

Freedom of Information Personal privacy exemption

Fact sheet

Documents affecting personal privacy (section 33)

Section 33(1) of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* protects the personal privacy of other people. This means that personal information about someone else (including a person who is deceased) that is contained in your file will not be released to you if it is unreasonable.

What is personal information?

Information is considered 'personal information' if it identifies someone or is sensitive about someone. This could include information about family members, carers, departmental workers, other professionals, and other departmental clients.

Examples of personal information can include:

- the name, address or location of a person, including other clients of the department
- interviews between the department and your family
- letters sent between the department and other people
- historical information about other people in your family
- school reports of siblings
- psychological reports of siblings or parents
- assessments of your carers.

Why is some information unreasonable to release to me?

While we try to release as much information from your documents as possible, sometimes the documents contain information about other people that is very sensitive and is therefore unreasonable to release.

It is important that the department protects both your personal privacy and the personal privacy of other people. Departmental files often contain the personal information of individuals other than yourself. Our decision about what to release is based on balancing your right to receive the information with other people's right to privacy.

To receive this form in an accessible format phone (03) 9096 8449, using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email foi@dhhs.vic.gov.au

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