Submit by Email

Department of Mental Health

UNIFORM FORMAT FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THE
ANNUAL FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008
October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008
(Please type)

PROCESSING OF FOIA REQUESTS

Name, Title and Telephone Number of FOIA Officer: Deon C. Merene, Deputy GC
Department of Mental Health
(202) 645-5462

Number of FOIA requests received during reporting period ……30

Number of FOIA requests pending on October 1, 2007……1

Number of FOIA requests pending on September 30, 2008……1

The average number of days unfilled requests have been pending before each public body as of September 30, 2008 ……30

DISPOSITION OF FOIA REQUESTS

Number of requests granted, in whole……...25

Number of requests granted, in part, denied, in part……..3

Number of requests denied, in whole……1

Number of requests withdrawn……..0

Number of requests referred or forwarded to other public bodies[1]……...1

Other disposition ……...0

NUMBER OF REQUESTS THAT RELIED UPON EACH FOIA EXEMPTION

1. Exemption 1 - D.C. Official Code § 2-534(a)(1)……...2
2. Exemption 2 - D.C. Official Code § 2-534(a)(2)……...
3. Exemption 3 - D.C. Official Code § 2-534(a)(3)……...
   a. Subcategory (A)…….
   b. Subcategory (B)…….
   c. Subcategory (C) ……
   d. Subcategory (D) ……....
   e. Subcategory (E) ……....
   f. Subcategory (F) …….

[1] This number only reflects the number of requests referred or forwarded to another public body as the only and final disposition of that request. The requests that are processed within the public body and resulted in a grant, denial or partial grant/denial as well as a referral are not included in this number.

4. Exemption 4 - D.C. Official Code § 2-534(a)(4) ……..2
5. Exemption 5 - D.C. Official Code § 2-534(a)(5)……...
6. Exemption 6 - D.C. Official Code § 2-534(a)(6)……...
   a. Subcategory (A)…….....
   b. Subcategory (B)…….
7. Exemption 7 - D.C. Official Code § 2-534(a)(7)……...
8. Exemption 8 - D.C. Official Code § 2-534(a)(8)……...
9. Exemption 9 - D.C. Official Code § 2-534(a)(9)……...
10. Exemption 10 - D.C. Official Code § 2-534(a)(10)……...
11. Exemption 11 - D.C. Official Code § 2-534(a)(11)……...
12. Exemption 12 - D.C. Official Code § 2-534(a)(12)……...

TIME-FRAMES FOR PROCESSING FOIA REQUESTS

Number of FOIA requests processed within 15 days……19

Number of FOIA requests processed between 16 and 25 days…….7

Number of FOIA requests processed in 26 days or more……..3

Average (mean) number of days to process FOIA Requests[2]…… 22

RESOURCES ALLOCATED TO PROCESSING FOIA REQUESTS

Number of Hours Staff Devoted to Processing FOIA Requests……Unk

Total dollar amount expended by public body for processing FOIA requests……..734

FEES FOR PROCESSING FOIA REQUESTS

Total amount of fees collected by public body……660

PROSECUTIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 207(d) OF THE D.C. FOIA

Number of employees found guilty of a misdemeanor for arbitrarily or capriciously violating any provision of the District of Columbia Freedom of Information Act ……...0

[2] The Freedom of Information Amendment Act of 2000 requests the median number of days to process FOIA requests. We have provided the average number of days instead of the median number of days as it more reasonably reflects response to FOIA requests.

QUALITATIVE DESCRIPTION OR SUMMARY STATEMENT

Pursuant to section 208(a)(9) of the D.C. FOIA, provide in the space below or as an attachment, "[a] qualitative description or summary statement, and conclusions drawn from the data regarding compliance [with the provisions of the Act]."

The Department of Mental Health receives approximately 2.5 FOIA responses per month and generally responds within the statutory time frame. The denials were minimal and based n privacy and or deliberative process. The number of overdue responses suggests a need for training of non-legal staff on FOIA in general.