

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION**General Records Schedule (GRS) 20**

AGENCY: National Archives and Records Administration.

ACTION: Notice regarding General Records Schedule (GRS) 20.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Order of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, dated April 9, 1998, in *Public Citizen v. Carlin*, Civil No. 96-2840, the Archivist of the United States issues the following statement:

Notices previously published by the Archivist in the **Federal Register** on December 16,¹ 1997, 62 Fed. Reg. 65737-65738, and January 14, 1998, 63 Fed. Reg. 2268, which stated that disposition practices for electronic records are "currently authorized under the National Archives and Records Administration's General Records Schedule 20 ('GRS 20')," should have instead stated that GRS 20 has been declared null and void by the United

States District Court for the District of Columbia.

The government has filed an appeal of the Court's declaratory judgment, but GRS-20 remains null and void pending resolution of that appeal. All federal agencies are advised that when submitting agency schedules to NARA for approval, electronic versions of records created on office automation applications should be scheduled in accordance with paragraph 5 of NARA Bulletin 98-02. NARA is currently working to develop an alternative approach to GRS-20 for the disposition of records created on word processing and electronic mail applications and has formed an interagency Electronic Records Work Group, consisting of select NARA staff, Federal records officers, and information management specialists, with oversight by the Deputy Archivist of the United States. The Work Group is to have recommendations to the Archivist by July 1 and an implementation plan by September 30, 1998. The Court has authorized the Archivist to state that a federal agency may continue to follow

its present disposition practices for electronic records until: (1) September 30, 1998; (2) the agency has submitted and received approval from NARA on a Request for Records Disposition Authority; (3) notification by NARA that the appeal has been resolved and NARA has provided further guidance as a result of the appellate court's decision; or (4) further Order of the District Court.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael Miller, Modern Records Program (NWM), National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001, (301) 713-7110. NARA Bulletin 98-02 is available on NARA's web site at <<http://www.nara.gov/records/grs20/bltn-grs.html>>. Further information about the Electronic Records Work Group is available at <<http://www.nara.gov/records/grs20/index.html>>.

Dated: April 14, 1998.

John W. Carlin,

Archivist of the United States.

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¹ **Editorial Note:** The December notice was published on December 15, 1997.