

Photography, Filming, or Video Recording at the NIH

The photography, filming, and video recording of the exterior of the NIH facilities, space, and portions of building interiors from within the confines of the NIH-controlled property are permitted with specific limitations and restrictions as indicated below:

Permitted Activities:

Individuals may take photographs, films or videos, for personal or news purposes on the grounds of the NIH-controlled properties to include entrances, lobbies, foyers, corridors, and auditoriums in use for public meetings, except when contrary to security regulations or signs as indicated below.

Restricted Activities:

Advertising/Commercial - Photographs and similar activities for advertising or commercial purposes may be taken only with the advance **written approval of the Director of the NIH**. *(It is strongly recommended this written approval be possessed by the individual taking the photos/films/video at the time when they are taken. If their actions are questioned by police officers and/or security guards, the written approval should be presented to the police officer/guard as proof of authorization.)*

Patients - A person may take photographs of a patient only with the informed consent of the patient (or the natural or legal guardian) and of the **Director of the Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center or authorized delegate**. *(It is strongly recommended this written approval be possessed by the individual taking the photos/films/video at the time when they are taken. If their actions are questioned by police officers and/or security guards, the written approval should be presented to the police officer/guard as proof of authorization.)*

Construction & Renovations - All employees, contractors, and visitors are restricted from photographing, filming, videotaping ongoing construction and renovation sites without the **written approval of the ORF assigned project officer**. *(It is strongly recommended this written approval be possessed by the individual taking the photos/films/video at the time when they are taken. If their actions are questioned by police officers and/or security guards, the written approval should be presented to the police officer/guard as proof of authorization.)*

Other Restrictions: All employees, contractors, and visitors are restricted from photographing, filming, videotaping the following activities, security equipment, facilities and space, **without the written approval of the Director of the Division of Physical Security Management (DPSM)** as described under the “Procedures to Request Permission from DPSM” caption below:

- a. **Physical Security Systems** - include but are not limited to access control devices such as card readers, biometric devices and secure locking systems, electronic camera surveillance and video recording systems, emergency communication systems, intrusion detection and alarm systems, security lighting, blast mitigation techniques, explosion and

weapon detection screening, barriers and facility/perimeter protection measures, and other specialized security systems

- b. **Campus perimeter, pedestrian and vehicle entry control points**
- c. **Division of Police and Guard Force Operations**
- d. **Where Prohibited by Signs** - Photography of facilities displaying signs posted at the front entrances prohibiting the photos/films/videoing. Currently, photographing/filming/videoing at the below locations is prohibited by signage:

Procedures to Request Permission from DPSM

Any individual or organization requesting the photographing, filming or videotaping of restricted activities/locations must be sponsored by an NIH Institute or Center (IC) employee.

Requests in the form of an email must be submitted by the IC sponsor and addressed to the Director of DPSM (fullerob@mail.nih.gov). The email must contain the following:

- a. IC Sponsor/Escort contact information
- b. The requestor's name, organization, and contact information
- c. Date, time, location, duration and purpose

Upon approval, DPSM will send an email to the IC sponsor authorizing the requestor to photograph, film, or videotape.

The sponsor and/or requestor must maintain within an e-mail and possessed by the photographer at the time when photos are taken. If their actions are questioned by police officers and/or security guards, the e-mail should be presented as proof of authorization.

The IC sponsor will escort the requestor for the duration of the event to ensure that the requestor complies with this policy.

Enforcement

Violations of this policy may result in a reprimand, expulsion of the requestor from the NIH premise by the Division of Police or **be subject to a fine of not more than \$50 or imprisonment of not more than thirty days or both, for each violation (40 U.S.C. 318c).**

Suspicious Photography/Filming/Videoing

All suspicious photography/filming/videoing should be reported immediately to the NIH Police. Examples would include:

- a. A person trying to go unnoticed as they take photos/films/videos
- b. A person taking photos/videos of a sensitive area from outside a security checkpoint

- c. Anyone avoiding eye contact or other people as they take photos/videos or make notes, a person showing too much interest in a sensitive area, etc.

NOTE: DPSM utilizes surveillance monitoring and recording capabilities at various locations in support of security operations. All individuals working or visiting at any of the NIH owned or leased facilities are subject to video surveillance in public areas and controlled spaces.