

Availability of Interference Files

(115) Availability of Interference Files and Interference
Related Application and Patent Files

This notice describes simplified procedures for inspecting and/or obtaining copies of interference files and related application and patent files. Prior to April, 1995, pending and terminated interference files and other files involved in pending interferences could be inspected and released for copying at the self-service copy center located at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences. Because of (1) repeated and substantial file integrity problems with released files and (2) the growing space needs of the Board, this facility was discontinued. Copies of files could only be obtained through Certification Division. In order to improve the availability of these files this procedure has been modified. The new procedures are described below.

Terminated interferences

Subject to statutory and regulatory limitations on availability (35 U.S.C. 122; 37 C.F.R. 1.11 and 1.14) terminated interference files and application and patent files involved in terminated interferences may be inspected at and copies obtained through the Files Information Unit. ((703) 308-2733.)

Pending interferences

As a general matter, pending applications and interference files are not available to the public. 35 U.S.C. 122; 37 C.F.R. 1.11(e) and 1.14. The parties to an interference or their representatives (e.g., those having a duly executed power to inspect) may inspect pending interference files and involved application and patented files, by appointment, at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences. Appointments should be made with the Clerk of the Board at (703) 308-9797. The parties to a pending interference or their representatives may obtain copies of pending interference files and involved files by placing an order through Certification Division ((703) 308-9726 in the Washington, D.C., Metro Area or (800) 972-6382 outside Washington, D.C.).

BRUCE H. STONER, JR.
Acting Chief Administrative
Patent Judge

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