

Exhibit A

FOIA request from The Center for Investigative Reporting

me to FOIA@acf.hhs.gov

11/10/17

November 10, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act. I am a reporter with The Center for Investigative Reporting (henceforth "CIR") seeking information regarding Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) care for unaccompanied minors and screening for gang involvement.

More specifically, I hereby request the following records:

- The Memorandum of Agreement signed by DHS and HHS regarding unaccompanied children, signed on February 22, 2016.
- Copies of currently active contracts between ORR and grantees for Residential (Secure) Services for Unaccompanied Alien Children; Residential (Staff Secure) Services for Unaccompanied Alien Children; Residential (Shelter) Services for Unaccompanied Children; Residential (Long Term Foster Care) Services for Unaccompanied Children; Residential (Therapeutic) Services for Unaccompanied Alien Children.
- Copies of religious exemption requests from recipients of the above-mentioned grants, and records indicating whether those requests were approved or denied, dated from May 31, 2016, to November 10, 2017.
- Records indicating the number of unaccompanied minors referred to ORR by date range (weekly, monthly or quarterly), and the name of the referring agency, from January 1, 2016, to November 10, 2017.
- Records sufficient to show the average time in ORR custody for unaccompanied minors from January 1, 2016, to November 10, 2017.
- Copies of training materials delivered received by ORR from the Department of Homeland Security concerning methods of identifying members of the gang MS-13.
- Reports, memos or presentations resulting from ORR's review of unaccompanied minors in its secure and staff secure facilities on June 9, 2017, concerning potential gang involvement.

These documents have been publicly acknowledged several times and become a matter of public interest. Specifically, ORR Director Scott Lloyd referenced reviews for gang involvement in [his June 21, 2017, testimony](#) to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

Fee Waiver and Fee Benefit:

CIR is the nation's oldest nonprofit news organization. As a member of the news media, I am seeking this information for dissemination to the general public as part of an effort to examine ORR's changing policies related to potential gang membership among unaccompanied minors. As such, I am requesting a fee waiver of search and review fees as a member of the news media. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). This request is made in the public interest and not for commercial use. For additional details about Reveal, please see our web site: <https://www.revealnews.org/>. If possible, I would prefer the documents in electronic format. Please notify me before incurring any photocopying costs over \$100.

Expedited Processing

I am requesting expedited processing on this request. Pursuant to FOIA and agency guidelines expedited processing is required under certain circumstances. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(v)(II); see also *Al-Fayed v. CIA*, 254 F.3d 300, 306 (D.C. Cir. 2001). These records concern ORR policies that have recently changed and which Director Lloyd has indicated may change again soon. The potential threat from the gang MS-13, and federal policies related to the care of unaccompanied minors, are frequently mentioned in the press and [by President Trump](#) and [Attorney General Sessions](#). Any information obtained from this request will be used for the public's interest in news stories written for CIR.

I certify that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Please furnish all responsive records in electronic, searchable format delivered to my email address pmichels@revealnews.org. If that's not possible, please send records on a CD-ROM sent to the following address:

Patrick Michels
1400 65th St., Suite 200
Emeryville, CA 94608

Further Correspondence:

All correspondence regarding this request can be directed to me at pmichels@revealnews.org.

Please be aware that under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A), a FOIA request is considered constructively denied after twenty business days and is subject to litigation on that basis. If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. As the law requires, I will also expect you to release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt exempt material.

I reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at [512-222-3894](tel:512-222-3894).

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Patrick Michels

...