



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

Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

June 24, 2010

Dr. Dennis E. Craft, Ed.D
Collinsville Community Unit School District 10
201 W. Clay
Collinsville, Illinois 62234

RE: FOIA Pre-Authorization Request – 2010 PAC 6398

Dear Dr. Craft:

We have received and reviewed the written notice from Collinsville Community Unit School District (District) of its intention to withhold certain information as exempt from disclosure under Section 7(1)(c) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). 5 ILCS 140/1 *et seq.*, as amended.

Specifically, on March 16, 2010, [REDACTED] submitted a FOIA request to the District seeking the following information relating to [REDACTED]

1. Personnel File of [REDACTED]
2. All Documents Pertaining to the Hiring and Resignation/Termination
3. All Disciplinary Actions
4. Employment Application
5. Employment Resume
6. Dates of Employment
7. All Board Decisions
8. Rehire Status

On March 22, 2010, the District sent Ms. [REDACTED] a letter forwarding copies of a majority of the requested documents except a copy of Dr. [REDACTED]'s educational transcripts. The District denied Ms. [REDACTED] request for copies of these transcripts, asserting that disclosure would constitute a highly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy under Section 7(1)(c) of FOIA.

On March 22, 2010, the District submitted a pre-authorization request with our Office, asserting that the transcripts are highly personal in nature and may properly be withheld pursuant to Section 7(1)(c), which exempts from inspection and copying “[p]ersonal information contained within public records, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, unless disclosure is consented to in writing by the individual subjects of the information.” 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c). The exemption defines “[u]nwarranted invasion of personal privacy” as “the disclosure of information that is highly personal or objectionable to a reasonable person and in which the subject’s right to privacy outweighs any legitimate public interest in obtaining the information.” *Id.*

Determinations

The District’s request for approval of its decision to withhold Dr. [REDACTED]’s educational transcripts pursuant to Section 7(1)(c) is approved.

Under Section 7(1)(c), the disclosure of information that bears on the public duties of public employees and officials shall not be considered an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. However, although academic transcripts may be considered in the course of determining qualifications for employment by a public body, they generally include detailed information on classes taken and grades received that has little or no bearing on the employee’s performance of his or her public duties, and which can properly be considered highly personal. For these reasons, the District has met its burden under Section 7(1)(c) and may withhold the transcripts.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (312) 814-5383. This correspondence shall serve to close this matter.

Sincerely,

Cara Smith
Public Access Counselor

By: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Matthew C. Rogina
Assistant Public Access Counselor

cc: [REDACTED]