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JAN 11 2010

Dear (b)(6)

This is in response to your September 9, 2009, letter to this Office in which you appear to believe that the George Washington University (University) may have violated rights afforded you under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Specifically, you state that the University disclosed the home address of a school employee to you. This Office administers FERPA which addresses issues pertaining to education records.

FERPA is a Federal law that gives students the right to have access to their education records, the right to seek to have the records amended, and the right to have some control over the disclosure of information from the records. The term "education records" is defined as those records directly related to a student and maintained by an educational agency or institution or by a party acting for the agency or institution. Enclosed is a copy of the FERPA guidance document.

Under FERPA, a school may not generally disclose personally identifiable information from the education records of a student to a third party unless the student has provided written consent. An institution's disclosure of school employee information is not addressed under FERPA. Accordingly, FERPA does not apply in the instance which you identify. For further information regarding your rights under FERPA, you may wish to refer to the enclosed FERPA guidance.

I trust that the above information is helpful in explaining the scope and limitations of FERPA as it relates to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Bernard Cieplak
Program Analyst
Family Policy Compliance Office

Enclosure