

# Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Since 1967, the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) has provided the public the right to request access to records from any federal agency. It is often described as the law that keeps citizens in the know about their government. Federal agencies are required to disclose any information requested under the FOIA unless it falls under one of nine exemptions which protect interests such as personal privacy, national security, and law enforcement.

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# FOIA Exemptions

## Exemptions

**Congress established nine categories of information that are not required to be released in response to a FOIA request because release would be harmful to a governmental or private interest. These categories are called “exemptions” from disclosure and protect for example, personal privacy, privileged communications, and law enforcement interests.**

**There are nine (9) exemptions to FOIA.**

FOIA Exemptions

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# Presumption of Openness

FOIA Exemptions

# FOIA Exclusions

# 5 U.S. Code § 552

<https://www.congress.gov/114/bills/s337/BILLS-114s337enr.xml>

[5 U.S. Code § 552 - Public information; agency rules, opinions, orders](#)

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# **Freedom of Information Act Statute**

[Full Text of the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016 \(Public Law No. 114-185\)](#)

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**and to the Director of the Office of  
Government Information Services**

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