Extent

29 folders, approximately 1,255 pages

Summary

This collection consists of material related to the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act. It contains correspondence, reports, memoranda, talking points, notes, fact sheets, speeches, speech cards, drafts, newspaper articles, briefings, and emails.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 2017-1173-F are a selective body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related materials. FOIA 2017-1173-F consists of records concerning the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act. The Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act is named in honor of eleven-year-old Jacob Wetterling, who was kidnapped by a stranger at gunpoint in 1989, sexually assaulted, and whose death was confirmed when his remains were discovered 27 years later on September 1, 2016. Enacted as part of the 1994 Clinton Crime Bill (also known as the Federal Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994), the legislation was one of the first federal laws requiring sex offenders to register with their states. It compelled the states to compile registries of offenders found guilty of sexually violent crimes or offenses against children and, at the same time, to formulate stricter registration requirements for sex offenders. Another component of the law mandated that states must also verify the addresses of sex offenders on an annual basis for at least ten years. Furthermore, they must verify the addresses of offenders deemed sexually violent predators every three months for the rest of their lives. States must meet the provisions of the Wetterling Act by September 1997, “with a two-year extension for good faith efforts to achieve compliance.” The penalty for non-compliance would be

severe—a 10% reduction of federal block grant funds earmarked for criminal justice. The Wetterling Act gave the states the power to disseminate registration information to the general public, but dissemination was voluntary, not required. However, Congress amended the Wetterling Act by passing Megan's Law in 1996. Named for seven-year-old Megan Kanka, who was raped and murdered in a high-profile case in July 1994 in Hamilton Township, New Jersey, the act made it mandatory for law enforcement agencies to release information about registered sex offenders that they thought necessary to protect the public at large. This legislation came in the wake of Megan's death at the hands of Jesse Timmendequas, a registered sex offender with two prior convictions of sex crimes against small children, who lived across the street from the Kankas. Also in 1996 Congress passed the Pam Lyncher Sexual Offender Tracking and Identification Act. Named for Pam Lyncher, a real estate agent assaulted by a man she believed to be a prospective buyer of a house in Houston in 1990, the bill tackled the issue of sex offenders on a national level. Specifically, it called for the FBI to put together a national database of sex offenders as a way of aiding local enforcement agencies in their attempt to track sex offenders across state lines. Records responsive to 2017-1173-F that are located in WHORM-Subject File-General include correspondence, notes, memoranda, fax cover sheets, faxes, speeches, and speech cards. Correspondence contains letters between governors of the states and President Clinton about compliance with the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act. Clinton urges the governors to comply with the law as quickly as possible. A few of the governors believe they were keeping the public apprised of sex offenders even before the involvement of the Clinton administration in passing appropriate legislation. The speeches and speech cards in the collection concern remarks made by the President at the signing of Megan's Law on May 17, 1996. The records of Leanne Shimabukuro in the Domestic Policy Council (DPC) contain memoranda, newspaper articles, drafts, talking points, briefings, press releases, correspondence, copies of actual bills and laws, fact sheets, reports, and testimony. In the case of fact sheets, the basic parts of the Jacob Wetterling Act are outlined in detail. There is a key document entitled "The Administration's Track Record on Protecting Our Communities from Sex Offenders." The move toward a National Sex Offender Registry plan is set forth in memoranda, questions and answers, and correspondence. In letters between President Clinton and Attorney General Janet Reno the plan is refined with the FBI playing a prominent role. A memorandum from Dennis Burke of the DPC to Deputy Associate Attorney General Francis M. Allegra

deals with the topic of an interim National Sex Offender Registry. Materials in the Automated Records Management System and Tape Restoration Project consist of email correspondence concerning the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act. Email primarily consists of reports and press concerning the Wetterling Act as it relates to other sexual offender legislation (ex. Megan's Law and the Pam Lyncher Act). Email also consists of correspondence to and from staff at the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Domestic Policy Council pertaining to a draft letter to Michigan Governor John Engler concerning the Wetterling Act.

Record Type

Textual

System of Arrangement

Records that are responsive to this FOIA request were found in these collections areas— Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM Subject Files, Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM (OP), Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files, Clinton Presidential Records: Automated Records Management System [Email], and Clinton Presidential Records: Tape Restoration Project [Email]. The White House Office of Records Management (WHORM) contains a variety of series created to organize and track documents and correspondence. The WHORM Subject File was compiled by the White House Office of Records Management and is a series of categories designated by a letter/number combination. In addition, there are WHORM, WHORM Counsel, WHORM (CL), WHORM (OP), WHORM (Too Late), WHORM (Various Offices), and WHORM (Alpha Project) series. Staff and Office files were maintained at the folder level by staff members within their individual offices and document all levels of administration activity. WHORM files are processed at the document level; whereas, Staff and Office files are processed at the folder level, that is, individual documents are not selected and removed from a folder for processing. While this method maintains folder integrity, it frequently results in the incidental processing of documents that are not wholly responsive to the subject area. The Automated Records Management System (ARMS) is a database that contains email records of the Executive Office of the President. This system maintained unclassified

Presidential email. The ARMS database is comprised of six sub-series of email records called “buckets.” The buckets generally represent a specific White House office. The buckets are titled: NPR for National Performance Review, OPD for Office of Policy Development, POTUS for President of the United States, WHO for White House Office, CEA for Council of Economic Advisers, and Default for emails not associated with an office. The OPD bucket contains email created or received by an individual with an Office of Policy Development (OPD) White House user account. The WHO bucket contains email created or received by an individual with Executive Office of the President White House user account not identified as CEA, NPR, or OPD. The Default bucket contains email created or received by unknown or unrecognized email accounts. Email found within the Default bucket often includes email created or received by offices or individuals outside the Executive Office of the President. ARMS emails are arranged by topic, there-under by bucket, and there-under chronologically by creation date. The Tape Restoration Project (TRP) is a database consisting of restored emails from the Automated Records Management System (ARMS) from July 1994 through June of 2000. The TRP is a database that contains email records of the Executive Office of the President. This system maintained unclassified Presidential record email. The TRP database is comprised of the same six sub-series of email as in ARMS. TRP emails are arranged by topic, there-under by bucket, and there-under chronologically by creation date. FOIA 2017-1173-F includes WHORM records from these subject codes: JL003 Criminal Matters.

Access

Collection is open to all researchers. Access to Clinton Presidential Records is governed by the Presidential Records Act (PRA) (44 U.S.C. Chapter 22, as amended) and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552, as amended) and therefore records may be restricted in whole or in part in accordance with legal exemptions.

Copyright

Documents in this collection that were prepared by officials of the United States government as part of their official duties are in the public domain. Researchers are

advised to consult the copyright law of the United States (17 U.S.C. Chapter 1) which governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

Provenance

Official records of William Jefferson Clinton’s presidency are housed at the Clinton Presidential Library and administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) under the provisions of the Presidential Records Act (PRA).

Processed by

Staff Archivist, 2017. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.

Last Modified Date

2017-12-20

Container List

The following is a list of documents and folders processed in response to FOIA 2017-1173-F:
Box 1
Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM: Subject File
Category Case Number
JL003 160986
160986SS
165193
166534
168051
168302SS
168480
170910
187561

243120
245447
Clinton Presidential Records: WHORM: (OP)
178057 [Jacob Wetterling Foundation]
Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files
Communications
Walker, Ann
Crime [I. – Jacob Wetterling Act] [OA/ID 12744]
Crime [I. – Jacob Wetterling Act State Compliance Status] [OA/ID 12744]
Domestic Policy Council
Shimabukuro, Leanne
Crime: 1998 Child Protection & Sex Predator Act [OA/ID 21295]
Crime: National Sex Offenders Registry [1] [OA/ID 21295]
Crime: National Sex Offenders Registry [2] [OA/ID 21295]
Crime: National Sex Offenders Registry [3] [OA/ID 21295]
Crime: National Sex Offenders Registry [4] [OA/ID 21295]
Crime: Sex Offenders/Jacob Wetterling Act [1] [OA/ID 21296]
Crime: Sex Offenders/Jacob Wetterling Act [2] [OA/ID 21296]
Crime: Sex Offenders/Jacob Wetterling Act [3] [OA/ID 21296]
Crime: Sex Offenders/Jacob Wetterling Act [4] [OA/ID 21296]
Box 2
Clinton Presidential Records: Automated Records Management System [Email]
OPD [OA/ID 250000]
[Wetterling Act]
[06/19/1996 – 11/14/2000]
WHO [OA/ID 500000]
[Wetterling Act]
[07/17/1995 – 07/03/1996]
[07/03/1996 – 10/02/1996]
[10/02/1996 – 06/28/2000]
Default [OA/ID 1100000]
[Wetterling Act]
[04/05/1995 – 06/25/1996]
Clinton Presidential Records: Tape Restoration Project [Email]
OPD [OA/ID 250000]
[Wetterling Act]
[06/11/1997]