



OFFICE of GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

September 28, 2015 — Sent via U.S. Mail

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Re: Case No.: 201500938
NG: CM: KG

NATIONAL
ARCHIVES
and RECORDS
ADMINISTRATION

8601 ADELPHI ROAD
OGIS
COLLEGE PARK, MD
20740-6001

web: www.ogis.archives.gov
e-mail: 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 10, 2015 via U.S. mail. Your request for assistance pertains to your records request to the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP).

OGIS was created to complement existing Freedom of Information Act (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. Please know that 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 provides mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. After opening a case, OGIS gathers information from the requester and the agency to learn more about the nature of the dispute. OGIS then decides how and whether to proceed on the request for assistance.

As you may know, when an individual requests access to his or her own records, it is most often, but not always, considered a Privacy Act, or first-party, request. Federal agencies will process requests under both FOIA and the Privacy Act of 1974 in order to provide requesters with the fullest degree of access available.



Privacy Act matters fall outside the scope of our office's mission as the FOIA Ombudsman. However, many Privacy Act requests overlap with FOIA; therefore, OGIS provides ombuds services, including providing information about the process and the status of requests, to individuals requesting their own records. OGIS does not have a statutory role in reviewing policies, procedures and compliance with the Privacy Act as we do with FOIA.

In your correspondence to OGIS you explained that you originally submitted a FOIA request to the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) in [REDACTED]. BOP denied your request and you appeal this determination to the Department of Justice's Office of Information Policy (OIP) in [REDACTED]. OIP remanded your request to BOP that same year, directing BOP to conduct another search. On [REDACTED] BOP sent you a letter stating that the agency located one responsive record, and referred that record to the Executive

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Office for United States Attorneys (EOUSA) for review and release determination. You have not received any correspondence from EOUSA regarding the referral from BOP.

OGIS staff reached out to EOUSA to obtain the tracking number of your referred request and an estimated date of completion. EOUSA ran a search of the agency's database, but could not locate the request. OGIS contacted BOP to find out when the referred request was sent, but BOP was unable to locate that information in its database. At OGIS's request, BOP has sent the referral to EOUSA, which confirmed its receipt. EOUSA assigned your referred request tracking [REDACTED]

I hope that this information about your referred request is useful to you. At this time, there is no additional information we can offer. Thank you for bringing this matter to OGIS. We will close your case.

Sincerely,

/s/

JAMES V.M.L. HOLZER
Director

cc: Ms. Donna Preston, FOIA Public Liaison, Executive Office for United States Attorneys