

Recent history of executive privilege orders

President Obama has invoked *executive privilege* to withhold documents from a congressional panel investigating a botched gun-tracking operation

NUMBER OF EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE ORDERS, BY PRESIDENCY



2

John F. Kennedy (1961-1963): Invoked orders in relation to Cold War military education and Bay of Pigs affair



3

Lyndon B. Johnson (1963-1969): Officials refused to supply testimony about presidential actions, but not on Johnson's orders



6

Richard Nixon (1969-1974): Half of Nixon's invocations related to investigation of Watergate scandal



1

Gerald Ford (1974-1977): Prohibited release of subpoenaed documents pertaining to probe on covert actions



1

Jimmy Carter (1977-1981): Thwarted attempt to investigate claim that coal strike could cost 3.5 million jobs if not resolved



3

Ronald Reagan (1981-1989): Prevented release of memos by Supreme Court nominee while advisor to attorney general



1

George H. W. Bush (1989-1993): Barred congressional subpoena for documents related to Navy aircraft programme



14

Bill Clinton (1993-2001): Executive privilege claim refused when judge ruled aides could be called to testify in Monica Lewinsky trial



6

George W. Bush (2001-2009): Rejected subpoena of White House advisor in probe over firing of nine federal prosecutors



1

Barack Obama (2009-present): Access denied to documents relating to failed operation to track guns smuggled to Mexico