

you want in the National Archives or another storage center, we will retrieve and review them for possible disclosure. However, the Federal Government destroys many old records, so sometimes it is impossible to fill requests. Various laws, regulations, and manuals give the time periods for keeping records before they may be destroyed. For example, there is information about retention of records in the Records Disposal Act of 1944, 44 U.S.C. 3301 through 3314; the Federal Property Management Regulations, 41 CFR 101-11.4; the General Records Schedules of the National Archives and Records Administration; and in the HHS Handbook: *Files Maintenance and Records Disposition*.

(b) *Furnishing records.* The requirement is that we furnish copies only of records that we have or can retrieve. We are not compelled to create new records. For example, we are not required to write a new program so that a computer will print information in the format you prefer. However, if the requested information is maintained in computerized form, but we can, with minimal computer instructions, produce the information on paper, we will do this if it is the only way to respond to a request. Nor are we required to perform research for you. On the other hand, we may decide to conserve government resources and at the same time supply the records you need by consolidating information from various records rather than copying them all. Moreover, we are required to furnish only one copy of a record and usually impose that limit. If information exists in different forms, we will provide the record in the form that best conserves government resources. For example, if it requires less time and expense to provide a computer record as a paper printout rather than in an electronic medium, we will provide the printout.

Subpart C—Release and Denial of Records

§ 5.31 Designation of authorized officials.

(a) *Freedom of Information Officers.* To provide coordination and consistency in responding to FOIA requests, only Freedom of Information Officers have

the authority to release or deny records. These same officials determine fees.

(1) *HHS Freedom of Information Officer.* Only the HHS Freedom of Information Officer may determine whether to release or deny records in any of the following situations:

(i) The records you seek include records addressed to or sent from an official or office of the Office of the Secretary, including its staff offices, or of any Regional Director's Office;

(ii) The records you seek include any records of the Office of Human Development Services, the Family Support Administration, or any organizational unit of HHS not specifically identified below; or

(iii) The records include records of more than one of the major units identified below (PHS, CMS, and SSA) either at headquarters or in a Regional Office.

(2) *PHS Freedom of Information Officer.* If the records you seek are exclusively records of the Public Health Service or if the records you seek involve more than one health agency of the Public Health Service, including its records in the regions, only the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health (Communications), who also is the PHS Freedom of Information Officer, may determine whether to release or deny the records, except as follows:

(i) *CDC and ATSDR Freedom of Information Officer.* If the records you seek are exclusively records of the Centers for Disease Control and/or the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, only the Director, Office of Public Affairs, CDC, who also is the CDC and ATSDR Freedom of Information Officer, may determine whether to release or deny the records.

(ii) *FDA Freedom of Information Officer.* If the records you seek are exclusively records of the Food and Drug Administration, only the Associate Commissioner for Public Affairs, FDA, who also is the FDA Freedom of Information Officer, may determine whether to release or deny the records.

(iii) *NIH Freedom of Information Officer.* If the records you seek are exclusively records of the National Institutes of Health, only the Associate Director of Communications, HIH, who

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also is the NIH Freedom of Information Officer, may determine whether to release or deny the records.

(iv) *HRSA Freedom of Information Officer.* If the records you seek are exclusively records of the Health Resources and Services Administration, only the Associate Administrator for Communications, HRSA, who also is the HRSA Freedom of Information Officer, may determine whether to release or deny the records.

(v) *ADAMHA Freedom of Information Officer.* If the records you seek are exclusively records of the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration, only the Associate Administrator for Communications and Public Affairs, ADAMHA, who is also the ADAMHA Freedom of Information Officer, may determine whether to release or deny the records.

(vi) *IHS Freedom of Information Officer.* If the records you seek are exclusively records of the Indian Health Service, only the Director of Communications, IHS, who also is the IHS Freedom of Information Officer, may determine whether to release or deny the records.

(3) *SSA Freedom of Information Officer.* If the records you seek are exclusively records of the Social Security Administration, including its records in the regions, only the Director, Office of Public Inquiries, SSA, who also is the SSA Freedom of Information Officer, may determine whether to release or deny the records.

(4) *CMS Freedom of Information Officer.* If the records you seek are exclusively records of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, including its records in the regions, only the Director, Office of Public Affairs, CMS, who also is the CMS Freedom of Information Officer, may determine whether to release or deny the records.

(b) *Delegations.* Any of the above Freedom of Information Officers may delegate his or her authority to release or deny records and to determine fees. Any such delegation requires the concurrence of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs.

(c) *Addresses and telephone numbers.* The addresses and telephone numbers of the Freedom of Information Officers are listed below.

45 CFR Subtitle A (10-1-03 Edition)

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICERS

HHS Freedom of Information Officer, Room 645-F, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20201, *Tel:* (202) 472-7453

SSA Freedom of Information Officer, Room 4-H-8, Annex Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235, *Tel:* (301) 965-3962

CMS Freedom of Information Officer, Room 100, Professional Building, Office of Public Affairs, 6660 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21207, *Tel:* (301) 966-5352

PHS Freedom of Information Officer, Room 13-C-24, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857, *Tel:* (301) 443-5252

FDA Freedom of Information Officer, HFW-35, Room 12A16, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857, *Tel:* (301) 443-1813

NIH Freedom of Information Officer, National Institutes of Health, Building 31, Room 2B39, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, *Tel:* (301) 496-5633

CDC Freedom of Information Officer, Centers for Disease Control, 1600 Clifton Road, NE., Atlanta, Georgia 30333, *Tel:* (404) 329-3286

HRSA Freedom of Information Officer, Room 14-43, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857, *Tel:* (301) 443-2086

ADAMHA Freedom of Information Officer, Room 12-C-15, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857, *Tel:* (301) 443-3783

IHS Freedom of Information Officer, Room 5-A-39, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857, *Tel:* (301) 443-1397.

§ 5.32 Release of records.

(a) *Records previously released.* If we have released a record, or a part of a record, to others in the past, we will ordinarily release it to you also. However, we will not release it to you if a statute forbids this disclosure, and we will not necessarily release it to you if an exemption applies in your situation and did not apply, or applied differently, in the previous situations.

(b) *Unauthorized disclosure.* The principle stated in paragraph (a) of this section, does not apply if the previous release was unauthorized.

(c) *Poor copy.* If we cannot make a legible copy of a record to be released, we do not attempt to reconstruct it. Instead, we furnish the best copy possible and note its poor quality in our reply.