

YAHOO! MAIL

Subject VII. Fees

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Date Thu, Jul 28, 2022 at 5:47 PM

§ 16.2 Proactive disclosure of Department records.

Records that are required by the FOIA to be made available for public inspection in an electronic format may be accessed through the Department's Web site at http://justice.gov/oip/04_2.html. Each component is responsible for determining which of its records are required to be made publicly available, as well as identifying additional records of interest to the public that are appropriate for public disclosure, and for posting and indexing such records. Each component shall ensure that its Web site of posted records and indices is reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis. Each component has a FOIA Public Liaison who can assist individuals in locating records particular to a component. A list of the Department's FOIA Public Liaisons is available at <http://www.justice.gov/oip/foiacontact/index-list.html>.

<https://www.justice.gov/oip/departments-justice-freedom-information-act-reference-guide>

YOU WERE QUESTIONING MY AUTHORITY EARLIER ABOUT WHO TO CONTACT, SO ABOVE AND ALSO BELOW

Contact information for other federal departments and agencies is available on FOIA.gov at <http://www.foia.gov/report-makerequest.html>.

VII. Fees

There is no initial fee required to submit a FOIA request; in fact, in the majority of requests made to DOJ, no fees are ever charged. The FOIA does provide for the charging of certain types of fees in some instances.

For purposes of fee assessment only, the FOIA divides requesters into three categories. The first category includes commercial-use requesters, who may be charged fees for searching for records, "processing" the records (i.e., reviewing them to determine the application of FOIA exemptions), and duplicating them to respond to a request. The second category includes educational or noncommercial scientific institutions and representatives of the news media, who are charged only for duplication fees, and who are provided the first one hundred requested pages free of charge. The third category includes all other requesters, who are charged only for record searches and duplication. For non-commercial-use requesters there is no charge for the first two hours of search time or for the first 100 pages of duplication or their cost equivalent. DOJ currently charges five cents per page for duplication. It charges an hourly search fee that roughly approximates the salary and experience level of the personnel conducting the search. In all cases, if the total fee does not exceed a minimum amount, currently \$25, DOJ will not charge any fee at all.

You may always include in your request letter a statement limiting the amount that you are willing to pay in fees should fees apply. If a component estimates that the total fees for processing your request will exceed \$25, it will notify you in writing of the estimate and offer you an opportunity to narrow your request in order to reduce the fees. If you continue to seek all of the records involved, you will be asked to express your commitment to pay the estimated fees and the processing of your request will be suspended until you agree to do so. You ordinarily will not be required to actually pay the fees until the records have been processed and are ready to be sent to you. If, however, you have failed to pay fees within thirty days of billing in the past, or if the estimated fees exceed \$250, you may be required to pay the estimated fees in advance -- that is, before the records are even processed. If you agree to pay fees and then fail to do so within thirty days of billing, you may be charged interest on your overdue balance and DOJ will not proceed with any further requests from you until payment in full has been made. If you agree to pay fees for a records search, be aware that you may be required to pay such fees even if the search does not locate any responsive records or, if records are located, even if they are determined to be entirely exempt from disclosure. If you have any questions about a fee estimate or assessment you should feel free to contact the component's FOIA Requester Service Center or FOIA Public Liaison. Components are available to assist you in reformulating your request to meet your needs at a lower cost.