

Summary Disclosure versus Adequate Disclosure

Summarizations of original documents provide only a limited, subjective interpretation of material and are therefore insufficient. In similar historical cases, such as the assassination of President Kennedy, approximately 90% or more of original, primary data has been released by local, state and federal agencies. Over the past seventeen years approximately 2% or less of the original source material contained in the Los Angeles Police Department files has been released.

In its releases of documents to date on the Robert F. Kennedy case, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has withheld or deleted approximately five to ten percent of the substance of the files requested, in order to protect rights to privacy, confidentiality of sources, and national security where applicable. They did this in the mid-1970s, pursuant to standard governmental disclosure practices. They have recently agreed to process and release the remaining 28,000 pages of primary material, following the same procedures.

Based upon the past record of the FBI releases, the releases of the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, and the processing of the Sirhan trial exhibits by the Federal Archives at Laguna Niguel, California, the volume of privacy/confidentiality deletions in a reasonable processing of the LAPD files on the Robert Kennedy case might be estimated in the range of approximately ten percent of the material. In the light of this background, a limitation of LAPD public disclosure in this case to summary materials or reports is clearly unnecessary, and would result in inadequate disclosure.