National Archives and Records Administration

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NARA research privileges of that person and will consult with NARA’s General Counsel or his or her designee to determine any other steps to be taken to prevent any further disclosure of the personal information concerned. NARA may also inform the following persons and organizations of the researcher’s failure to follow the conditions of use:

(1) The institution with which the researcher is affiliated, if applicable;
(2) Persons who served as references in the application for access;
(3) Organizations that provided grant funds for the project;
(4) The sponsor of the publication or public presentation; and
(5) Appropriate professional organizations.

Subpart C—Access to Donated Historical Materials

§ 1256.30 How do I obtain access to donated historical materials?

NARA encourages researchers to confer with the appropriate director or reference staff member at the facilities listed in part 1253 of this chapter. Some donated historical materials have restrictions on their use and availability as stated in writing by the donors in the Donor’s Deed of Gift. Some may have other restrictions imposed by statute or Executive Order. If warranted, the Archivist may apply general restrictions to donated materials even when not specified in the donor’s deed of gift. NARA staff can assist you with questions about restrictions or copyright protection that may apply to donated materials. See §1256.36 for information on appealing closure of donated materials and subpart D of this part for information about general restrictions.

§ 1256.32 How do I request access to restricted information in donated historical materials?

(a) At Presidential libraries and regional archives, you may write to the appropriate director at the facilities in part 1253 of this chapter. In the Washington, DC, area, you may write to the Director of Access Programs (NWC) for donated textual materials or the Director of Modern Records Programs (NWM) for donated electronic records.

(b) You may request a review of documents restricted under terms of a donor’s deed of gift or other legal instrument to determine whether the conditions originally requiring the closure still exist. Your request must describe each document requested so that the staff can locate it with a reasonable amount of effort. For files that NARA previously screened, you may cite the reference to the withheld document as it appears on the withdrawal sheet.

(c) In many instances, the director or his or her designee will determine whether entire documents or portions of them can be opened. However, a donor or his or her representative reserves the right to determine whether the donor’s materials, a series, or a document or portions of it should remain closed (see §1256.36).

(d) For classified information in donated historical materials, you may file a mandatory review request under Executive Order 12958, as amended, as described in §1256.74.

§ 1256.34 How long may access to some donated historical materials be denied?

Some donated historical materials are closed for long periods, either under the provisions of the deed of gift, our general restrictions described in subpart D of this part, or another governing authority. We are sometimes able to make a copy of materials with restricted information redacted.

§ 1256.36 When can I appeal decisions about access to donated historical materials?

(a) If you wish to appeal a denial of access from the director or his designee in implementing the provisions of a donor’s deed of gift, you may write a letter addressed to the Deputy Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740–6001. The Deputy Archivist, the Assistant Archivist for Presidential Libraries, and the