



## Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia

*Office of the General Counsel  
FOIA/PRIVACY OFFICE*

### ***By Email***

February 16, 2020

#### *Sent via email*

Mr. Austin Evers  
Executive Director  
American Oversight  
1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255  
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) -21-FOIA-00034  
Final Response

Dear Mr. Evers:

This is in response to the referral that was sent by the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) concerning a record<sup>1</sup> that originated with CSOSA. CSOSA has acknowledged the referral and has processed it in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552.

Pursuant to the FOIA and after a thorough review of the record, please find enclosed a total of two (2) pages of responsive records. It has been determined that some portions of these records contain personal information, i.e., telephone numbers and an email address that have been withheld from the enclosed records. Two exemptions of the FOIA was relied upon to withhold this information.

The first applicable exemption, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6), exempts from required public disclosure, “personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.” Some of the records you have requested contain “similar files” within the meaning of the above cited statutory language. In applying Exemption 6, a balancing test was conducted, weighing the privacy interests of the individuals named in a document against the public interest in disclosure of the information. The public interest in disclosure is one that “sheds light on an agency’s performance of its statutory duties.” *Dep’t of Justice v. Reporters Committee*, 489 U.S. 749, 773 (1989). CSOSA is withholding telephone numbers and email address from the enclosed records. The FOIA Officer has determined disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of an individual’s personal privacy.

The second applicable exemption, 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(7)(C) provides protection for personal information in law enforcement records, the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. CSOSA is withhold personal identifying information pertaining to CSOSA personnel.

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<sup>1</sup> The document identified to be responsive by BOP in response to Item Number 2, page 12 of the FOIA request submitted by American Oversight addressed to BOP, which states, “Any assessments provided to your agency by any other federal agencies, including but not limited to members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institute of Health (NIH), the National Institute of Allergy and Infections.”

Since this constitutes a partial denial of your records request, I am providing you your administrative appeal rights in the event you wish to avail yourself of this process. The FOIA provides at 5 U.S.C. §552(a)(6)(A)(i) (2014) amended by FOIA Improvement Act of 2016, Pub. L. No. 114-185, 130 Stat. 538 that if a FOIA request is denied in whole or in part by the FOIA Officer, the requester may file a written appeal within 90 days from the date of the denial or, if later (in the case of a partial denial), 90 days from the date the requester receives the disclosed material. Your appeal shall be addressed to the General Counsel, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, 800 North Capitol Street, NW, Seventh Floor, Suite 7219, Washington, D.C. 20002 and must be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

If you would like to discuss our response before filing an appeal to attempt to resolve any dispute without going through the appeals process, please contact Jeanean West at (202) 220-5748 or by email at [jeanean.west@csosa.gov](mailto:jeanean.west@csosa.gov). In the alternative, you may also contact Willis Stamps, Assistant General Counsel, and CSOSA FOIA Public Liaison for further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Mr. Stamps can be reached by telephone at (202) 220-5468 or by email: [Willis.Stamps@csosa.gov](mailto:Willis.Stamps@csosa.gov).

You also have the option to contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov) or call toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

This is our final response and completes the processing of your request. There were no fees associated with the processing of your request. You may submit future requests by accessing <https://www.foia.gov>.

Sincerely,



Jeanean West FOIA  
Officer  
Office of the General Counsel

Enclosure(s)

**From:** [William Miller](#)  
**Subject:** COVID-19: Update from CSOSA  
**Date:** Friday, February 5, 2021 9:54:22 AM

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**From:** William Miller  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 25, 2020 2:23 PM  
**Subject:** COVID-19: Update from CSOSA

**This e-mail is being sent on behalf of CSOSA Director Richard Tischner:**

As we continue to navigate the environment created by COVID-19, CSOSA leadership is committed to doing everything possible to protect the health and safety of staff, the people we supervise, and the general public. In this regard, we have been closely following CDC and OMB guidelines. For the past few weeks, we have been taking universal precautions, practicing social distancing in our offices and in the field, and implementing our plan for remote work for CSOSA employees. In order to accomplish this without jeopardizing the safety of the general public, we had modified contact, reporting, and drug testing requirements for offenders. We are now accomplishing almost all of our contacts with those under our supervision by electronic means.

In the safety interests of our colleagues and those under supervision, as well as members of the general public, we have increased the frequency of deep cleaning of all of our field sites during the instant public health crisis. Importantly, these actions are consistent with those of other offender supervision agencies across the country. Most of the CSOSA workforce, with limited exceptions, is working remotely and fully engaged.

Out of an abundance of caution, we are now implementing additional, temporary modifications to our supervision operations, consistent with CDC guidance and with a sensitivity to the impact of recently imposed public transportation and other limitations that will restrict the movement of certain offenders and CSOSA staff. Specifically, we have begun a process to rapidly transfer offenders out of the Re-entry and Sanctions Center (RSC), utilizing community-based housing and treatment resources, each of which has medical screening and other precautionary plans and capabilities. The RSC will not accept additional offenders during this time. During the suspension of RSC services, we are committed to providing alternatives to RSC placements and will continue to do so as bed space and budget permits. Also, effective Thursday, March 26th, we are temporarily suspending drug testing. Finally, we are using technological resources to conduct our reception and processing duties virtually.

We will be reassessing these measures regularly as we seek to minimize face-to-face contact while still fulfilling our important public safety and supervision responsibilities. We are confident that these actions will allow us to continue to safely and effectively conduct our mission essential functions during these challenging times.

**Bill Miller**  
**Supervisory Public Affairs Specialist**  
**Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA)**  
**633 Indiana Avenue NW**  
**Washington, DC 20004**

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

