

General Services Administration

§ 105-64.301-5

§ 105-64.301-3 Granting access.

(a) Upon receiving a request for access to nonexempt records, the manager must make them available to the subject individual or acknowledge the request within 10 workdays after it is received, stating when the records will be available.

(b) If the manager expects a delay of more than the 10 days allowed, he or she should state the reason why in the acknowledgement.

(c) If a request for access does not contain enough information to find the records, the manager should request additional information from the individual and is allowed 10 more workdays after receiving it to make the records available or acknowledge receiving the request.

(d) Records are available during normal business hours at the offices where the records are maintained. Requesters should be prepared to identify themselves by signature and to show other identification verifying their signature.

(e) Managers may permit an individual to examine the original of a nonexempt record and, if asked, provide the person with a copy of the record. Fees are charged only for copies given to the person, not for copies made for the agency's convenience.

(f) A requester may pick up a record in person or receive it by mail, directed to an address provided in the request. The manager should not give a record to a third party to deliver to the subject individual, except medical records as outlined in §105-64.301-2 or as described in paragraph (g) of this section.

(g) If a person wants to have someone else accompany him or her while reviewing a record or when obtaining a copy of it, he or she must first sign a statement authorizing the disclosure of the record. The system manager shall maintain this statement with the record.

(h) The procedure to review the account of disclosures is the same as the procedures for reviewing a record.

§ 105-64.301-4 Denials of access.

(a) A manager may deny access to a record only if the information is being compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action or proceeding as provided

under 5 U.S.C. 552(d)(5) or if rules published in the FEDERAL REGISTER state that it is in a system of records that may not be disclosed. These systems are described in Subpart 105-64.6.

(b) If a manager receives a request for access to a record in an exempt system of record, he or she should forward it to the Head of the Service or Staff Office or Regional Administrator, attaching an explanation and recommending the request be denied or granted.

(c) If the manager is the Head of a Service or Staff Office or a Regional Administrator, he or she retains the responsibility for granting or denying the request.

(d) The head of the Service or Staff Office or Regional Administrator, in consultation with legal counsel and other officials concerned, should decide whether the requested record is exempt from disclosure and,

(1) If the record is not exempt, notify the system manager to grant the request under §105-64.301-3; or

(2) If the record is part of an exempt system he or she should:

(i) Notify the requester that the request is denied, explain why it is denied, and inform the requester of his or her right to have GSA review the decision; or

(ii) Notify the manager to make the record available under §105-64.301-3, even though it is in an exempted system.

(e) A copy of any denial of a request should be sent to the GSA Privacy Act Officer (ATRAI).

§ 105-64.301-5 Appeal of denial of access within GSA.

(a) A requester who is denied access, in whole or in part, to records pertaining to him or her may file an administrative appeal. Appeals should be addressed to the GSA Privacy Act Officer, General Services Administration (ATRAI), Washington, DC 20405, regardless whether the denial was made by a Central Office or a regional official.

(b) Each appeal to the Privacy Act Officer must be in writing. The appeal should be marked Privacy Act-Access Appeal, on the face of the letter and on the envelope.