

ISOO Training Tip #13

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TOPIC: Discretionary Declassification

What is Discretionary Declassification?

The public interest in disclosure outweighs the need for continued classification.

Discretionary declassification is the exceptional case where the classification of information that meets the requirements of continued classification is outweighed by the public interest in declassification. In these cases, the agency head, or senior agency official, is empowered to determine whether the public interest in disclosure outweighs the damage to national security that might be reasonably expected from disclosure.

Agencies may establish a discretionary declassification program that is separate from their automatic, systematic and mandatory review programs.

References: [E.O. 13526](#), Section 3.1(d) / [32 CFR 2001.35](#)



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