



SOCIAL SECURITY

Refer to:
S9H: 2025-FOIA-01963

September 12, 2025

Mr. Aman George
Democracy Forward Foundation
P.O. Box 34553
Washington, DC 20043
foia@democracyforward.org

Dear Mr. George:

This letter serves as our final response to your May 22, 2025 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Social Security Administration (SSA) for the following information from February 15, 2025 through the date of the search:

1. Records reflecting the legal conclusions reached by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and SSA regarding the authorization and legality of adding living individuals to the Death Master File (DMF).
2. All records through which DHS communicated the living individuals it requested be added to the DMF. This would include the emails, spreadsheets, or data files sent to SSA for the purpose of adding living people to the DMF.

Your FOIA request pertains to SSA's April 2025 action that resulted in certain aliens being added to SSA's death records. Please note that, in early June 2025, the agency updated its records so this population would no longer appear as deceased in agency records.

On July 17, 2025, we issued an interim response for item # 2 of your request. This letter addresses requested item #1.

The redacted record responsive to item #1 of your request is publicly available online in our electronic FOIA Reading Room at <https://www.ssa.gov/foia/readingroom.html>. Under the *Proactive Disclosures (Current Year)* heading, view the records entitled: *DHS Law Enforcement Request – Commissioner Action_Redacted*.

If you have questions or would like further assistance with your request, you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison by email at FOIA.Public.Liaison@ssa.gov; by phone at 410-965-1727, by choosing Option 2; or facsimile at 833-795-0132.

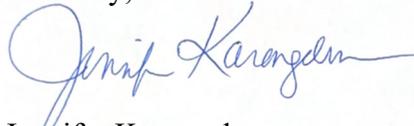
You may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration for dispute resolution services. OGIS is an entity outside of SSA that offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS, College

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Park, MD 20740-6001; email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll-free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you disagree with this response, you may file a written appeal with the Executive Director for the Office of Privacy and Disclosure, Social Security Administration, G-401 WHR, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted to FOIA.Public.Liaison@ssa.gov within 90 days of the date of our response to your initial request. Please mark the envelope or subject line with “Freedom of Information Appeal.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Karangelen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jennifer Karangelen
Acting Freedom of Information Officer

From: Dudek, Leland C.
Subject: DHS Law Enforcement Request - Commissioner Action
To: Evangelista, Stephen; (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)
Sent: April 7, 2025 7:28 PM (UTC-04:00)

Stephen,

I accept the correspondence from DHS as a valid Law Enforcement request. Per The President's Declaration of a National Emergency - **DECLARING A NATIONAL EMERGENCY AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER OF THE UNITED STATES** – SSA has a duty to consistent with law, to take all appropriate action directed by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Attorney General.

The Social Security Act (SSA) grants the Commissioner of Social Security broad authority to issue regulations and establish procedures, including those related to collecting evidence and determining eligibility for benefits, as outlined in sections 205(a), 1631(d)(1), and 702(a)(5).

SSA has no appropriate mechanism to unenumerated individuals. The Social Security Act is silent on this matter. Therefore, I am directing the Death Master File to be renamed the Ineligible Master File (IMF). The IMF will contain the current records of the DMF and SSN, DOB, and Name Information of those individuals Law Enforcement indicates are ineligible for benefits.

The financial lives of those individuals placed on the IMF, will be terminated in accordance with law enforcement and national security. Please ask DHS to transmit the data file for insertion to the IMF.

Lee Dudek

From: Evangelista, Stephen (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 6:52 PM
To: Dudek, Leland C. (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] RE: Memo Connect

Lee,

Earlier today I promised I would share any guidance we received from DHS regarding the issue of national security and SSNs.

(b) (5)

Stephen

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, April 07, 2025 6:44 PM
To: Evangelista, Stephen (b) (6); (b) (6)
(b) (6)

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Memo Connect

Stephen – see attached from S1.

From: Evangelista, Stephen (b) (6)

Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 5:27 PM

To: (b) (6) (b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6)

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Memo Connect

This email is from an external US Government agency.

(b) (6)

Thanks for the update.

Stephen

From: (b) (6) (b) (6)

Sent: Monday, April 07, 2025 5:23 PM

To: Evangelista, Stephen (b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6)

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Memo Connect

Stephen,

Secretary Noem has executed two memos which we'll be sending over ASAP. Thank you!

Best,

(b) (6)

From: Evangelista, Stephen (b) (6)

Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 4:22 PM

To: (b) (6) (b) (6)

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Memo Connect

(b) (6)

Any update on this guidance? Thanks.

Stephen

From: (b) (6) (b) (6)

Sent: Saturday, April 05, 2025 10:50 PM

To: Evangelista, Stephen (b) (6)

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Memo Connect

I think we got everything figured out, but thank you, Steven! You should be able to expect a memo from DHS by Monday at the latest.

Best,

(b) (6)

From: Evangelista, Stephen (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, April 5, 2025 9:34 PM
To: (b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Memo Connect

(b) (6)

Would you like to chat tomorrow?

Stephen

From: (b) (6) (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, April 05, 2025 7:42 PM
To: Evangelista, Stephen (b) (6)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Memo Connect

Hi Stephen,

Please disregard my previous message. Enjoy your weekend!

Best,
(b) (6)

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, April 5, 2025 7:00 PM
To: 'Evangelista, Stephen' (b) (6)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Memo Connect

Hi Stephen,

(b) (5)
(b) (5) (b) (6) Thank you!

From: Evangelista, Stephen (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 4, 2025 4:06 PM
To: (b) (6) (b) (6)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Memo Connect

(b) (6)

(b) (5)

Stephen

*Stephen Evangelista
Assistant Deputy Commissioner
Office of Law and Policy
Social Security Administration*

From: (b) (6) (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2025 1:59 PM
To: Evangelista, Stephen (b) (6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Memo Connect

(b) (5)

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 4, 2025 1:20 PM
To: (b) (6) (b) (6); Evangelista, Stephen
(b) (6)
Subject: Memo Connect

Stephen – connecting you with our legal lead, (b) (6) to discuss next steps. (b) (6) – Stephen is head of policy at SSA.

Thank you both.

(b) (6)