

## § 16.1

SOURCE: 40 FR 53582, Nov. 19, 1975, unless otherwise noted.

### § 16.1 Purpose and scope.

(a) This part sets forth the Environmental Protection Agency procedures under the Privacy Act of 1974 as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(f).

(b) These procedures describe how an individual may request notification of whether EPA maintains a record pertaining to him or her in any of its systems of records, request access to the record or to an accounting of its disclosure, request that the record be amended or corrected, and appeal an initial adverse determination concerning any such request.

(c) These procedures apply only to requests by individuals and only to records maintained by EPA, excluding those systems specifically exempt under §§ 16.13 and 16.14 and those determined as government-wide and published by the Civil Service Commission in 5 CFR parts 293 and 297.

### § 16.2 Definitions.

As used in this part:

(a) The terms *individual*, *maintain*, *record*, *system of records*, and *routine use* shall have the meaning given them by 5 U.S.C. 552a (a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(4), (a)(5) and (a)(7), respectively.

(b) *EPA* means the Environmental Protection Agency.

(c) *Working days* means calendar days excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays.

### § 16.3 Procedures for requests pertaining to individual records in a record system.

Any individual who wishes to have EPA inform him or her whether a system of records maintained by EPA contains any record pertaining to him or her which is retrieved by name or personal identifier, or who wishes to request access to any such record, shall submit a written request in accordance with the instructions set forth in EPA's annual notice of systems for that system of records. This request shall include:

(a) The name of the individual making the request;

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(b) The name of the system of records (as set forth in the EPA notice of systems) to which the request relates;

(c) Any other information which the system notice indicates should be included; and

(d) If the request is for access, a statement as to whether a personal inspection or a copy by mail is desired.

### § 16.4 Times, places, and requirements for identification of individuals making requests.

(a) If an individual submitting a request for access under § 16.3 has asked that EPA authorize a personal inspection of records, and EPA has granted the request, he or she may present himself or herself at the time and place specified in EPA's response or arrange another time with the appropriate agency official.

(b) Prior to inspection of records, an individual shall present sufficient identification (e.g., driver's license, employee identification card, social security card, credit card) to establish that he or she is the individual to whom the records pertain. An individual who is unable to provide such identification shall complete and sign, in the presence of an agency official, a statement declaring his or her identity and stipulating that he or she understands it is a misdemeanor punishable by fine up to \$5,000 to knowingly and willfully seek or obtain access to records about another individual under false pretenses.

(c) If an individual, having requested personal inspection of his or her records, wishes to have another person accompany him or her during inspection, he or she shall submit a written statement authorizing disclosure in the presence of the other person(s).

(d) An individual who has made a personal inspection of records may then request copies of those records. Such requests may be granted, but fees may be charged in accordance with § 16.11.

(e) If an individual submitting a request under § 16.3 wishes to have copies furnished by mail, he or she must include with the request sufficient data to allow EPA to verify his or her identity. Should sensitivity of the records

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warrant it, EPA may require a requester to submit a signed and notarized statement indicating that he or she is the individual to whom the records pertain and that he or she understands it is a misdemeanor punishable by fine up to \$5,000 to knowingly and willfully seek or obtain access to records about another individual under false pretenses. Such mail requests may be granted, but fees may be charged in accordance with § 16.11.

(f) No verification of identity will be required where the records sought are publicly available under the Freedom of Information Act, as EPA procedures under 40 CFR part 2 will then apply.

### § 16.5 Disclosure of requested information to individuals.

(a) Each request received will be acted upon promptly.

(b) Within 10 working days of receipt of a request, the system manager shall acknowledge the request. Whenever practicable, the acknowledgment will indicate whether or not access will be granted and, if so, when and where. When access is to be granted, it shall be provided within 30 working days of first receipt. If the agency is unable to meet this deadline, the records system manager shall so inform the requester stating reasons for the delay and an estimate of when access will be granted.

(c) If a request pursuant to § 16.3 for access to a record is in a system of records which is exempted, the records system manager will determine whether the information will nonetheless be made available. If the determination is to deny access, the reason for denial and the appeal procedure will be given to the requester.

(d) Any person whose request is initially denied may appeal that denial to the Privacy Act Officer, who shall make an appeal determination within 10 working days.

(e) If the appeal under paragraph (d) of this section is denied, the requester may bring a civil action under 5 U.S.C. 552a(g) to seek review of the denial.

### § 16.6 Special procedures: Medical records.

Should EPA receive a request for access to medical records (including psychological records) disclosure of which

the system manager determines would be harmful to the individual to whom they relate, EPA may refuse to disclose the records directly to the individual and instead offer to transmit them to a physician designated by the individual.

### § 16.7 Request for correction or amendment of record.

(a) An individual may request correction or amendment of any record pertaining to him or her in a system of records maintained by EPA by submitting to the system manager, in writing, the following:

(1) The name of the individual making the request;

(2) The name of the system, as described in the notice of systems;

(3) A description of the nature and substance of the correction or amendment request; and

(4) Any additional information specified in the system notice.

(b) Any person submitting a request under this section shall include sufficient information in support of that request to allow EPA to apply the standards set forth in 5 U.S.C. 552a (e)(1) and (e)(5).

(c) Any person whose request is denied may appeal that denial to the Privacy Act Officer.

(d) In the event that appeal is denied, the requester may bring a civil action to seek review of the denial, under 5 U.S.C. 552a(g).

### § 16.8 Initial determination on request for correction or amendment of record.

(a) Within 10 working days of receipt of a request for amendment or correction, the system manager shall acknowledge the request, and promptly either:

(1) Make any correction, deletion, or addition which the requester believes should be made; or

(2) Inform the requester of his or her refusal to correct or amend the record, the reason for refusal, and the procedures for appeal.

(b) If the system manager is unable to comply with the preceding paragraphs within 30 working days of his or her receipt of a request, he or she will inform the requester of that fact, the