



FLRA NEWS

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FLRA GENERAL COUNSEL ISSUES GUIDANCE ON INFORMATION REQUESTS

Julia Akins Clark, General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA), today issued to the public, and posted on the FLRA website, [Guidance on Union requests for information from Federal agencies](#). The Guidance is intended to assist the parties, both Union and management, in determining their rights and obligations regarding information requests related to their collective-bargaining responsibilities under the Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute (Statute). The Guidance focuses on the application of the “particularized need” standard, as interpreted by the FLRA, which requires a Union to establish a “particularized need” for the information it requests from a Federal agency. It describes the meaning of this requirement, and what the consequences are if the Union does or does not establish such a particularized need. In addition, it briefly addresses the application of the Privacy Act to Union information requests under the Statute. Finally, it provides examples of cases where the FLRA has found that a Union has and has not met the “particularized need” standard. And attached to the Guidance are two model forms drafted by the Office of General Counsel, [a model form for requesting information](#), and [a model form for responding to such a request](#).

General Counsel Clark stated that “this Guidance advances the Office of General Counsel’s policy of providing the parties in the Federal sector with information resources that they can use on a day-to-day basis in carrying out their collective-bargaining responsibilities. It is based on a careful analysis of existing law, and it should help the parties understand how they can best communicate in a manner which promotes cooperative labor-management relations and the effective functioning of government, as called for by the Statute.”

The FLRA administers the labor-management relations program for 1.6 million non-Postal Federal employees worldwide, approximately 1.1 million of whom are represented in 2,200 collective bargaining units. The FLRA is charged with providing leadership in establishing policies and guidance related to Federal sector labor-management relations and with resolving disputes under, and ensuring compliance with, the Statute.

The FLRA’s Office of the General Counsel is the independent investigative and prosecutorial component of the FLRA. The Office of the General Counsel, through its seven regional offices, investigates, resolves, and prosecutes unfair labor practice charges. The regional offices also resolve representation questions, which includes the conduct of secret ballot elections to determine a collective bargaining representative, and provide training and assistance to parties on establishing productive and cooperative labor-management relations.

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