

File Request



Reclaim The Records

4



Withdraw Request

for the BIRLS Death File

7 Communications

1 File

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Reclaim The Records

filed this request with the [Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration](#) of the [United States of America](#).

Tracking # 18-03259-F

Submitted Sept. 20, 2017

Est. Com... None [Edit](#)

STATUS [Edit](#)

In Litigation

EMBARGO [Edit](#)

This request has no embargo.

TAGS [Edit](#)

From: Reclaim The Records

09/20/2017

Subject: Freedom of Information Request: FOIA Request for the BIRLS Death File [Email](#)

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

I represent a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization called Reclaim The Records. We are an activist group of genealogists, historians, journalists, and open government advocates who acquire genealogical and archival data sets and images from government sources, often through the use of Freedom of Information laws. We then upload those records to the Internet, making them freely available to the public and returning them to the public domain.

We request a copy of the Beneficiary Identification Records Locator Subsystem (BIRLS) Death File, a very large database maintained by your agency. This data has already been made available to the public before, and it is currently online at at least two major commercial genealogy websites, [Ancestry.com](#) and [Fold3.com](#). We are now requesting a copy for our organization, so that we may post it online for free public use.

We would also like to recommend that your agency upload a copy of the file to the federal government's open data portal, [data.gov](#).

Based on this scanned "Request for Records Disposition Authority" document, located at [archives.gov](#)...

No tags. Add some!

https://www.archives.gov/files/records-mgmt/rcs/schedules/departments/department-of-veterans-affairs/rg-0015/n1-015-11-002_sf115.pdf

...it seems that the BIRLS Death File has the VA Item Number 08-065 000, and a copy may have already been turned over to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

We request that this file be turned over to us in database format, as it already exists in a database. We would like to receive it on a portable USB drive, and we are willing to pay the costs for purchasing that drive and for its insured and trackable domestic shipping, as well as any fees associated with fulfilling this request. Please inform us of all fees in advance of fulfilling our order.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to your timely response within twenty business days, as the statute requires.

Sincerely,

Brooke Schreier Ganz
President and Founder of Reclaim The Records
<https://www.ReclaimTheRecords.org/>
info@reclaimtherecords.org

From: Muckrock Staff

10/19/2017



From: Muckrock Staff

11/08/2017



From: Muckrock Staff

11/28/2017



From: Muckrock Staff

12/18/2017



From: Muckrock Staff

01/08/2018



From: Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration

01/10/2018

Subject: None

Mail (Postmarked Jan. 10, 2018)

The request has been rejected by the agency.



Request rejected

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