organizations as well as individuals.

Review means the process of examining a document located in response to a request to determine whether any portion of it may be withheld, excising portions to be withheld, and otherwise preparing the document for release. Review time includes time HUD spends considering any formal objection to disclosure made by a submitter under §15.108. Review does not include time spent resolving general legal or policy issues regarding the application of exemptions.

Search includes all time spent looking manually or by automated means for material that is responsive to a request, including page-by-page or line-by-line identification of material within documents.

Submitter means any person or entity who provides business information, directly or indirectly, to HUD. The term includes, but is not limited to, corporations, State governments, and foreign governments.

§ 15.3 What exemptions are authorized by 5 U.S.C. 552?

(a) The classes of records authorized to be exempted from disclosure by 5 U.S.C. 552 are those which concern matters that are:

(1) Specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and are in fact properly classified pursuant to such Executive order;

(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of the Department;

(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute;

(4) Trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;

(5) Interagency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the Department;

(6) Personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(7) Records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information:

(i) Could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings;

(ii) Would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication;

(iii) Could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(iv) Could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source, including a state, local or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of a record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source;

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(v) Would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law; or

(vi) Could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;

(8) Contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of the Department in connection with its responsibility for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or

(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

(b) Any reasonably segregable portion of a record shall be provided to any person requesting such record after deletion of the portions which are exempt under this section.

Subpart B—FOIA Disclosure of Information

SOURCE: 66 FR 6968, Jan. 22, 2001, unless otherwise noted.

§ 15.101 What is HUD's overall policy concerning disclosing identifiable records?

HUD will fully and responsibly disclose its identifiable records and information consistent with competing public interests concerning the national security, personal privacy, agency deliberative process, and obligations of confidentiality as are recognized by FOIA. HUD will make a record available in the form or format requested, if the record is readily reproducible in that format.

§ 15.102 Where and when may I inspect and copy records that FOIA requires HUD to make regularly available to the public?

(a) You may inspect and copy hardcopy records, including indices of the records, that section 552(a)(2) of FOIA requires HUD make available to the public at HUD's reading rooms. HUD has reading rooms in Headquarters in Washington, DC and in each of the Secretary's Representa-

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tive's offices. These reading rooms are open during the business hours for the HUD office in which they are located.

(b) For records created on or after November 1, 1996, this information is also available to you through HUD's Internet web site at <http://www.hud.gov/ogc/bshelf2a.html>.

§ 15.103 How can I get other records from HUD?

(a) *Generally.* You may submit a written request for copies of records in person or by mail.

(b) *Records located in a HUD field office.* If you are submitting a request for records located in a HUD field office, you should deliver or mail your request to the FOIA Liaison in the appropriate HUD Field Office.

(c) *Records located in HUD headquarters.* If you are submitting a request for records located in HUD Headquarters, you should deliver or mail your request to the FOIA Division, Office of the General Counsel. You may also use the FOIA electronic request form on HUD's Internet web site at <http://www.hud.gov/ogc/foiafree.html>.

(d) *What should I include in my FOIA request?* In your FOIA request you should:

(1) Clearly state that you are making a FOIA request. Although Federal agencies are required to process all requests for documents as Freedom of Information Act requests, whether or not specifically designated as FOIA requests, failure to clearly state that you are making a FOIA request could unduly delay the initial handling of your correspondence through HUD's FOIA processing;

(2) Reasonably describe the records you seek. Include information that you may know about the documents you are requesting;

(3) Indicate the form or format in which you would like the record made available;

(4) State your agreement to pay the fee. You may specify a dollar amount above which you want HUD to consult with you before you will agree to pay the fee;

(5) Indicate the fee category that you believe applies to you (see § 15.110);

(6) If you are making a request on behalf of another person for information