UNDERSTANDING CLASSIFIED INFORMATION: ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW



What are classified documents?

Classified national security information is information created or received by an agency of the federal government or a government contractor that would damage national security if improperly released. Since 1940, the President has managed the system of classifying information that can be in various <u>forms</u>: documents, maps, images, videos, data, microfilm, computer hard dries, CDs etc."















BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 13526 REFERENCE 1



When are documents classified?

CLASSIFIED



DECLASSIFIED

DOCUMENTS ARE CLASSIFIED ONLY WHEN MECESSARY AND MAINTAINED ONLY AS LONG AS THE DOCUMENT REQUIRES PROTECTION. THE DESCRIPTION OF ACTEMBLINED BY LIFE LEVEL OF SENSITIVITY OF ITS CONTENTS.

REFERENCE



three times every second

REFERENCE 3



Estimates assess that as many as 50 million documents or more are classified each year REFERENCE 3

AFTER 25 YEARS, DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW IS AUTOMATIC, WITH NARROW EXCEPTIONS THAT ALLOW INFORMATION TO REMAIN AS CLASSIFIED.

REFERENCE 2



Estimates assess that as many as 50 million documents are classified each year

REFERECE 3



Why are documents classified?

Information is classified if an official determination is made that its unauthorized release would damage national security. Levels of classification correspond to levels of supposed damage.

OP SECRET

Indicates that exceptionally grave damage to the national security can happen from its unauthorized release



CONFIDENTIAL is the lowest category of classified information currently in use

CONFIDENTIAL

REFERENCE 4

SECRET

indicates that the unauthorized release of the document can cause serious damage to the national security

SECRET



Who classifies documents?

Presidents have the authority to issue classification and to designate other officials who can do so.

THE PRESIDENT

REFERENCE 5

How Does the Presidential Records Act of 1978

After 12 Years

Access through FOIA Only FOIA exemptions apply But FOIA Ex. (b)5 is "not available" to withhold

Intersect With th

Freedom	of
Information	Act)1

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Incumbent President	President Leaves Office	Years 1 To 5	Years 5 To 12
Specifies up to 6 restrictions categories	Presidential records transfer to legal custody of the Archivist of the	Presidential records, even unrestricted, are exempt from	Access through FOIA Both PRA
Specifies the duration of restrictions, up to 12	U.S. Archivist	FOIA access until earlier of:	restrictions and FOIA exemptions apply
years after term (s) end	responsible for custody, control, preservation, and access	5 years after Archivist takes custody or	Archivist determines
During incumbency, no right of public access	Archivist has "affirmative duty" to	Archivist completes processing	PRA restrictions in consultation w/ former President
President to segregate	make records available to the public "as rapidly and	Only access is "special	No judicial review of PRA



ere are classified documents kept?

STORAGE: ssified material must be stored in a ure room, a OSA-approved storage iner such as a cabinet, safe, vault, or CIF, a Sensitive Compartmented information facility

At the end of an administration, documents of the outgoing President & Vice-Presidential have to be transferred to the National Archives

BOTH PRESIDENT TRUMP AND BIDEN AS OBAMA'S VICE PRESIDENT DID NOT DO A PROPER



Are there any circumstances when I might be allowed to take classified documents home?

NO

Residences are not considered official premises, hence classified material cannot be kept overnight in personal custody as per requirements in E.O. 13526, Part 4, Safeguarding REFERENCE 8

BOTH BIDEN AND TRUMP VIOLATED THIS I AW







Intentional violation of the classified information laws could lead to fines or imprisonment or both.



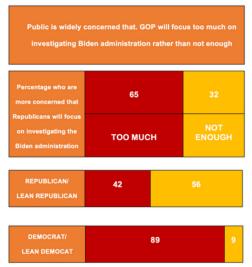
When Presidents or Vice presidents misplace classified documents, it becomes fodder for political controversy.

Instead of focusing on governance, political parties focus on shaming each other. The public disapproves as can be seen in the results from the Pew Poll.



PEW POLL







REFERENCE

CONCLUSION



Presidents & Vice Presidents need to be held to the highest standards and avoid moving classified documents from their offices. People need to educated about the dangers of not following the process.

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