

records in which opinions are expressed or policies or actions are formulated.” This exemption applies to predecisional communications that are part of an agency’s decision-making process. *Harwood v. McDonough*, 344 Ill. App. 3d 242, 248 (1st Dist. 2003).

Section 3-3013 of the Counties Code describes a coroner’s investigation into the cause of death as a “preliminary investigation” (55 ILCS 5/3-3013), but the reports sought by the requester here set forth the ultimate findings and conclusions of the Coroner rather than preliminary findings and conclusions. The Coroner does not indicate that there were any subsequent investigations about the decedent’s death.¹ Thus, the Coroner has not provided any facts indicating that the reports are predecisional in nature. We therefore conclude that the reports are not exempt under Section 7(1)(f). Accordingly, the Coroner’s request to assert an exemption under Section 7(1)(f) of FOIA is denied.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 312-814-2770. This correspondence will serve to close the matter.

Sincerely,

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¹ We note that the Coroner was required to report the decedent’s death to the State Fire Marshal because the death was caused by a fire. *See* 55 ILCS 5/3-3013. The State Fire Marshal keeps records of all reported fires in Illinois and conducts arson investigations. *See* 20 ILCS 2905/2. The Coroner’s Office has provided no facts indicating that the State Fire Marshal or any other law enforcement agency is conducting an arson investigation in this matter, however.