

# Privacy Office

The Department's Privacy Office is the first statutorily required privacy office in any federal agency. We centralize FOIA and Privacy Act operations to provide policy and programmatic oversight, and support implementation across the Department. [www.dhs.gov/privacy](http://www.dhs.gov/privacy)

## Privacy Publications and Guidance

### **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) or Privacy Act**

requests regarding DHS may be submitted to the DHS Privacy Office. Please only submit Department of Homeland Security requests to this office. Also, please note that the FOIA does not require the Department to answer questions, issue opinions, conduct legal research, create records or produce tangible objects in order to respond to a request. For more information on how to submit a request please visit

[http://www.dhs.gov/xfoia/editorial\\_0316.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xfoia/editorial_0316.shtm).

**Privacy Impact Assessments [PIAs]** are decision-making tools used to identify and mitigate privacy risks at the beginning of and throughout the development life cycle of a program or system. They help the public understand what personally identifiable information [PII] the Department is collecting, why it is being collected, and how it will be used, shared, accessed, and stored. All PIAs issued by DHS may be found here:

[http://www.dhs.gov/files/publications/editorial\\_0511.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/files/publications/editorial_0511.shtm)

**Guide to Implementing Privacy** informs the public about how the DHS Privacy Office implements privacy at DHS. The guide provides an overview of the DHS Privacy Office's functions and transparency in day-to-day operations. For more information please visit

[http://www.dhs.gov/xabout/structure/editorial\\_0338.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xabout/structure/editorial_0338.shtm).

**Privacy Office Reports** The Privacy Office issues a wide range of reports of interest to the public, including Privacy and FOIA Annual Reports, Section 803 Reports to Congress, the Annual Data mining Report, cyber security reports and Passenger Name Records reports. These reports may be found here:

[http://www.dhs.gov/files/publications/editorial\\_0514.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/files/publications/editorial_0514.shtm)