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[Home](#) </> [FOIA \(Freedom of Information Act\)](#)

**Navigate to:**



# FOIA (Freedom of Information Act)

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) is a federal statute that allows individuals to request access to federal agency records, except to the extent records are claimed as exempt from disclosure under one or more of the nine (9) exemptions of the Freedom of Information Act. If you have any questions or concerns regarding FOIA, please feel free to send an email to [HHS.ACFO@hhs.gov](mailto:HHS.ACFO@hhs.gov).

HHS FOIA recommends web submission of FOIA requests via the following Public Access Link

(PAL): <https://requests.publiclink.hhs.gov/App/Index.aspx>

<<https://requests.publiclink.hhs.gov/app/index.aspx>>.

If you use PAL to request records about yourself, you can also securely enter and upload identity verification information and documents via PAL. You may wish to review the requirements for first-party access requests here: [How to Make a Privacy Act Request](#) </foia/privacy/how-make-privacy-act-

request.html>. Please note that for your security, submission of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) via email to comply with Privacy Act verification of identity requirements is not recommended.

Please submit FOIA appeals via the method and address specified in the FOIA response letter in which appeal rights are granted.

## Submit & Check Status of FOIA Requests

<<https://requests.publiclink.hhs.gov/app/index.aspx>>

Submit or check the status of a request through our Public Access Link. You also may contact the FOIA Office directly at (202) 690-7453.

## FOIA Contacts & Requester Service Centers and Privacy Act Contacts

<[foia/contacts/index.html](https://foia/contacts/index.html)>

Contact the HHS FOIA Requester Service Centers (FSRCs) that respond to FOIA requests for HHS records.

## HHS FOIA Reports

<[foia/reports/index.html](https://foia/reports/index.html)>

Get statistics on requests and updates on the HHS FOIA office in our annual, quarterly, and Chief Officer Reports.

## FOIA Library / Electronic Reading Room

<[foia/electronic-reading-room/index.html](https://foia/electronic-reading-room/index.html)>

Read agency manuals, agency policy statements, and opinions developed in the adjudication of

cases.  
Includes, e.g., Guidance to HHS  
FOIA Offices About Mailing SSNs.

## **FOIA Exemptions & Exclusions**

</foia/exemptions-and-exclusions/index.html>

Review the 9 disclosure exemptions and 3 special protection provisions / exclusion categories of records not subject to FOIA requirements.

## **FOIA & Privacy Act Statutes & Resources**

</foia/statutes-and-resources/index.html>

Learn about the rules and regulations that govern the FOIA and Privacy Act.

## **FOIA FAQs**

</foia/faqs/index.html>

Get answers to commonly asked FOIA questions.

## **FOIA Appeals**

</foia/appeals/index.html>

Learn how to appeal a denied FOIA request.

## **FOIA Fees**

</foia/fees/index.html>

Review fees that may be associated with your FOIA

## **COVID-19 Contracts**

</foia/coronavirus-contracts/index.html>

Find information on available contracts during the COVID-19

request

pandemic.

## **HIPAA - Health Information Privacy**

</hipaa/index.html>

Find guidance and more information about the HIPAA Privacy Rule, including what information is protected and how health information is used and disclosed.

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