
President Orders Presumption of Disclosure in FOIA Matters

2009-01-28

On January 21, 2009, President Obama, on his first full day in office, issued a memorandum emphasizing a shift towards government transparency. The memorandum noted that "the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), which encourages accountability through transparency, is the most prominent expression of a profound national commitment to ensuring an open Government," and instructed that FOIA should be administered by federal agencies with a "clear presumption" that "[i]n the face of doubt, openness prevails." The memorandum directed the Attorney General to issue and publish new guidelines governing FOIA. For more on the President's memorandum, see our recent [Email Alert](#).