



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20201

September 2, 2022

Appeal Case No. **2022-00246-A-OS**

Via email: [foia@aflegal.org](mailto:foia@aflegal.org)

Dear Mr. Rubinstein:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) appeal, submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), FOI/Privacy Acts Division. We received your appeal **September 2, 2022**. Your appeal challenged the adequacy of the search for FOIA request # 2022-00848-FOIA. Your appeal has been assigned the above-stated case number based on when it was received in this office. Please reference this number on your correspondence.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(i) and 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(iii) of the FOIA and 45 CFR 5.24(f) of the HHS FOIA regulations, your appeal falls under “unusual circumstances” in that our office will need to consult with another office or agency that has substantial interest in the determination of the appeal. The actual processing time will depend on the complexity of the issues presented in the appeal and consultation with other U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) components involved. Each appeal is handled on a first-in, first-out basis in relation to the other open appeals in the processing queue. Currently, there are approximately 440 of open appeals in the processing queue.

Lastly, any questions regarding the status of your appeal should be directed to this office by calling (202) 260-6933 or write to us at the address above.

Sincerely yours,

*Wakema Williams for*

Alesia Y. Williams

Director, FOIA Appeals and Litigations

FOI/Privacy Acts Division