

FTC-I-1

SYSTEM NAME:

Nonpublic Investigational and Other Nonpublic Legal Program Records–FTC.

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION:

Not applicable.

SYSTEM LOCATION:

Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580.
See Appendix III for other locations where records may be maintained or accessed.

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM:

Participants in Commission investigations, rulemaking, advisory, and law enforcement proceedings; parties requesting formal advisory opinions; and consumers who have received redress or who are entitled to redress pursuant to Commission or court orders. (Businesses, sole proprietorships, or corporations are not covered by this system.) Parties requesting informal advisory opinions are covered by FTC-I-3, Informal Advisory Opinion Request and Response Files–FTC.

CATEGORIES OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

Name, address, employment status, age, date of birth, financial information, credit information, personal history, and records collected and generated during the investigation, which may include correspondence relating to the investigation; internal staff memoranda; copies of subpoenas issued during the investigation, affidavits, statements from witnesses, transcripts of testimony taken in the investigation, and accompanying exhibits; documents, records or copies obtained during the investigation; interview notes, investigative notes, staff working papers, draft materials, and other documents and records relating to the investigation; opening reports, progress reports, and closing reports; and other investigatory information or data relating to any of the following: investigation files; docketed and consent matters; rulemakings, workshops, and other public proceedings, including comments or other materials submitted in such proceedings; assurances of voluntary compliance; advisory opinions.

This system is limited to files and records that are about an individual, and only when the file or record is pulled (“retrieved”) by the name of that individual or other personal identifier (e.g., number, symbol, fingerprint, etc.). As described below, records in this system may become public if they are subject to such disclosure under the FTC’s Rules of Practice.

AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:

Federal Trade Commission Act, 15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.; Executive Order 10450.

PURPOSE(S):

To conduct the law enforcement, rulemaking, and advisory responsibilities of the Federal Trade Commission; to make determinations based upon the results of those matters; to report results of investigations to other agencies and authorities for their use in evaluating their programs and imposition of criminal, civil, or administrative sanctions; to report the results of investigations to other agencies or other regulatory bodies for any action deemed appropriate; to make appropriate portions of the records of those matters available to the public (see FTC-I-6, Public Records–FTC); and to maintain records of Commission activities related to those matters, including to make such records available within the FTC for historical, legal research, investigational, and similar purposes (see FTC System VII-6, Document Management and Retrieval System–FTC).

ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSES OF SUCH USES:

Records in this system may be:

- (1) Made available or referred to federal, state, local or international government authorities for investigation, possible criminal prosecution, civil action, regulatory order, or other law enforcement purpose;
- (2) Referred to outside experts or consultants when considered appropriate by FTC staff to assist in the conduct of agency matters;
- (3) Used by Commission contractors with recordkeeping, managerial, and budgeting responsibilities for information management purposes; and
- (4) Disclosed on the FTC's public record under the FTC's Rules of Practice. See FTC-I-6, Public Records–FTC.

See also Appendix I for other ways that the Privacy Act permits the FTC to use or disclose system records outside the agency.

DISCLOSURE TO CONSUMER REPORTING AGENCIES:

None, except as authorized under 5 U.S.C. 552a(b)(12) when trying to collect a claim of the Government. See Appendix I. For public portions of this system, see the system notice for FTC-I-6.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORING, RETRIEVING, ACCESSING, RETAINING, AND DISPOSING OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

STORAGE:

The FTC maintains these records in various electronic and non-electronic formats and

media (e.g., paper, microfilm, CD-ROMs, other digital files). The FTC maintains electronic records in this system using a combination of different databases and applications, rather than maintaining them in a single paper or electronic system.

RETRIEVABILITY:

Records are indexed by respondent's, participant's, or FTC staff member's name; company name; industry investigation title; and FTC matter number.

SAFEGUARDS:

For records other than those made public, access is restricted to agency personnel or contractors whose responsibilities require access. Paper records are maintained in lockable rooms or file cabinets. Access to electronic records is controlled by "user ID" and password combination and/or other appropriate electronic access or network controls (e.g., firewalls). FTC buildings are guarded and monitored by security personnel, cameras, ID checks, and other physical security measures.

RETENTION AND DISPOSAL:

Records from submitters in FTC investigations are destroyed or returned to the submitter, if so requested, at the conclusion of the matter, except for those received into the record of any proceeding and any other copies made for official use or that are required to be preserved for their historical or other value under applicable Federal records retention requirements. See 15 U.S.C. 57b-2(b)(5), 16 CFR 4.12. Retention periods for other system records depend on the type of record and the FTC proceeding or matter involved. Records are retained and disposed of under applicable schedules and procedures approved by the National Archives and Records Administration.

SYSTEM MANAGER(S) AND ADDRESS:

Director, Records and Filings Office, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE; RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURES; AND CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:

See Appendix II.

RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:

Individual respondent(s) or proposed respondent(s), defendant(s), company records, complainants, informants, witnesses, participants, FTC employees, commercial sources.

EXEMPTIONS CLAIMED FOR THE SYSTEM:

Copies of records contained in this system that have been placed on the FTC public record are available upon request or from the FTC's Web site, where applicable. See FTC-I-6, Public Records–FTC. However, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(2), records in this system that are not on the public record are exempt from the requirements of subsections (c)(3), (d), (e)(1), (e)(4) (G), (H), (I), and (f) of 5 U.S.C. 552a, and the corresponding provisions of 16 CFR 4.13. See FTC Rules of Practice 4.13(m), 16 CFR 4.13(m).