

EXHIBIT M

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Attn: FOIA/PA Appeals Office
P.O. Box 648010
Lee's Summit, MO 64064-8010



**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

APP2019501840

January 14, 2020

Jill Bussey
Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.
8757 Georgia Avenue
Suite 850
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Jill Bussey:

Re: COW2019501121

You appealed the action of the National Records Center regarding your request for access to records dated December 10, 2019.

Thank you for your letter of December 3, 2019, concerning Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") request number COW2019501121, in which you note that USCIS not yet responded to your FOIA request.

Your FOIA request is not subject to administrative appeal at this time, since no specific material has been denied in response to the request. The FOIA, at 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(C), provides that a requester shall be deemed to have exhausted his or her administrative remedies if an agency fails to respond within the applicable time limit specified in the paragraph, which is twenty days (with certain exceptions).

This provision does not provide a basis for an administrative appeal of a request that is still being processed. Moreover, the lack of a substantive response to date is not the same as a response indicating that no documents were found.

I have confirmed that your request is being processed. USCIS receives more than 150,000 FOIA and Privacy Act requests every year, more than any other U.S. government agency. USCIS FOIA personnel consider your request important and have no intention of delaying it. USCIS will process your request as soon as possible, but in the order it was received, as established by law. I have sent a copy of your letter to the National Records Center for their information. You may check the status of your request at any time online at <https://egov.uscis.gov/foiawebstatus/>.

If you are dissatisfied with our action on your appeal, you may seek judicial review in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B).

The Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), the Federal FOIA Ombudsman's office, offers mediation services to help resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal Agencies. The OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974. The contact information for OGIS is:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road - OGIS
College Park, MD 20740-6001
Telephone: (202) 741-5770 or (877) 684-6448
Email: OGIS@nara.gov

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Website: ogis.archives.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan D. Hughes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alan D. Hughes, Associate Counsel
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services