



HHS Case No.: 2025-100002-FOIA-CDC

September 15, 2025

Sent via email to:

Amanda Bangle

CREW

Citizens for Responsible Ethics in Washington

abangle@citizensforethics.org

Dear Ms. Bangle:

This is the first interim response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, dated April 1, 2025, requesting:

1. All communications sent or received by CDC Public Liaison Bruno Viana, CDC/ATSDR FOIA Officer Roger Andoh, or any other employees in the CDC/ATSDR FOIA Office that mention, reference, or relate to the decision to place the CDC FOIA office on administrative leave on April 1, 2025.
2. All communications sent or received by any CDC employee outside the CDC/ATSDR FOIA Office that mention, reference, or relate to the decision to place the CDC FOIA office on administrative leave on April 1, 2025.
3. All memoranda, directives, or other final records relating to the decision to place the CDC FOIA office on administrative leave on April 1, 2025.

We received your request in our office on April 1, 2025.

The Centers for Disease Control's Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) conducted a search and located 1,783 pages of responsive pages, of which 1,547 pages are duplicates of the nine (9) attachments provided with the reduction-in-force notices. After a careful review of the non-duplicative pages, I have determined that 10 pages and portions of other pages are exempt from disclosure pursuant to Exemption (b)(6) of the FOIA (5 U.S.C. §552), as described below. Accordingly, your request is granted in part.

FOIA exemption (b)(6) permits a federal agency to withhold information and records about individuals in "personnel and medical files and similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." The definition of "similar files" has historically been broadly interpreted to include a wide variety of files, and the United States Supreme Court has held that Congress intended the term "similar files" to be interpreted broadly, rather than narrowly. I have analyzed these records and find they meet the threshold requirement of this exemption. Additionally, I have reviewed and weighed the public interest in disclosure of this information against the privacy interest in nondisclosure and found that the privacy interest outweighs the public's interest in disclosure.

We are continuing our search for responsive records and will provide additional records as they become available. If you have questions regarding the handling of this request or HHS FOIA procedures, feel free to contact us at FOIArequest@hhs.gov.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Arianne M. Perkins".

Arianne M. Perkins
Director, Initial FOIA Requests
FOI/Privacy Acts Division

Enclosures:
Responsive Records (226 pages)