



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

Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

September 10, 2010

Wendelbyn J. Briggs
Town of Normal
100 East Phoenix Avenue
PO Box 589
Normal, IL 61761-0589

RE: Pre-Authorization Request – 2010 PAC 9433

Dear Ms. Briggs:

We have received and reviewed the written notice from the Town of Normal (Town) of its intention to deny certain information as exempt from disclosure under subsection 7(1)(c) of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1 *et seq.*, as amended (FOIA). The Town is seeking to redact dates of birth from the requested documents.

Sharon Turner-Hall with the U.S. Postal Service submitted a FOIA request on August 31, 2010 for Accident Report #09-707 dated June 23, 2009. In its written notice, the Town asserted that the dates of birth are exempt from disclosure under Section 7(1)(c) of FOIA.

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.*

Determination



The Town’s use of the exemption in Section 7(1)(c) with regard to the dates of birth is approved. We have determined that the disclosure of dates of birth would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. 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.

Accordingly, the Town may issue a partial denial letter and release the reports with the dates of birth redacted, if it has not already done so.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (217) 785-7438. This correspondence shall serve to close this matter.

Sincerely,

Cara Smith
Public Access Counselor

By: 


Amanda M. Lundeen
Assistant Public Access Counselor

cc: Sharon Turner-Hall
U.S. Postal Service
Tort Claims Coordinator
Operations Program Support
Bedford Park, IL 60499-9334