



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 4, 2010

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

RE: Pre-Authorization Request - 2010 PAC 10472

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 pursuant to Section 7(1)(c) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 ILCS 140/1 *et seq.*, as amended.

On October 20, 2010, LexisNexis submitted a FOIA request to the Town, seeking a copy of Report #A10-982. In its written notice, the Town asserts that dates of birth are exempt from disclosure pursuant to Section 7(1)(c) of FOIA (5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c)).

**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." *Id.* 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 a person's date of birth is highly personal information, and the subject's right to privacy with respect to this information outweighs any legitimate public interest in its disclosure. As such, the Town may issue a partial denial letter directly to LexisNexis and release the record with the appropriate information redacted.

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Public Access Counselor's Office at (877) 299-3642. This correspondence shall serve to close this matter.

Sincerely,

Cara Smith  
Public Access Counselor

By: Tola Sobitan DNR

Tola Sobitan  
Assistant Public Access Counselor

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

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