



**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS COUNCIL #53**

**Affiliated with the AFL - CIO
Mid-Term Bargaining Committee**

Oscar L. Williams Jr., Chair 2 nd Exec. V-President 29 Lake Street Danville, IL 61832-6101	Bill Wetmore, Member 3 rd Exec. V-President 2319 Alava Court Waldorf, MD 20603	Willie Haywood, Member 6 th Dist. Rep., NVAC 17705 Garden Blvd. Cleveland, OH 44128	Jeff Sladek, Member 13 th Dist. Rep., NVAC VAMC 3601 S. 6 th Ave. Tucson, AZ 85723
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August 30, 2011

Leslie Wiggins, Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Labor Management Relations (LMR)
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Subject: VHA Handbook 1907.xx, Health Information Management of Release of Information

Dear Ms. Wiggins:

In accordance with Article 47, Section 2 C., of the Master Agreement the National VA Council #53 is formally demanding to bargain on the VHA Handbook 1907.xx Health Information Management of Release of Information within the Department. Please provide the above named NVAC Mid-Term Bargaining Committee with all information and/or data related to the subject. The negotiations of this matter should normally begin no later than twenty (20) workdays after the Management Chief Negotiator in this receives our demand to bargain.

Please cease and desist any implementation until the bargaining obligation has been met. The named NVAC bargaining committee may request a briefing over the cited subject above, before sending any proposals. If you have any questions please call me at (217) 554-4866.

Sincerely,

Oscar L. Williams, Jr.
Chairperson, Mid-Term Bargaining Committee
2nd Executive Vice President
National VA Council #53

cc: Alma L. Lee, President National VA Council #53
NVAC Executive Committee

AFGE: Good Government We Are Ready



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
OFFICE LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS
WASHINGTON DC 20420

AUG 26 2011

Oscar L. Williams, Jr.
2nd Executive Vice President
National VA Council AFGE
29 Lake Street
Danville, IL 61832

Dear Mr. Williams:

Enclosed for your review and comment is VHA Handbook 1907.xx, Health Information Management of Release of Information. This handbook establishes processes and procedures for managing a Release of Information (ROI) section within Health Information Management (HIM) to assist the Chief, HIM and Supervisor, ROI. Time frames for completion of requests are already established in policy or regulations (see VHA handbook 1605.1, Privacy and release of Information, which can be found on VHA Website under VHA Forms, Publications & Record Management).

This handbook established new minimum recommended productivity and accuracy standards in sections 13b and 14a-b. However, these standards serve as a guide and need to be negotiated at the local level.

If you wish to bargain or schedule a briefing on this matter, please contact Richard L. Watkins, no later than September 17, 2011. He can be reached at (513) 214-9806 or richard.watkins@va.gov. Questions regarding this policy may be addressed to Pam Heller, Director Health Information Management (HIM). She can be reached at (217) 586-6082 or pamela.heller@va.gov.

Sincerely yours,

for Leslie B. Wiggins
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Labor-Management Relations

Enclosure

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AUG 29 2011

Nat'l VA Council
Mid-Term Bargaining Committee