



SOCIAL SECURITY

Refer to:
S9H: AI7967

November 16, 2012

This letter is in response to your Internet request for a Numident for Mr. Harry Bounel.

The Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. § 552a) restricts disclosure of the information you requested. The only exception that might permit us to disclose these records to you without consent would be the exception for disclosure required by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. § 552).

When we receive a request from a member of the public to release personal information about another individual from our records, we must balance the individual's privacy interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosing the information. We must determine whether disclosure would affect a personal privacy interest. There is clearly a substantial privacy interest in the personal details furnished to the Government. The only public interest we must consider is if the information sought would shed light on the way an agency performs its statutory duties. We may not consider the identity of the requester or the purpose for requesting the information. While there clearly is a public interest in knowing how the Social Security Administration administers the Social Security Act, disclosing records containing personal information about named individuals would not shed light on how the agency performs its statutory duties. Therefore, disclosing this information would be a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, and the FOIA (5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6)) does not require disclosure.

If you disagree with this decision, you may request a review. Mail your appeal within 30 days after you receive this letter to the Social Security Administration, Office of Privacy and Disclosure, 617 Altmeyer Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235. Mark the envelope "Freedom of Information Appeal."

Sincerely,

Dawn S. Wiggins
Freedom of Information Officer