



Office of the Chief
Records Officer for the
U.S. Government

Sent Via Email. No Hard Copy to Follow.

January 14, 2025

Christina Pham
Agency Records Officer
Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
Mary E. Switzer Building, 330 C Street, S.W.
RM 3313A5103C
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Ms. Pham:

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is contacting the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) about an alleged unauthorized disposition of Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) records based on a news article published in the New York Review of Books, “Torn Apart” dated December 5, 2024 (see enclosure). The article asserts that a former ORR director instructed staff not to keep and to discard any existing lists of children separated from asylum applicants.

In accordance with 36 CFR 1230.14, NARA requests that ACF investigate this allegation and provide a response within 30 calendar days. If it is determined that an unauthorized disposition of records has occurred, the response should include the following information:

- A complete description of the records with volume and dates, if known, and any applicable disposition authority number;
- The office maintaining the records;
- A statement of the exact circumstances surrounding the removal, defacing, alteration, or destruction of records;
- A statement of the safeguards established to prevent further loss of records and
- Details of the actions taken to salvage, retrieve, or reconstruct the records.

If it is determined that there has been no unauthorized disposition, please provide us with

sufficient information to support that finding. I appreciate your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please contact the Records Management Oversight and Reporting Program by email at UnauthorizedDisposition@nara.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Fischer". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

WILLIAM FISCHER
Chief Records Officer
for the U.S. Government (Acting)

Enclosure:
2024-12-09_UD20250016_RUD-att.pdf

Cc: Susan Little, Department Records Officer