

F
r
o
m
:

FOIArequest <FOIArequest@state.gov>

T
o
:

■■■■■■■■■■ <■■■■■■■■■■>

D
a
t
e
:

Thu, 27 Aug 2026 18:22:45 +0000

S
u
b
j
e
c
t
:

RE: [External] Freedom of Information Act/Privacy
Act Request

Hello -

This is in response to your email below.

To request records that may be maintained by the Department of State (DOS), you must submit a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. Detailed instructions on how to file a FOIA request are available on our website at the following link: <https://foia.state.gov/request/request2.aspx#/>. Select "Making a FOIA Request" on the banner, then choose "Making a FOIA Request" (in blue), and

carefully review the instructions provided.

Please submit your request online through the Department's Public Access Link (PAL) <https://pal.foia.state.gov/app/Home.aspx>. Before submitting, please keep the following in mind:

- * Use Google Chrome as your browser for the best experience. The PAL platform functions most effectively with Google Chrome.
- * Complete all required fields marked with an asterisk (*). Requests with incomplete required fields cannot be submitted.
- * Enter the Captcha code located at the bottom of the screen before clicking "Submit."

If you experience technical issues with your Public Access Link (PAL) account, submit your FOIA request through the National FOIA Portal at <https://www.foia.gov/> instead. If you use the same email address, it will automatically sync with the DOS PAL account you created.

Regards,

U.S. Department of State

FOIA Requester Service Center

[cid:image001.png@01DD362F.853308A0]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 11:48 AM

To: FOIArequest <FOIArequest@state.gov>

Subject: [External] Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act Request

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] <mailto:[REDACTED]>

August 27, 2026

FOIA Officer

U.S. Department of State

FOIA Request: Department of State authorization for
passports.gov<<http://passports.gov/>> under the EOP/National Design Studio

Dear FOIA Officer,

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552.

I request records constituting or reflecting the authorization for the National Design Studio's (NDS) role in passports.gov<<http://passports.gov/>> and any Department of State passport-services digital property: memoranda of understanding, interagency agreements, task orders, detail agreements, or letters between the Department of State and NDS, the Executive Office of the President, or the White House Office, from August 2025 to the date of search. This includes records identifying which entity operates, hosts, or controls passports.gov<<http://passports.gov/>> content and the authority under which any non-State personnel were granted access to State systems or content. News-media/public-interest fee categorization and waiver requested: the records concern the operation of a public-facing federal service by an entity with no published records schedule.

To minimize processing burden, I am not requesting classified information, sensitive security or law-enforcement methodologies, or private personal information unrelated to official government business. This request seeks records of official government activity only.

Fee waiver: I request a waiver of all fees under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). Disclosure meets each factor of the public-interest standard: (1) the subject specifically concerns the identifiable government operations, programs, or investigations described in this request; (2) disclosure is meaningfully informative about those operations and how they are conducted; (3) it will contribute to public understanding at large, not merely my own, because I will make the records available to the general public; and (4) it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of how federal authority is exercised and how government programs and investigations are authorized and conducted. This request is not in my commercial interest and is not made for a commercial purpose. If a fee waiver is denied, please notify me before incurring any costs over \$25.

Expedited processing: I request expedited processing under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6) (E) on two grounds. (1) There is an urgency to inform the public about actual or alleged federal government activity, and I am a person primarily engaged in disseminating information: I publish the government records I obtain through a public records docket available to the general public. (2) This request concerns a matter of widespread and exceptional media interest in which there exist possible questions about the government's integrity that affect public confidence. I certify that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

If any portion of a responsive record is withheld, please cite the specific FOIA exemption claimed and release all reasonably segregable non-exempt portions, as required by 5 U.S.C. § 552(b).

Please provide responsive records in electronic format (searchable PDF or native file) by email where possible.

I look forward to your determination on this request within the 20 business days provided by 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i).

Please confirm receipt and provide a tracking number. I am happy to clarify or reasonably narrow this request if that would speed processing.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] <mailto:[REDACTED]>