

The 411 on FARA

(The Foreign Agent Registration Act, 22 U.S.C. 611 et seq.; 28 CFR Part 5)



Foreign agents are:

- Foreign countries
- Foreign political parties
- Foreign persons
- Organizations created under the laws of a foreign country
- Organizations with a “principal place of business” in a country outside of the U.S.

Doing the Following Activities Generally Requires Registration Under FARA:

1. Attempting to influence U.S. law or policy by, for example: lobbying; setting up meetings with government officials; representing foreign entities before a U.S. government agency.
2. Attempting to influence U.S. public opinion by, for example: publishing or disseminating information verbally or in writing about the benefits of a foreign entity’s political, economic, social, cultural; or any other advantages the entity may have that you promote.
3. Soliciting, collecting or dispersing any item of value for a non-U.S. entity such as loans and political contributions

FARA requires registration with the Department of Justice when acting for or at the direction of a foreign agent.

Some Exceptions to the Registration Requirement:

- **Practicing Law Exemption** – Lawyers providing legal representation for a foreign client.
- **Academic Pursuit Exemption** – Academics or others engaging in legitimate academic, religious, scientific or fine arts work.
- **Commercial Activities Exemption** - Engaging in “private, nonpolitical” activities to further legitimate commercial transactions for foreign entity.
- **News Organizations Exemption** - Legitimate news organizations that are at least 80% owned by U.S. citizens.

For Those Who Must Register - Registration Requires:

- Names
- Addresses
- Occupations
- Type of business
- Activities undertaken for the foreign entity
- Budget for the activity
- Any materials or information that was disseminated or published.



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