

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security**  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
*National Records Center*  
P.O. Box 648010  
Lee's Summit, MO 64064-8010



**U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services**

October 21, 2021

Zachary Heiden  
ACLU of Maine  
63 Arcadia St.  
Portland, Maine 04103

**COW2019500947**

Dear Zachary Heiden:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act (FOIA/PA) request received in this office on August 5, 2019, regarding information pertaining to approvals, referrals, and denials of affirmative asylum cases arising out of the Newark Asylum Office and Boston Asylum Sub-Office.

We are re-releasing a total of 343 pages from the fourth and fifth releases.

We have reviewed these pages, and have determined to release all information except those portions that are exempt pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(5), (b)(6), (b)(7)(c) and (b)(7)(e) of the FOIA.

The following exemptions are applicable:

Exemption (b)(5) provides protection for inter-agency or intra-agency memoranda or letters, which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency. The types of documents and/or information we have withheld under this exemption may consist of documents containing pre-decisional information, documents or other memoranda prepared in contemplation of litigation, or confidential communications between attorney and client.

Exemption (b)(6) permits the government to withhold all information about individuals in personnel, medical and similar files where the disclosure of such information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. The types of documents and/or information that we have withheld may consist of birth certificates, naturalization certificates, drivers' licenses, social security numbers, home addresses, dates of birth, or various other documents and/or information belonging to a third party that are considered personal.

Exemption (b)(7)(C) provides protection for personal information in law enforcement records, which could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. We have withheld information relating to third-party individuals. The types of documents and/or information we have withheld could consist of names, addresses, identification numbers, telephone numbers, fax numbers, or various other documents that are considered personal.

COW2019500947

Page 2

Exemption (b)(7)(E) of the FOIA provides protection for records or information for law enforcement purposes which would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law. The types of documents and/or information we have withheld could consist of law enforcement systems checks, manuals, checkpoint locations, surveillance techniques, and various other documents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Piatetski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Piatetski  
Acting Director, FOIA Operations

Enclosure(s)