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What is the FOIA?

Since 1967, the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) has provided the public the right to request access to records from any federal agency. It is often described as the law that keeps citizens in the know about their government. Federal agencies are required to disclose any information requested under the FOIA unless it falls under one of nine exemptions which protect interests such as personal privacy, national security, and law enforcement.

What is the FOIA?



The FOIA also requires agencies to proactively post online certain categories of information, including frequently requested records. As Congress, the President, and the Supreme Court have all recognized, the FOIA is a vital part of our democracy.

What is FOIA.gov?

Who can make a FOIA request?

How do I make a FOIA request?

Where do I send a FOIA request?

Is there a special form I have to use to make a FOIA request?

What can I ask for under the FOIA?

Who handles FOIA requests?

How is a FOIA request processed?

How much does it cost to make a FOIA request?

Can I ask that any fees be waived?

What will I receive in response to a FOIA request?

How long will it take before I get a response?

Can I ever have my request processed faster than usual or expedited?

Are there special requirements for obtaining records on myself?

What about requirements for obtaining records on someone else?

What are FOIA exemptions?

What are exclusions?

How do I file an administrative appeal?

What is the Office of Government Information Services?

What is the Presumption of Openness and Who Issues Guidance to Agencies on the FOIA?



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