

NIH Policy Manual

1211 - Naming Rooms in NIH Owned Facilities

Issuing Office: OD/OM/ORFDO **Phone:** [\(301\) 594-0999](tel:3015940999)

Approving Official(s): DDM

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Transmittal Notice

- 1. Explanation of Material Transmitted:** The purpose of this chapter is to provide the National Institutes of Health (NIH) policy and procedures for the naming of rooms in NIH buildings. This policy does not cover the naming of buildings, which is under the authority of Congress and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). This chapter has been revised to adhere to the five (5) year review requirement outlined in Manual Chapter 1710 – Publishing and Maintaining Policies in the NIH Policy Manual. The Background was revised to reflect the 2022 HH Facilities Program Manual policy citation regarding naming conventions. Section E. Reference was relabeled; Section F. Definitions was renamed; and Sections I and J were removed. See Appendix 1 for the details.
- 2. Filing Instructions:**

Remove: NIH Manual Chapter 1211, dated 03/22/2017

Insert: NIH Manual Chapter 1211, dated 10/18/2023

PLEASE NOTE: For information on:

- Content of this chapter, contact the issuing office listed above.
- NIH Policy Manual, contact the Division of Compliance Management, OMA on 301-496-4606, or enter this URL: <https://oma.od.nih.gov/DMS/Pages/Manual-Chapters.aspx>.

A. Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to provide policies and procedures in the naming of rooms in National Institutes of Health (NIH) owned buildings after a prominent deceased individual within an NIH Institute, Center or Office who has contributed substantially to the health of the Nation.

B. Background

5 U.S.C 301 authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to name or rename HHS owned buildings in the absence of specific action by Congress.

Section 6.13 of the HHS Facilities Program Manual provides the policy and guidelines used by HHS to name and dedicate installations and buildings. This does not address the naming of rooms within a building.

NIH Institutes, and Centers and Offices (ICOs) have expressed a desire to establish a method to name a room after a scientist, researcher, other professional or administrator, for meritorious contributions to the NIH.

See Appendix 2 for the definition of an NIH owned facility.

C. Scope

This policy applies to any individual or entity that wishes to recommend the naming of a room within NIH owned facilities.

D. Policy

The NIH Director, Deputy Director, Deputy Director for Management (DDM), ICO Directors, and ICO Deputy Directors, have authority to provide suitable acknowledgments of the efforts of individuals who have contributed substantially to the health of the Nation or who have provided gifts for use in health-related activities of the NIH.

This policy establishes the process and procedures to use to name rooms in NIH owned facilities after deceased individual(s) that have made significant contributions to the mission of the NIH.

E. Responsibilities

1. **Requester:** Responsible for initiating room naming request(s) and forwarding it to the Institute, Center, or Office (ICO) Director or Executive Officer (EO) for guidance.
2. **Institute, Center, or Office (ICO) Director or Executive Officer (EO):** Responsible for reviewing room naming requests from individuals within an ICO, verifying requests comply with naming standards, and for ensuring that all required documents are included to support review by the NIH Director or designee.
3. **NIH Deputy Director for Management (DDM):** Reviews and decides whether to name a specific room in an NIH owned building for an individual.
4. **Office of Research Facilities Development and Operations (ORFDO):** Responsible for providing guidance to ICOs on the placement and mounting of plaques, signage and/or photographs for rooms approved by the NIH Director or designee to receive a name.

F. Procedures

1. **Individuals or ICOs** interested in recommending a room being named after an individual must submit a letter to the ICO Director or Executive Officer to include the following:
 - a. A biography of the individual to be honored, which should describe how the person contributed substantially to the health of the Nation.
 - b. Copies of pertinent documents demonstrating the individual's contributions to the NIH mission.
 - c. Room to be named for the individual being honored.
 - d. A sample letter is included as Appendix 3.

2. **The ICO Director or Executive Officer will:**
 - a. Review the letter and associated documentation.
 - b. Recommend action to be taken to support naming of a room after the individual to be honored.
 - c. Forward memorandum to the NIH Deputy Director for Management (DDM) endorsing the naming of the proposed room for an individual. The DDM will review the request and approve it, disapprove it, or request additional information.
 - d. Work with the ORFDO on the mounting location and requirements for the plaque, signage, and/or photograph of the individual being honored.

3. **The Office of Research Facilities Development and Operations will:**
 - a. Review official approval documentation to name a room.
 - b. Provide guidance and support to ICOs for the mounting of plaques, signage, and/or photographs for rooms approved to be named after individuals that made significant contributions to the NIH mission.

G. References

1. [NIH Policy Manual, Chapter 1743 – Managing Federal Records](#)
2. [5 U.S.C. 301](#)
3. [HHS Facilities Program Manual Section 6.13: Naming and Dedicating Installations and Buildings](#)
4. [NIH Delegation of Authority \(DOA\) Finance, No. 06: Memorials and other Acknowledgement](#)

Appendix 1: Policy Updates

1. B. Background:
 - a. Revised the HHS Facilities Program Manual (FPM) section on naming and dedicating installations in buildings to read: “6.13” in lieu of “4-6” to reflect the 2022 update to the FPM.
 - b. Removed reference to “Volume II”.
2. F. Definitions – relocated and included it as Appendix 2.
3. E. References – changed to section G to comply with new policy formatting requirement.
4. G. Responsibilities – changed to section E to comply with the new policy formatting requirement.
5. H. Procedures – changed to section F. to comply with the new policy formatting requirement.
6. I. Records Retention and Disposal and J. Internal Controls are no longer required and were removed.

Appendix 2: Definitions

1. Owned Facility – the federal government has fee simple interest (ownership of real estate in which the owner has the right to control, use, and transfer the property at will) in the real property.

Appendix 3: Sample Room Naming Request Letter – use NIH Letterhead

DATE: Month Day, Year

TO: Deputy Director for Management (DDM), NIH

FROM: Director, National Institute of _____

SUBJECT: Request to Name Building XX, Room XX for _____.

As you know, _____ was an icon at _____, with an exceptionally distinguished scientific and administrative public service career that spanned more than half a century. After doing important laboratory work on _____, she made history as the first woman to direct an NIH institute, the _____. Dr. _____ held this position for nearly two decades and later served stints as the deputy director and acting director of NIH. She also played key roles in the establishment of the Office of Research on Women's Health and the evaluation of the NIH peer review system.

In all positions, _____ had extensive, high-level responsibilities that included establishing and leading major programs of national and international interest and importance. Her eminence and legacy are truly unparalleled.

Following ___ death in _____, NIH and _____ leaders have been actively discussing ways to honor _____ the many outstanding contributions to NIH and the broader scientific community. Two proposals that have gained the strongest support are to name Building XX auditorium for her and to hold a scientific symposium in her memory.

The NIH committee, which includes _____ and _____ and which is planning the scientific symposium, asked _____ to take the lead in pursuing the room naming request. The _____ Communications Director, _____, is coordinating this effort.

Among the many reasons that it would be an especially fitting recognition to name the room _____ are:

- Exceptional, substantial, and sustained impact on NIH;
- Long and close relationship with _____;
- Significant and critical involvement in the construction of Building XX, which is named after _____ Congressman _____;
- Role as the long-time director of the only institute that is completely housed in the building, which is also NIH's most extramurally focused institute; and
- The fact that the building houses the NIH conference center, which brings in large numbers of people from both NIH and the external scientific community for important meetings and other activities in the main auditorium.

Before submitting this request, ___ staff received guidance on the steps involved from Office of Research Services, Office of Research Facilities Development and Operations, and Office of the General Counsel staff. They advised us to begin the process by sending this memorandum to you. We also consulted with _____ family and received their endorsement of our plans.

The naming of the room number ___ after _____ would not alter the existing name of either the building or the _____. This approach is consistent with the way that other buildings and rooms have been named on the Bethesda campus.

Attached are a biographical sketch of _____ and photographs of the exterior and interior of Building XX. The photographs show the following features of the facility:

- Exterior of Building XX front entrance and office wing housing _____ and other NIH staff.
- Lobby 03: First-floor lobby of Building XX.
- Lobby 01: Entrance to the Building XX room.
- P2 Lower Foyer 01: Lobby outside the Building XX room XX.
- View of the Building XX and _____.

Thank you for considering this request. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Signature

Director

Attachments

CC:

Principal Deputy Director, NIH

Director, ORS

Director, ORFDO

Legal Counsel, OGC

Other Relevant Individuals, IC