§ 1254.1

1254.36 What care must I take when handling documents?
1254.38 How do I keep documents in order?
1254.40 How does NARA prevent removal of documents?

RULES RELATING TO USING MICROFILM

1254.42 What are the rules that apply to using self-service microfilm?
1254.44 How long may I use a microfilm reader?

RULES RELATING TO SELF-SERVICE COPYING

1254.70 How may I make my own copies of documents?
1254.72 What procedures do I follow to copy documents?
1254.74 What documents are unsuitable for copying on a self-service or personal copier or scanner?
1254.76 What procedures do I follow to copy formerly national security-classified documents?

RULES RELATING TO USING COPYING EQUIPMENT

1254.80 Does NARA allow me to use scanners or other personal copying equipment?
1254.82 What limitations apply to my use of self-service card-operated copiers?
1254.84 How may I use a debit card for copiers in the Washington, DC, area?
1254.86 May I use a personal paper-to-paper copier at the National Archives at College Park?
1254.88 What are the rules for the Motion Picture, Sound, and Video Research Room at the National Archives at College Park?

Subpart C—Copying Archival Materials

GENERAL INFORMATION

1254.60 What are NARA’s copying services?
1254.62 Does NARA have archival materials protected by copyright?
1254.64 Will NARA certify copies?

RULES RELATING TO SELF-SERVICE COPYING

1254.70 How may I make my own copies of documents?
1254.72 What procedures do I follow to copy documents?
1254.74 What documents are unsuitable for copying on a self-service or personal copier or scanner?
1254.76 What procedures do I follow to copy formerly national security-classified documents?

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1254.88 What are the rules for the Motion Picture, Sound, and Video Research Room at the National Archives at College Park?

Subpart D—Microfilming Archival Materials

1254.90 What is the scope of this subpart?
1254.92 How do I submit a request to microfilm records and donated historical materials?
1254.94 What must my request include?
1254.96 What credits must I give NARA?

36 CFR Ch. XII (7–1–14 Edition)

1254.98 May NARA make subsequent use of my publication?
1254.100 How does NARA evaluate requests?
1254.102 What requests does NARA not approve?
1254.104 How does NARA determine fees to prepare documents for microfilming?
1254.106 What are NARA’s equipment standards?
1254.108 What are NARA’s requirements for the microfilming process?
1254.110 Does NARA ever rescind permission to microfilm?

SOURCE: 69 FR 39314, June 30, 2004, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General Information

§ 1254.1 What kinds of archival materials may I use for research?

(a) The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) preserves records of all three branches (Executive, Legislative, and Judicial) of the Federal Government in record groups that reflect how government agencies created and maintained them. Most of these records are of Executive Branch agencies. We also have individual documents and collections of donated historical materials that significantly supplement existing records in our custody or provide information not available elsewhere in our holdings. Descriptions of many of our records are available through our Web site, http://www.archives.gov.

(b) We provide information about records and we make them available to the public for research unless they have access restrictions. Some records may be exempt from release by law. Donors may apply restrictions on access to historical materials that they donate to NARA. Access restrictions are further explained in part 1256 of this chapter. We explain procedures for obtaining information about records in §1254.2.

(c) In addition to traditional paper (textual) materials, our holdings also include special media materials such as microfilm, still pictures, motion pictures, sound and video recordings, cartographic and architectural records, and electronic records. The majority of these materials are housed at the National Archives at College Park, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740–
6001. Many of these types of materials also are represented in the holdings of our Presidential libraries and our regional archives facilities listed in part 1253 of this chapter.

(d) The majority of our archival materials are 30 years old or older.

(e) Records creating agencies hold the legal title and control access to records housed in NARA records centers. Our procedures to obtain access to these records are in §1256.2.

§ 1254.4 Where and when are documents available to me for research?

(a) You may obtain general information about the location of records by visiting the NARA Web site at www.archives.gov; writing to the National Archives and Records Administration (NWCC2), 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740–6001; completing our Inquire form at http://www.archives.gov/global_pages/inquire_form.html; sending a fax request to (301) 837–0483; or calling (202) 501–5400, (301) 837–2000, or toll free (866) 272–6272.

(b) The locations of NARA’s research rooms are shown in part 1253 of this chapter. Hours for research rooms are posted at http://www.archives.gov. Contact our facilities directly for information about their particular holdings. A facility or unit director may authorize that documents be made available at times other than the times specified.

(c) Before planning a visit, contact the facility holding materials of potential interest to determine whether the documents are available, whether there are enough documents to warrant a visit, or whether ordering copies would be more practical.

(d) In addition to the procedures in this part, researchers who wish to use archival materials that contain national security classified information must follow procedures in part 1256 of this chapter.

§ 1254.6 Do I need a researcher identification card to use archival materials at a NARA facility?

(a) Yes, you need a researcher identification card to use original archival materials at a NARA facility. See §§1254.8 and 1254.10 for information on obtaining a card.

(b) You also need a researcher identification card if you wish to use only microfilm copies of documents at NARA’s Washington, DC, area facilities and in any NARA facility where the microfilm research room is not separate from the textual research room.

(c) If you are using only microfilm copies of records in some regional archives where the microfilm research room is separate from the textual room, you do not need an identification card but you must register as described in §1254.22.

§ 1254.8 What information do I need to provide when applying for a researcher identification card?

(a) You must apply in person and show identification containing your picture or physical description, such as a driver’s license or school identification card. You also must provide proof of your current address, such as a bank statement, utility bill, or department of motor vehicles change of address...