



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
STATE OF ILLINOIS

**Lisa Madigan**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

July 15, 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 8345

Dear Ms. Briggs:

We have received and reviewed the written notice from the Town of Normal (Town) of its intent 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.

LexisNexis submitted a FOIA request dated July 2, 2010, seeking police report number 10-694. In its written notice, the Town asserted that dates of birth are exempt from disclosure under Section 7(1)(c) of FOIA.

**Determination**

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.*

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

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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. As such, the Town may issue a partial denial letter directly to LexisNexis and release the records with the appropriate information redacted.

The Town's use of the exemption in Section 7(1)(c) with regard to the subject's health information is denied. We have determined that the disclosure of this health information would not constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy under Section 7(1)(c). 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c). The fact that the subject complained of possible injuries following the accident does not reveal any protected medical information. The Town has not met its burden of establishing a basis for redacting this information.

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:

  
Amalia Rioja  
Chief Deputy Public Access Counselor

cc: LexisNexis  
P.O. Box 7000  
Southeastern, PA 19398