

§ 15.106

have a compelling need for the records or in other cases as determined by the agency. If HUD grants your request for expedited processing, HUD will give your request priority and will process it as soon as practicable. HUD will consider a compelling need to exist if:

(1) Your failure to obtain the requested records on an expedited basis could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual or a threatened loss of substantial due process rights; or,

(2) You are primarily engaged in disseminating information and there is an urgency to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal Government activity.

§ 15.106 How will HUD respond to my request?

(a) *Who will respond to my request?* (1) The FOIA Division of the Office of General Counsel in HUD Headquarters and the FOIA liaisons in each HUD Field Office are authorized to release copies of any HUD records unless disclosure is clearly not appropriate under FOIA.

(2) The FOIA Division in HUD Headquarters and the FOIA liaisons in each HUD Field Office may deny a request for a record in accordance with the provisions of FOIA and this part.

(b) *What type of a response will I receive?* Within the time limit described in § 15.103, HUD will either:

(1) Agree to give you all the records you requested;

(2) Advise you that HUD will not give you some or all of the records you requested. Any denial or partial denial of a requested record must be concurred in by the FOIA Division in Headquarters, by counsel in the Field Offices, or by counsel in HUD's Departmental Enforcement Center Satellite Offices. In this case, HUD will:

(i) Explain why it has decided not to comply fully with your request, citing specific exemptions where applicable;

(ii) Describe the records denied or, if there are fewer than 21 records denied, list them specifically;

(iii) Estimate the volume of the records denied unless doing so would harm a protected interest; and

(iv) Explain how to appeal that decision, and provide the name and address

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of the HUD official to whom you should submit your appeal.

(3) Tell you that HUD's estimate of the fee is more than you have agreed to pay and ask to confer within 10 days to see if you can reformulate your request so that HUD can meet your request at a fee that is acceptable to you; or

(4) Tell you that you will not receive a response until you have either paid your fee or committed to the amount of fee you will pay, as applicable, and will provide you 10 days to pay, or commit to pay, the fee.

(5) If you requested expedited processing, advise you whether your request is granted or denied and, if your request is denied, advise you of your right to appeal.

(c) *What action may HUD take if I fail to respond?* If you fail to respond within a period specified in this subpart, HUD may consider your request for records withdrawn and may terminate processing of your request.

§ 15.107 How does HUD handle requests that involve classified records?

If your request involves the release of documents that are classified under Executive Order 12958, HUD will refer your request and the pertinent documents to the originating agency for processing according to the requirements of § 15.104(a). HUD may refuse to confirm or deny the existence of the requested information if the originating agency determines that the fact of its existence is itself classified.

§ 15.108 What are HUD's policies concerning designating confidential commercial or financial information under Exemption 4 of the FOIA and responding to requests for business information?

(a) *HUD's general policy concerning business information which may be considered as confidential commercial or financial information.* Except as provided in this section or otherwise required by law, HUD officers and employees may not disclose business information which is considered as confidential commercial or financial information to anyone other than to HUD officers or employees who are properly entitled to the information to perform their official duties.