



---

## HOW DOES THE ORA VERIFICATION PROCESS WORK?

ORA has established a vast information system containing data collected since the Office was established. Using this information, ORA begins to identify and locate individuals who may be eligible for redress.

### **Step 1: Identify Potential Eligibles Using *Historical Information***

Historical records of the internment have been obtained from The National Archives, War Relocation Authority, Immigration and Naturalization Service and other sources. These historical records contain the names and other information about all those who were interned or are otherwise potentially eligible for redress. These historical records do not contain the current address of the individual.

### **Step 2: Identify Potential Eligibles Using *Current Information***

Current address and other information about potential redress recipients is collected from federal agencies (such as the Social Security Administration, state vital statistics bureaus, etc.) and from potential recipients, their families, or friends and stored in ORA's computers.

### **Step 3: "Match" Historical and Current Information**

Using our computer system, ORA analysts match historical records (see Step 1) with current information (see Step 2) that tells us where to find a potential redress recipient.

### **Step 4: Check for Redress Eligibility Requirements**

Once an individual has been "matched" in our computer system, ORA analysts check to see if that individual meets all the redress eligibility criteria as defined by the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. To be eligible, a person must have been evacuated, relocated, or interned (or meet eligibility requirements for special cases -- see other side) **AND:**

- must be of Japanese ancestry
- must have been a U.S. citizen or permanent resident alien during the internment period, from December 7, 1941 to June 30, 1946.
- must have been living on August 10, 1988, the date of the law's enactment.

*(continued)*

- must not have relocated to another country during the period of December 7, 1941 to September 2, 1945, while the United States was at war with that country. This includes children who relocated with their parents.

### **Special Cases:**

There are other eligibility requirements specified in ORA's regulations that apply to those who evacuated voluntarily, were members of the Military, or had other special circumstances to their evacuation, relocation or internment. If an individual meets the eligibility criteria, their case is moved to the next step of verification.

### **Step 5: Notification of Your Potential Eligibility**

Once ORA has reached a preliminary eligibility determination in the process described above, you will be contacted by letter. The law states that ORA must endeavor to disburse payments in order of birth, beginning with the oldest eligible individual. To be eligible, an individual must have been living on August 10, 1988, the date of the enactment of the law. If an eligible person died after that date, payment will be made to the surviving spouse, children, or parents, in that order.

Our *Letter of Potential Eligibility* requests that you complete and sign a *Declaration of Eligibility* and submit certain documents to establish your identity. The letter will contain specific instructions on what kinds of documents to send to ORA. The purpose of these documents is to ensure that we have identified the right person, and to prevent false redress claims. ORA must receive this information from you before proceeding any further with your case, therefore you should return it as quickly as possible.

### **Step 6: Review of Your Documents**

After ORA receives the requested documents, they will be reviewed by ORA analysts. If you are subsequently determined eligible for payment, you will receive a letter telling you the approximate date you should expect to receive payment. If ORA needs additional information from you before we can make an eligibility determination, we will send you a letter requesting the information. Except for a change of address or death information, you should not send any documentation to ORA unless it is requested.

Usually, in cases where more than one heir is eligible for the redress payment of a deceased individual, payment cannot be issued until all heirs have submitted the necessary documentation to ORA, and their identities have been confirmed.

### **Step 7: Payment**

If you are determined eligible for a redress payment, your payment will be mailed first class in a brown envelope along with a letter of apology signed by President Bush. If your address changes at any time before you receive payment, please notify ORA immediately.