

Photography, Filming, or Video Recording at the NIH

Permitted Activities:

Individuals may take photographs, films or videos, for personal or news purposes on the grounds of the NIH controlled properties to include entrances, lobbies, foyers, corridors, and auditoriums in use for public meetings, except when contrary to security regulations or signs as indicated below.

Restricted Activities:

Advertising/Commercial - Photographs and similar activities for advertising or commercial purposes may be taken only with the advance **written approval of the Director of the NIH**. *(It is strongly recommended this written approval be possessed by the individual taking the photos/films/video at the time when they are taken. If their actions are questioned by police officers and/or security guards, the written approval should be presented to the police officer/guard as proof of authorization.)*

Patients - A person may take photographs of a patient only with the informed consent of the patient (or the natural or legal guardian) and of the **Director of the Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center or authorized delegate**. *(It is strongly recommended this written approval be possessed by the individual taking the photos/films/video at the time when they are taken. If their actions are questioned by police officers and/or security guards, the written approval should be presented to the police officer/guard as proof of authorization.)*

Construction & Renovations - All employees, contractors, and visitors are restricted from photographing, filming, videotaping ongoing construction and renovation sites without the **written approval of the ORF assigned project officer**. *“It is strongly recommended this written approval be possessed by the individual taking the photos/films/video at the time when they are taken. If their actions are questioned by police officers and/or security guards, the written approval should be presented to the police officer/guard as proof of authorization.”*

- a. **Where Prohibited by Signage:** All employees, contractors, and visitors are restricted from photographing, filming, videotaping where prohibited by signage, without the written approval of the Director of the Division of Physical Security Management (DPSM) as described under the “Procedures to Request Permission from DPSM.”

Enforcement

Violations of this policy may result in a reprimand, expulsion of the requestor from the NIH premise by the Division of Police or **be subject to a fine of not more than \$50 or imprisonment of not more than thirty days or both, for each violation (40 U.S.C. 318c)**.

Suspicious Photography/Filming/Videoing

All suspicious photography/filming/videoing should be reported immediately to the NIH Police.

Examples would include:

- a. A person trying to go unnoticed as they take photos/films/videos
- b. A person taking photos/videos of a sensitive area from outside a security checkpoint
- c. Anyone avoiding eye contact or other people as they take photos/videos or make notes, a person showing too much interest in a sensitive area, etc.

NOTE: DPSM utilizes surveillance monitoring and recording capabilities at various locations in support of security operations. All individuals working or visiting at any of the NIH owned or leased facilities are subject to video surveillance in public areas and controlled spaces.