



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

June 25, 2010

Wendellyn J. Briggs
Freedom of Information Officer
Town of Normal
100 East Phoenix Avenue
P.O. Box 589
Normal, IL 61761-0589

RE: Pre-Authorization Request — 2010 PAC 8006

Dear Ms. Briggs:

We have received and reviewed the written notice from the Town of Normal (Town) of its intention to deny disclosure of 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.

Frank Lowry of Hausmann-McNally Law Offices submitted a FOIA request dated June 15, 2010, seeking all accident reports from June 1, 2010 to June 15, 2010. In its written notice, the Town asserted that dates of birth, insurance policy numbers and all matters reflecting on the health of the driver(s), witnesses and passengers listed in the reports are exempt from disclosure under Section 7(1)(c) of FOIA.

Determinations

Section 7(1)(c) of FOIA 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.*

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The Town's use of the exemption in Section 7(1)(c) with regard to dates of birth is approved. We have determined that the disclosure of dates of birth would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy under Section 7(1)(c). 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c). This type of information is highly personal by its very nature and the subject's right to privacy outweighs any legitimate public interest in disclosing this information.

The Town's use of the exemption in Section 7(1)(c) with regard to insurance policy numbers is also approved. We have determined that the disclosure of this type of information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy under Section 7(1)(c). 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c). This type of information is highly personal by its very nature and the subject's right to privacy outweighs any legitimate public interest in disclosing this information.

The Town's use of the exemption in Section 7(1)(c) with regard to the subjects' health information is denied. The redactions contain general statements about injuries that occurred during several incidents. We have determined that the Town has not met its burden of establishing that the disclosure of this information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy under Section 7(1)(c). 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c).

As such, the Town may issue a partial denial letter directly to Mr. Lowry and release the records in accordance with this letter.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (312) 814-5206. This correspondence shall serve to close this matter.

Sincerely,

Cara Smith
Public Access Counselor

By:

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Amalia Rioja.

Amalia Rioja
Chief Deputy Public Access Counselor

cc: Frank Lowry
903 N. 4th Street.
Petersburg, Illinois 62675