



**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS**

Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 14, 2010

Sandra Collins
City of Chicago Department of Finance
Benefits Management Division
333 South State Street
Chicago, IL 60604-3978

RE: Pre-Authorization Request- 2010 PAC 6665

Dear Ms. Collins:

We have received and reviewed the written notice from the City of Chicago Department of Finance of its intent to deny disclosure of certain internal correspondence, as exempt under subsection 7(1)(f) of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1 *et seq.*, as amended (FOIA).

In a letter dated March 16, 2010, [REDACTED] requested:

any and all documents pertaining to the City of Chicago Benefits Committee regarding appeal number 2007-0027 and appeal number 2008-0042. Specifically, this request seeks all records, including all medical records and reports from the physician reviewer involved.

The department plans on denying this request, in part, based on subsection 7(1)(f). The department asserts that the withheld records relate to internal correspondence central to its benefit determination process.

After reviewing this matter, we have determined that the exemption in subsection 7(1)(f) applies and, therefore, pre-authorization is **granted**. Subsection 7(1)(f) allows for exemption where "preliminary drafts, notes, recommendations, memoranda and other records in which opinions are expressed, or policies or actions are formulated." 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(f).

Internal correspondence within a department concerning whether or not a person should be granted benefits clearly fits within the parameters of the subsection 7(1)(f) exemption; it depicts the deliberative process of a department formulating action. Therefore, pre-authorization is **granted**.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly at (312) 814-6437. This letter shall serve to close this file.

Sincerely,

Cara Smith
Public Access Counselor

By 

Lola Dada-Olley
Assistant Public Access Counselor

cc:

