



Practice Pointer: How to File DHS Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requestsⁱ

The Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is a component of the Department of Homeland Security and may have records of international travel to/from the U.S., apprehensions/detentions by Border Patrol, and Secondary inspections at Ports of Entry; as well as agency information such as policies, data, communications, etc. More information is available at <https://www.cbp.gov/site-policy-notices/foia>.

ONLINE REQUESTS

FOIA requests to CBP should be submitted online. The link is available at:

[https://foiaonline.gov/foiaonline/action/public/request?utm_source=google&utm_medium=google&utm_term=\(not%20provided\)&utm_content=undefined&utm_campaign=\(not%20set\)&gclid=undefined&dclid=undefined&GAID=1920462815.1595210303](https://foiaonline.gov/foiaonline/action/public/request?utm_source=google&utm_medium=google&utm_term=(not%20provided)&utm_content=undefined&utm_campaign=(not%20set)&gclid=undefined&dclid=undefined&GAID=1920462815.1595210303)

What to Include:

Attorneys or other third parties requesting information on behalf of another person must attach a G-28 or written consent from the subject of the record.

Provide a clear and detailed description of the record(s) being requested as this information will help expedite the search process. Also include dates, times, officer names if available, certificate numbers, type of document, entry numbers, date of birth, Alien number (A number), parents' names, and any alias.

Available Records:

CBP has indicated that Travel Records only go back to 1982.

Appeals:

There is a right to appeal CBP's withholding determination. The appeal may be filed using the [FOIA online Request Form](#). Alternatively, the appeal can be sent within 90 days of the date of CBP's final response letter to:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
FOIA Appeals, Policy and Litigation Branch
90 K Street
NE, Washington, D.C. 20229

ⁱ A special thanks to Cyrus D. Mehta, member of AILA's FOIA Committee for drafting this practice pointer.