

Office of Special Counsel

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(2) The requester has previously failed to pay a fee assessed in a timely fashion (*i.e.*, within 30 days of the date of billing), in which case the requester may be required to—

(i) Pay the full amount owed plus any applicable interest as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, or prove payment of the alleged amount in arrears, and

(ii) Make an advance payment of the full amount of the estimated cost before a new or pending request will be processed.

(c) *Effect of nonpayment.* When the OSC acts under either paragraph (b)(2)(i) or (b)(2)(ii) of this section, the administrative time limits prescribed in 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(6) of the Freedom of Information Act will begin only after the fee payments described above have been received.

(d) *Interest charges.* Interest may be charged to any requester who fails to pay fees assessed within 30 days of the date of billing. Interest will be assessed on the 31st day following the day on which the bill for fees was sent, and will be calculated at the rate prescribed in 31 U.S.C. 3717. Receipt of fees, even if not processed, will stay the accrual of interest.

(e) *Collections.* If the OSC deems it appropriate in order to encourage repayment of fees assessed in accordance with these regulations, the OSC will use the procedures authorized by the Debt Collection Act of 1982 (Public Law No. 97-365), including disclosure to consumer reporting agencies and use of collection agencies.

§ 1820.8 Appeals.

Any denial, in whole or in part, of a request for records of the Office of Special Counsel shall advise the requester of his right to appeal the denial to the Special Counsel or the Special Counsel's designee. The requester shall submit his appeal in writing within 30 days of the denial. The appeal shall be addressed to the Special Counsel at 1730 M Street NW., Suite 201, Washington, DC 20036-4505. When a request is denied on appeal, the requester shall be

advised of his right to seek judicial review.

[54 FR 47342, Nov. 14, 1989, as amended at 59 FR 64843, Dec. 16, 1994; 65 FR 81325, Dec. 26, 2000]

§ 1820.9 Disclosures by authorized officials.

No employee or former employee of the Office of Special Counsel shall, in response to a demand of a court or other authority, produce or disclose any information or records acquired as part of the performance of his official duties or because of his official status without the prior approval of the Special Counsel or the Special Counsel's duly authorized designee.

PART 1830—PRIVACY

Sec.

1830.1 Access to records and identification.

1830.2 Medical records.

1830.3 Requests for amendment of records.

1830.4 Appeals.

1830.5 Exemptions.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 552a(f), 1212(g).

SOURCE: 54 FR 47344, Nov. 14, 1989, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1830.1 Access to records and identification.

(a) Individuals may request access to records pertaining to them that are maintained as described in the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. 552a, by addressing an inquiry to the Office of Special Counsel either by mail or by appearing in person at the Office of Special Counsel at 1730 M Street, NW., Suite 201, Washington, DC 20036-4505, during business hours on a regular business day. Requests in writing should be clearly and prominently marked "Privacy Act Request." Requests for copies of records shall be subject to duplication fees set forth in § 1820.6 of this chapter.

(b) Individuals making a request in person shall be required to present satisfactory proof of identity, preferably a document bearing the individual's photograph. Requests by mail or submitted other than in person should contain sufficient information to enable the Office of Special Counsel to determine that the requester and the subject of the record are one and the

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same. To assist in this process, individuals should submit their names and addresses, dates and places of birth, social security number, and any other known identifying information such as an agency file number or identification number and a description of the circumstances under which the records were compiled.

[54 FR 47344, Nov. 14, 1989, as amended at 59 FR 64844, Dec. 16, 1994; 65 FR 81325, Dec. 26, 2000]

§ 1830.2 Medical records.

When a request for access involves medical records that are not otherwise exempt from disclosure, the requesting individual may be advised, if it is deemed necessary, that the records will be provided only to a physician designated in writing by the individual. Upon receipt of the designation, the physician will be permitted to review the records or to receive copies by mail upon proper verification of identity.

§ 1830.3 Requests for amendment of records.

Individuals may request amendment of records pertaining to them that are subject to this part. Requests should be addressed, in writing, to the Special Counsel at 1730 M Street, NW., Suite 201, Washington, DC 20036-4505, and be clearly and prominently marked "Privacy Act Request." Requests for amendment should include identification of records together with a statement of the basis for the requested amendment and all available supporting documents and materials. Requests for amendment shall be acknowledged not later than 10 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) after receipt and a determination on the request shall be made promptly.

[54 FR 47344, Nov. 14, 1989, as amended at 59 FR 64844, Dec. 16, 1994; 65 FR 81325, Dec. 26, 2000]

§ 1830.4 Appeals.

When a request for access or amendment has been denied, in whole or in part, the requester shall be advised of his right to appeal to the Special Counsel or the Special Counsel's designee. The requester shall submit his appeal in writing within 30 days of the denial.

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A final determination on the appeal shall be issued within 30 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) after receipt. Where unusual circumstances prevent a determination within that time period, the time for a determination may be extended an additional 30 working days.

§ 1830.5 Exemptions.

The Office of Special Counsel will claim exemptions from the provisions of the Privacy Act at subsections (c)(3) and (d) as permitted by subsection (k) for records subject to the Act that fall within the category of investigatory material described in paragraphs (2) and (5) and testing or examination material described in paragraph (6) of that subsection. The exemptions for investigatory material are necessary to prevent frustration of inquiries into allegations of prohibited personnel practices or political activity and to protect identities of confidential sources of information. The exemption for testing or examination material is necessary to prevent the disclosure of information which would potentially give an individual an unfair competitive advantage or diminish the utility of established examination procedures. The Office of Special Counsel also reserves the right to assert exemptions for records received from another agency that could be properly claimed by that agency in responding to a request and the Office of Special Counsel may refuse access to information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action or proceeding.

PART 1840—SUBPOENAS

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 1212(e).

§ 1840.1 Service of subpoenas by mail.

In addition to all other methods of authorized service, an Office of Special Counsel subpoena may be served by mailing a copy to the person at his or her residence or place of business by certified or registered mail.

[54 FR 47345, Nov. 14, 1989]