

§ 1602.1

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AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. 2996d(g); 5 U.S.C. 552.

SOURCE: 63 FR 41196, Aug. 3, 1998, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1602.1 Purpose.

This part contains the rules and procedures the Legal Services Corporation follows in making records available to the public under the Freedom of Information Act.

§ 1602.2 Definitions.

As used in this part—

(a) *Commercial use request* means a request from or on behalf of one who seeks information for a use or purpose that furthers the commercial, trade, or profit interests of the requester or the person on whose behalf the request is made. In determining whether a requester properly belongs in this category, the Corporation will look to the use to which a requester will put the documents requested. When the Corporation has reasonable cause to doubt the requester's stated use of the records sought, or where the use is not clear from the request itself, it will seek additional clarification before assigning the request to a category.

(b) *Duplication* means the process of making a copy of a requested record pursuant to this part. Such copies can take the form of paper copy, microform, audio-visual materials, or machine readable electronic documents, among others.

(c) *Educational institution* means a preschool, a public or private elementary or secondary school, an institution of undergraduate or graduate higher education, or an institution of professional or vocational education which operates a program or programs of scholarly research.

(d) *FOIA* means the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

(e) *Non-commercial scientific institution* means an institution that is not operated on a "commercial" basis and which is operated solely for the pur-

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pose of conducting scientific research, the results of which are not intended to promote any particular product or industry.

(f) *Office of Inspector General records* means those records as defined generally in this section which are exclusively in the possession and control of the Office of Inspector General of the Legal Services Corporation.

(g) *Records* means books, papers, maps, photographs, or other documentary materials, regardless of whether the format is physical or electronic, made or received by the Corporation in connection with the transaction of the Corporation's business and preserved by the Corporation as evidence of the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, operations, or other activities of the Corporation, or because of the informational value of data in them. The term does not include, inter alia, books, magazines, or other materials acquired solely for library purposes.

(h) *Representative of the news media* means any person actively gathering news for an entity that is organized and operated to publish or broadcast news to the public. The term "news" means information that is about current events or that would be of current interest to the public. Examples of news media entities include television or radio stations broadcasting to the public at large and publishers of periodicals (but only in those instances when they can qualify as disseminators of "news") who make their products available for purchase or subscription by the general public. These examples are not intended to be all-inclusive. Moreover, as traditional methods of news delivery evolve (e.g., electronic dissemination of newspapers through telecommunications services), such alternative media would be included in this category. In the case of "freelance" journalists, they will be regarded as working for a news organization if they can demonstrate a solid basis for expecting publication through that organization, even though not actually employed by it.

(i) *Review* means the process of examining documents located in response to a request to determine whether any

portion of any such document is exempt from disclosure. It also includes processing any such documents for disclosure. Review does not include time spent resolving general legal or policy issues regarding the application of exemptions.

(j) *Search* means the process of looking for and retrieving records that are responsive to a request for records. It includes page-by-page or line-by-line identification of material within documents and also includes reasonable efforts to locate and retrieve information from records maintained in electronic form or format. Searches may be conducted manually or by automated means and will be conducted in the most efficient and least expensive manner.

(k) *Submitter* means any person or entity from whom the Corporation receives grant application records.

[63 FR 41196, Aug. 3, 1998, as amended by 68 FR 7437, Feb. 14, 2003]

§ 1602.3 Policy.

The Corporation will make records concerning its operations, activities, and business available to the public to the maximum extent reasonably possible. Records will be withheld from the public only in accordance with the FOIA and this part. Records exempt from disclosure under the FOIA may be made available as a matter of discretion when disclosure is not prohibited by law, and disclosure would not foreseeably harm a legitimate interest of the public, the Corporation, a recipient, or any individual.

§ 1602.4 Records published in the Federal Register.

The Corporation routinely publishes in the FEDERAL REGISTER information on its basic structure and operations necessary to inform the public how to deal effectively with the Corporation. The Corporation will make reasonable efforts to currently update such information, which will include basic information on the Corporation's location, functions, rules of procedure, substantive rules, statements of general policy, and information regarding how the public may obtain information, make submittals or requests, or obtain decisions.

§ 1602.5 Public reading room.

(a) The Corporation will maintain a public reading room at its office at 750 First Street, NE., Washington, DC, 20002. After June 1, 2003, the Corporation's public reading room will be located at its office at 3333 K Street, NW., Washington, DC, 20007. This room will be supervised and will be open to the public during the regular business hours of the Corporation for inspecting and copying records described in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) Subject to the limitation stated in paragraph (c) of this section, the following records will be made available in the public reading room:

(1) All final opinions, including concurring and dissenting opinions, and orders issued in the adjudication of cases;

(2) Statements of policy and interpretations adopted by the Corporation that are not published in the FEDERAL REGISTER;

(3) Administrative staff manuals and instructions to the staff that affect the public or recipients;

(4) Copies of records, regardless of form or format, released to any person in response to a public request for records pursuant to §1602.8 which the Corporation has determined are likely to become subject to subsequent requests for substantially the same records, and a general index of such records;

(5) The current index required by §1602.7;

(6) To the extent feasible, other records considered to be of general interest to recipients or members of the public in understanding activities of the Corporation or in dealing with the Corporation in connection with those activities.

(c) Certain records otherwise required by FOIA to be available in the public reading room may be exempt from mandatory disclosure pursuant to section 552(b) of the FOIA and §1602.9. Such records will not be made available in the public reading room. Other records maintained in the public reading room may be edited by the deletion of identifying details concerning individuals to prevent a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. In