

investigation, except that those reports filed by individuals who are nominated for office by the President to a position that requires the advice and consent of the Senate, and who subsequently are not confirmed by the Senate, will be retained and made available for a one-year period, and then destroyed, unless needed in an ongoing investigation.

§ 171.44 Improper use of reports.

(a) The Attorney General may bring a civil action against any person who obtains or uses a financial disclosure report:

- (1) For any unlawful purpose;
- (2) For any commercial purpose, other than for news or community dissemination to the general public;
- (3) For determining or establishing the credit rating of any individual;
- (4) For use, directly or indirectly, in the solicitation of money for any political, charitable, or other purpose.

(b) The court in which such action is brought may assess a civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000 against any person who obtains or uses the reports for these prohibited purposes. Such remedy shall be in addition to any other remedy available under statutory or common law.

Subpart F—Appeal Procedures

§ 171.50 Appeal of denials of expedited processing.

(a) A denial of a request for expedited processing may be appealed to the Chief of the Requester Liaison Division of the office of the Information and Privacy Coordinator at the address given in § 171.5 within 30 days of receipt of the denial. Appeals should contain as much information and documentation as possible to support the request for expedited processing in accordance with the criteria set forth in § 171.12(b).

(b) The Requester Liaison Division Chief will issue a final decision in writing within ten (10) days from the date on which the office of the Information and Privacy Coordinator receives the appeal.

§ 171.51 Appeals of denials of fee waivers or reductions.

(a) A denial of a request for a waiver or reductions of fees may be appealed to the Chief of the Requester of Liaison Division of the Office of the Information and Privacy Coordinator at the address given in § 171.5 within 30 days of receipt of the denial. Appeals should contain as much information and documentation as possible to support the request for fee waiver or reduction in accordance with the criteria set forth in § 171.17.

(b) The Requester Liaison Division Chief will issue a final decision in writing within 30 days from the date on which the office of the Information and Privacy Coordinator receives the appeal.

§ 171.52 Appeal of denial of access to, declassification of, amendment of, accounting of disclosures of, or challenge to classification of records.

(a) *Right of administrative appeal.* Except for records that have been reviewed and withheld within the past two years or are the subject of litigation, any requester whose request for access to records, declassification of records, amendment of records, accounting of disclosures of records, or any authorized holder of classified information whose classification challenge has been denied, has a right to appeal the denial to the Department's Appeals Review Panel. This appeal right includes the right to appeal the determination by the Department that no records responsive to an access request exist in Department files. Privacy Act appeals may be made only by the individual to whom the records pertain.

(b) *Form of appeal.* There is no required form for an appeal. However, it is essential that the appeal contain a clear statement of the decision or determination by the Department being appealed. When possible, the appeal should include argumentation and documentation to support the appeal and to contest the bases for denial cited by the Department. The appeal should be sent to: Chairman, Appeals Review

Panel, c/o Information and Privacy Coordinator/Appeals Officer, at the address given in §171.5.

(c) *Time limits.* The appeal should be received within 60 days of the date of receipt by the requester of the Department's denial. The time limit for response to an appeal begins to run on the day that the appeal is received. The time limit (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays) for agency decision on an administrative appeal is 20 days under the FOIA (which may be extended for up to an additional 10 days in unusual circumstances) and 30 days under the Privacy Act (which the Panel may extend an additional 30 days for good cause shown). The Panel shall decide mandatory declassification review appeals as promptly as possible.

(d) *Notification to appellant.* The Chairman of the Appeals Review Panel shall notify the appellant in writing of the Panel's decision on the appeal. When the decision is to uphold the denial, the Chairman shall include in his notification the reasons therefore. The appellant shall be advised that the decision of the Panel represents the final decision of the Department and of the right to seek judicial review of the Panel's decision, when applicable. In mandatory declassification review appeals, the Panel shall advise the requester of the right to appeal the decision to the Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel under §3.5(d) of E.O. 12958.

(e) *Procedures in Privacy Act amendment cases.* (1) If the Panel's decision is that a record shall be amended in accordance with the appellant's request, the Chairman shall direct the office responsible for the record to amend the record, advise all previous recipients of the record of the amendment and its substance if an accounting of disclosure has been made, and so advise the individual in writing.

(2) If the Panel's decision is that the request of the appellant to amend the record is denied, in addition to the notification required by paragraph (d) of this section, the Chairman shall advise the appellant:

(i) Of the right to file a concise statement of the reasons for disagreeing with the decision of the Department;

(ii) Of the procedures for filing the statement of disagreement;

(iii) That any statement of disagreement that is filed will be made available to anyone to whom the record is subsequently disclosed, together with, at the discretion of the Department, a brief statement by the Department summarizing its reasons for refusing to amend the record;

(iv) That prior recipients of the disputed record will be provided a copy of any statement of disagreement, to the extent that an accounting of disclosures was maintained.

(3) If the appellant files a statement under paragraph (e)(2) of this section, the Department will clearly annotate the record so that the fact that the record is disputed is apparent to anyone who may subsequently have access to the record. When information that is the subject of a statement of dispute filed by an individual is subsequently disclosed, the Department will note that the information is disputed and provide a copy of the individual's statement. The Department may also include a brief summary of reasons for not amending the record when disclosing disputed information. Copies of the Department's statement shall be treated as part of the individual's record for granting access; however, it will not be subject to amendment by an individual under these regulations.

PART 172—SERVICE OF PROCESS; PRODUCTION OR DISCLOSURE OF OFFICIAL INFORMATION IN RESPONSE TO COURT ORDERS, SUBPOENAS, NOTICES OF DEPOSITIONS, REQUESTS FOR ADMISSIONS, INTERROGATORIES, OR SIMILAR REQUESTS OR DEMANDS IN CONNECTION WITH FEDERAL OR STATE LITIGATION; EXPERT TESTIMONY

Sec.

172.1 Purpose and scope; definitions.

172.2 Service of summonses and complaints.

172.3 Service of subpoenas, court orders, and other demands or requests for official information or action.

172.4 Testimony and production of documents prohibited unless approved by appropriate Department officials.