

Records Using the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

General Information about the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

- Per law, immigrants have a right to obtain these records
- Records contain detailed information from original country and US
- Often records contain certified copies of birth and marriage certificates (Book, Folio #s)
- Information is typically firsthand
- Another avenue for collecting data about persons from Cuba

You can request:

- Your immigration record or A-File
- Another person's immigration record, with their signature
- Another person's immigration record, with their notification of death

A-Files can contain:

- Copy of Naturalization Certificate-application-test results
- Visa and Registrations, Arrival cards, Embassy documents and forms
- Typed Interview with person requiring asylum
- Biographic Information forms (Prior addresses, jobs, etc)
- Birth Certificate/Record
- Marriage Certificate/Record

Requests can be made:

1) Hard Copy Via Mail or Fax (G-639 form) – MAKE SURE YOU ARE USING THE MOST CURRENT EDITION OF THE FORM (The date is noted on the upper right of the form)

- Form can be downloaded at <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/forms/g-639.pdf>
- Instructions for the form can be downloaded at <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/forms/g-639instr.pdf>

2) Electronically Via online FOIA system - <https://www.uscis.gov/records/request-records-through-the-freedom-of-information-act-or-privacy-act>

IMPORTANT:

Records more than 100 years old require Form G-1041 from the USCIS Genealogy Program

- This is **NOT** the same as FOIA requests
- Form G-1041 - Form and Instructions available at <https://www.uscis.gov/g-1041>

**Cuban Genealogy Club of Miami, Fl., Inc. – 2020 – All Rights Reserved
Please do not distribute in any format without the author's expressed prior permission.**

The USCIS Genealogy Program fees went up DRASTICALLY

Fee schedules as of October 2020:

- \$170 Index Search Fee (if submitted on paper) from \$65
- \$255 Index Search Fee (if submitted online) from \$65
- \$265 Records Request Fee (after the index search) from \$65