Subpart B—What Are the Rules for Filming, Photographing, or Videotaping on NARA Property?

§ 1280.40 Definitions.

(a) Filming, photographing, or videotaping for commercial purposes. Any filming, photographing, or videotaping to promote commercial enterprises or commodities.

(b) News filming, photographing, or videotaping. Any filming, photographing, or videotaping done by a commercial or non-profit news organization that is intended for use in a television or radio news broadcast, newspaper, or periodical.

(c) Personal use filming, photographing, or videotaping. Any filming, photographing, or videotaping intended solely for personal use that will not be commercially distributed.

§ 1280.42 When do the rules in this subpart apply?

(a) These rules apply to anyone who is filming, photographing, or videotaping inside any NARA-run facility and while on NARA property.

(b) Filming, photographing, and videotaping on the grounds of any NARA regional records services facility, or on the grounds surrounding the Washington National Records Center are governed by GSA regulations, management of Buildings and Grounds, found at 41 CFR part 101-20, and must be approved by a GSA official.

§ 1280.44 May I film, photograph, or videotape on NARA property for commercial purposes?

No, filming, photographing, and videotaping on NARA property for commercial purposes is prohibited.

§ 1280.46 What are the rules for filming, photographing, or videotaping on NARA property for personal use?

(a) You may film, photograph, or videotape outside a NARA facility so long as you do not impede vehicular or pedestrian traffic.

(b) You may film, photograph, or videotape inside a NARA facility during regular business hours in public areas, including research rooms and exhibition areas, under the following conditions:

(1) You may not use a flash or other supplemental lighting; and

(2) You may not use a tripod or similar equipment.

(c) You may not film, photograph, or videotape in any of the exhibit areas of the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, including the Rotunda where the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights are displayed.

[65 FR 34978, June 1, 2000, as amended at 73 FR 36793, June 30, 2008; 75 FR 3863, Jan. 25, 2010]

§ 1280.48 How do I apply to film, photograph, or videotape on NARA property for news purposes?

(a) If you wish to film, photograph, or videotape for news purposes at the National Archives Building (as delineated in §1280.2(a)), the National Archives at College Park, or the Washington National Records Center, you must request permission from the NARA Public Affairs Officer, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20508–0001. See also §1280.42(b) for additional permissions relating to the Washington National Records Center.

(b) If you wish to film, photograph, or videotape for news purposes at a Presidential library or at a regional records services facility, you must contact the director of the library.
§ 1280.50 What will I be allowed to film, photograph, or videotape for news purposes?

(a) NARA will permit you to film, photograph, or videotape sections of the interior or exterior of any NARA facility only for stories about:

(1) NARA programs;
(2) NARA exhibits;
(3) NARA holdings;
(4) NARA services;
(5) A former President;
(6) A researcher who has made or is making use of NARA holdings (provided that the researcher also approves your request); or
(7) Any other NARA-related activity approved by the appropriate NARA representative.

(b) NARA reserves the right to reject any request that does not meet the criteria set forth in 36 CFR 1280.50(a) and (c) or because of scheduling or staffing constraints.

(c) We will not grant you permission to film, photograph, or videotape if you intend to use the film, photographs, or videotape for commercial, partisan political, sectarian, or similar activities.

§ 1280.52 What are the rules for filming, photographing, or videotaping on NARA property for news purposes?

The following conditions and restrictions apply to anyone that has been granted permission to film, photograph, or videotape for news purposes under Subpart B:

(a) NARA may limit or prohibit use of artificial light in connection with the filming, photographing, or videotaping of documents for news purposes. You may not use any supplemental lighting devices while filming, photographing, or videotaping inside a NARA facility in the Washington, DC, area without the prior permission of the NARA Public Affairs Officer. If the Public Affairs Officer approves your use of artificial lighting in the Rotunda, NARA will use facsimiles in place of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. If NARA approves your use of high intensity lighting, NARA will cover or replace with facsimiles all other exhibited documents that fall within the boundaries of such illumination. You may not use any supplemental lighting devices at the Presidential Libraries and the regional records services facilities without permission from a NARA representative at that facility.

(b) On a case-by-case basis, the Public Affairs Officer or other appropriate NARA representative may grant you permission to film, photograph, or videotape in stack areas containing uncategorized records.

(c) While filming, photographing, or videotaping, you are liable for injuries to people or property that result from your activities on NARA property.