

Central Intelligence Agency

§ 1900.12

(n) *Records or agency records* means all documents, irrespective of physical or electronic form, made or received by the CIA in pursuance of federal law or in connection with the transaction of public business and appropriate for preservation by the CIA as evidence of the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, operations, or other activities of the CIA or because of the informational value of the data contained therein; it does not include:

(1) *Books, newspapers, magazines, journals, magnetic or printed transcripts of electronic broadcasts, or similar public sector materials* acquired generally and/or maintained for library or reference purposes; to the extent that such materials are incorporated into any form of analysis or otherwise distributed or published by the Agency, they are fully subject to the disclosure provisions of the FOIA;

(2) *Index, filing, or museum documents* made or acquired and preserved solely for reference, indexing, filing, or exhibition purposes; and

(3) *Routing and transmittal sheets and notes and filing or destruction notes* which do not also include information, comment, or statements of substance;

(o) *Responsive records* means those documents (i.e., records) which the Agency has determined to be within the scope of a FOIA request.

[62 FR 32481, June 16, 1997, as amended at 72 FR 39316, July 18, 2007]

§ 1900.03 Contact for general information and requests.

For general information on this part, to inquire about the FOIA program at CIA, or to file a FOIA request (or expression of interest), please direct your communication in writing to the Information and Privacy Coordinator, Central Intelligence Agency, Washington, DC 20505. Such inquiries will also be accepted by facsimile at (703) 613-3007. For general information or status information on pending cases only, the telephone number is (703) 613-1287. Collect calls cannot be accepted.

§ 1900.04 Suggestions and complaints.

The Agency welcomes suggestions or complaints with regard to its administration of the Freedom of Information Act. Many requesters will receive pre-

paid, customer satisfaction survey cards. Letters of suggestion or complaint should identify the specific purpose and the issues for consideration. The Agency will respond to all substantive communications and take such actions as determined feasible and appropriate.

FILING OF FOIA REQUESTS

§ 1900.11 Preliminary Information.

Members of the public shall address all communications to the CIA Coordinator as specified at 32 CFR 1900.03 and clearly delineate the communication as a request under the Freedom of Information Act and this regulation. CIA employees receiving a communication in the nature of a FOIA request shall expeditiously forward same to the Coordinator. Requests and appeals on requests, referrals, or coordinations received from members of the public who owe outstanding fees for information services at this or other federal agencies will not be accepted and action on all pending requests shall be terminated in such circumstances.

§ 1900.12 Requirements as to form and content.

(a) *Required information.* No particular form is required. A request need only reasonably describe the records of interest. This means that documents must be described sufficiently to enable a professional employee familiar with the subject to locate the documents with a reasonable effort. Commonly this equates to a requirement that the documents must be locatable through the indexing of our various systems. Extremely broad or vague requests or requests requiring research do not satisfy this requirement.

(b) *Additional information for fee determination.* In addition, a requester should provide sufficient personal identifying information to allow us to determine the appropriate fee category. A requester should also provide an agreement to pay all applicable fees or fees not to exceed a certain amount or request a fee waiver.

(c) *Otherwise.* Communications which do not meet these requirements will be considered an expression of interest and the Agency will work with, and