



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

Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

August 16, 2010

Debbie Hallam
Streator Police Department
911 Coordinator
204 S. Bloomington Street
Streator, Illinois 61364

RE: Pre-Authorization Request – 2010 PAC 7921

Dear Ms. Hallam:

On June 8, 2010, [REDACTED] submitted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Streator Police Department (Department) seeking a copy of a document [REDACTED] referred to as a “[s]uicide note written on [the] evening of 6-4-10 by [REDACTED]” On June 10, 2010, the Department notified the Public Access Counselor of its intention to deny [REDACTED] request pursuant to Section 7(1)(c) of FOIA. 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c). On June 17, 2010, we asked the Department to provide a detailed factual explanation of its basis for asserting that the disclosure of the document would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, to which you responded on June 30, 2010.

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 Department’s proposed use of the “personal privacy” exemption found in Section 7(1)(c) of FOIA to deny disclosure of the document [REDACTED] requested is approved. The information contained in this document is highly personal and the subject’s right to privacy outweighs any legitimate public interest in obtaining the information. The Department has met its burden of demonstrating that the disclosure of this document would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, for purposes of Section 7(1)(c) of FOIA.


Accordingly, the Department may issue a denial letter withholding the document from disclosure.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (312) 814-1003. This correspondence shall serve to close this matter.

Sincerely,

Cara Smith
Public Access Counselor

By 


Jessica O'Leary
Assistant Attorney General

cc: 