



OFFICE of GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

August 17, 2015 — Sent via U.S. mail

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Re: Case No.: 201500957  
NG: CM: KG

NATIONAL  
ARCHIVES  
and RECORDS  
ADMINISTRATION

8601 ADELPHI ROAD  
OGIS  
COLLEGE PARK, MD  
20740-6001

web: [www.ogis.archives.gov](http://www.ogis.archives.gov)  
e-mail: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)  
phone: 202-741-5770  
toll-free: 1-877-684-6448  
fax: 202-741-5769

Dear [REDACTED]:

This responds to your request for assistance from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), which we received on July 13, 2015 via U.S. mail. Your request for assistance pertains to a records request to the Social Security Administration (SSA), seeking access to [REDACTED] application for a Social Security number (SS-5).

Congress created OGIS to complement existing FOIA practice and procedure; we strive to work in conjunction with the existing request and appeal process. The goal is for OGIS to allow, whenever practical, the requester to exhaust his or her remedies within the agency, including the appeal process. OGIS has no investigatory or enforcement power, nor can we compel an agency to release documents. OGIS serves as the Federal FOIA Ombudsman and our jurisdiction is limited to assisting with the FOIA process.

OGIS carefully reviewed the correspondence you submitted with your request for assistance. On [REDACTED] the SSA responded to your request, stating the agency could not send you a copy of [REDACTED] application for a Social Security number without proof that [REDACTED] is deceased. You appealed the decision and explained that [REDACTED], if alive, would be 114 years old. SSA affirmed the agency's initial decision on your request. You dispute this response, explaining the importance of the information you seek to your family's genealogy.

OGIS contacted SSA and learned the agency's Division of Earnings Record Operations sent a response letter on [REDACTED] enclosing a copy of [REDACTED] SS-5. The information on the SS-5 that might be most useful to you, aside from the Social Security Number (SSN) and parent's names (which you already had), include the individual's address at the time of application and their place of birth. OGIS asked that SSA send you another copy of the [REDACTED] letter and a copy of the SS-5 since you never received it and OGIS provided SSA with your current address. SSA sent you a new copy of the response letter and attached SS-5 on [REDACTED].

We asked SSA where you might obtain the other information you seek, for example, the final resting place of [REDACTED]. According to the agency, a state's Bureau of Vital Statistics is the best place to obtain information about a deceased individual such as last known address. While SSA acknowledged that contacting Bureaus of Vital Statistics may be a time consuming process if you are unsure in which state [REDACTED]



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██████████ perished, the agency impressed upon OGIS that those offices have the most accurate information.

I hope that this information about your request is useful to you. Thank you for contacting OGIS.

Sincerely,

/s/

Dr. James Holzer, Director  
Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)

We appreciate your feedback. Please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/OGIS> to take a brief anonymous survey on the service you received from OGIS.