



**FEMA**

***This is the revised letter FEMA is sending to applicants concerning the court order to release their addresses to the Florida media organizations. The modified portion of the letter is italicized.***

Dear Applicant:

*"If you need this letter in any other language, please visit <http://www.fema.gov/individual/privacy> or call 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY 1-800-462-7585.*

"Our records show that between 1998 and 2004 you requested help from FEMA as a result of a disaster(s) in your area. We are writing to let you know about a recent court order that directs FEMA to provide the address of your disaster-damaged home to the South Florida Sun-Sentinel who sued FEMA to get the information. If you applied for disaster assistance after one of the four hurricanes that occurred in Florida in 2004, the court order also directs FEMA to provide your address to The News-Press and Pensacola News Journal.

*"Recently, these Florida newspapers asked FEMA for disaster assistance information for applicants like you, who asked for help from FEMA. At that time, FEMA provided general information to the newspapers about the overall assistance provided. FEMA did not give out the names or addresses of disaster applicants, because we believed that the Privacy Act did not allow such a release. The newspapers sued FEMA to get the names and addresses. The court decided that FEMA must give the newspapers only the applicants' home addresses. The court case was News-Press v. DHS/FEMA, (U.S. App. LEXIS 14817 (June 22, 2007).*

"We understand that when you asked for help, you expected that FEMA would protect your privacy. However, we have no choice and must comply with the court's order.

"Again, as a result of the court order, FEMA will be giving the address of your disaster-damaged residence to the newspapers. We will not be giving any other personal information, such as your name or social security number.

"Please keep this letter for your records. If you have any questions, please contact FEMA at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362), or for TTY 1-800-462-7585."