

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS
ISSUED THROUGH THE
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC ACCESS COUNSELOR
INDEX OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT BINDING OPINIONS
FROM 2010 TO PRESENT



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This document is a comprehensive index of binding opinions issued by the Attorney General through the Office of the Public Access Counselor from 2010 through the present. Please note that an opinion may have been superseded by statute or case law. You should, therefore, review each opinion upon which you would rely in consultation with an attorney familiar with Illinois law.

The opinions cited in this index are available in PDF format on [this website](#). If you do not find an opinion on an issue with which you are concerned, feel free to contact the Public Access Bureau of the Office of the Attorney General (877-299-3642) to inquire regarding the existence of additional records.

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¹The public body filed a Complaint for Administrative Review requesting the court overturn the conclusion in Binding Opinion 24-016 that the names of the signatories of the letter are not exempt from disclosure. *Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability v. Illinois Attorney General, Public Access Bureau, and Policemen's Benevolent And Protective Association*, 2025CH00983 (January 29, 2025).

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Disclosure of E-Mails from Public Employees' Personal E-Mail Accounts Pertaining to Transaction of Public Business	16-006 (2016)
Disclosure of Public Employees' Compensation	16-012 (2016)
Disclosure of Audio Recordings of Public Meetings Used to Create Minutes	17-012 (2017)
Purpose of FOIA Request Invalid Basis on Which to Withhold Public Records	17-014 (2017)
Disclosure of Names of Municipal Water Account Holders	18-002 (2018)
Recording of Discussion During Gathering of Public Officials is Public Record	19-013 (2019)
E-mail from Police Chief to Staff Concerning Policies, Procedure, and Employee Conduct Is a Public Record	22-004 (2022)

Applications of Individuals Not Appointed to the Village Board of Trustees That Were Emailed to Village President's Village-Issued E-mail Account are Public Records of Village.....	22-011 (2022)
Disclosure of Video Footage of Public Building Interior Related to Investigation	24-005 (2024)

RECEIPT OF REQUESTS:

Requests for Records May Properly Be Submitted to a Public Body via Personal Delivery	12-004 (2012)
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RECURRENT REQUESTERS:

Classification as a "Recurrent Requester" under Section 2(g) of FOIA	12-001 (2012)
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SCHOOL STUDENT RECORDS:

Disclosure of Student Test Scores under the Illinois School Student Records Act	12-014 (2012)
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SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS:

Settlement Agreements	10-004 (2010)
Under Section 2.20 of FOIA, Settlement Agreements Entered into by an Intergovernmental Risk Management Association or Self-Insurance Pool on behalf of a Public Body Are Subject to Disclosure. Section 7(1)(s) Does Not Exempt from Disclosure the Amount of Funds Expended to Settle a Claim	11-004 (2011)
Disclosure of Settlement Agreements	14-004 (2014)
Disclosure of Settlement Agreements	15-004 (2015)
Disclosure of General Allegations against Public Body Found in a Settlement Agreement	18-010 (2018)
Disclosure of Settlement Agreement	24-001 (2024)

TRADE SECRETS AND COMMERCIAL OR FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Records Documenting Public Funds Paid to Entities Pursuant to Contracts for Performance of a Governmental Function are Subject to Disclosure	14-005 (2014)
Disclosure of Terms of Lease Agreements for the Rental of Public Property	14-016 (2014)
Negotiated Terms of Contracts with Public Bodies Do Not Constitute Trade Secrets.....	15-002 (2015)
Financial Terms of Contracts, Billing Invoices, and Budget Documents Related to a Public Body's Use of Public Funds Are Not Exempt under Section 7(1)(g) of FOIA	17-003 (2017)
Third Party Cost Records Submitted to a City Related to a City-Funded Redevelopment Project Are Not Exempt from Disclosure under Section 7(1)(g) of FOIA.....	18-004 (2018)
Financial Terms Related to a Public Body's Use of Public Funds Are Not Exempt under Section 7(1)(g) of FOIA	18-008 (2018)

Reports of Manganese Throughputs Submitted to a City Public Health Department Are Not Exempt From Disclosure under Section 7(1)(g) of FOIA	19-007 (2019)
Public Body Failed to Prove Records of Third Party Contractor Providing Medical Care to Inmates Were Trade Secrets or Commercial or Financial Information Exempt from Disclosure under Section 7(1)(g) of FOIA.	20-006 (2020)
Non-Disclosure Agreement Concerning Planned Commercial Development Project That Has Been Publicly Announced Is Not Exempt under Section 7(1)(g) of FOIA	23-015 (2023)

UNDULY BURDENSOME REQUESTS:

A Subsequent FOIA Request Cannot be Deemed "Unduly Burdensome" Unless the Public Body has Either Previously Disclosed the Requested Records or Properly Denied the Request	11-003 (2011)
Disclosure of Student Test Scores under the Illinois School Student Records Act	12-014 (2012)
A Public Body That Fails to Respond Within the Requisite Period May Not Treat Request as Unduly Burdensome	14-007 (2014)
Repeat Requests under Section 3(g)	14-010 (2014)
Disclosure of Terms of Lease Agreements for the Rental of Public Property	14-016 (2014)
Failure to Timely Respond to FOIA Request Precludes Denial as Unduly Burdensome	15-011 (2015)
Improper Denial of a Request for Records as Unduly Burdensome	16-008 (2016)
Public Body's Burden when Denying a Request as an Unduly Burdensome Repeated Request	18-007 (2018)
Improper Denial of a Request for Records as an Unduly Burdensome Repeated Request	18-008 (2018)
Improper Denial of a Request for Records as Unduly Burdensome	18-013 (2018)
Duty to Confer Before Denying Request as Unduly Burdensome	21-001 (2021)
Improper Denial of a Request as Unduly Burdensome	23-007 (2023)

UNWARRANTED INVASION OF PERSONAL PRIVACY:

Autopsy Reports	10-003 (2010)
Section 2.15 of FOIA Requires Disclosure of Arrest Reports	11-001 (2011)
Disclosure of Certain Information in a Criminal Complaint Filed by a Public Official	16-009 (2016)
Disclosure of Public Employees' Compensation	18-005 (2018)
Disclosure of Property Index Numbers	18-009 (2018)
Disclosure of General Allegations against Public Body Found in a Settlement Agreement	18-010 (2018)

E-mail from Police Chief to Staff Concerning Policies, Procedure, and Employee Conduct Is Not Exempt Under Section 7(1)(c).....	22-004 (2022)
Disclosure of Complaints Alleging Public Employee Misconduct.....	22-005 (2022)
Police Reports Concerning Public Employee Arrested and Charged with Crimes Against a Minor are Not Exempt from Disclosure in their Entireties under the Personal Privacy Exemption	23-009 (2023)
Basis for Withholding Letter from Current and Former Employees of One Public Body Asking Oversight Agency to Hold Vote of No Confidence	24-016 (2024) ²

VALUABLE FORMULAE, COMPUTER GEOGRAPHIC SYSTEMS, DESIGNS, ETC.:

Disclosure of Terms of Lease Agreements for the Rental of Public Property	14-016 (2014)
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VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS, SECURITY MEASURES, & RESPONSE POLICIES/PLANS:

Disclosure of Number of Police Officers Assigned to Districts	11-002 (2011)
Basic Attendance Records of Police Officers Are Not Exempt Under Either Section 7(1)(d)(vi) or Section 7(1)(v) of FOIA.....	21-005 (2021)
Disclosure of 911 Response Times	21-012 (2021)
Meaning of “Security Measures” in Section 7(1)(v) of FOIA; Redaction of Addresses.....	24-008 (2024)

²The public body filed a Complaint for Administrative Review requesting the court overturn the conclusion in Binding Opinion 24-016 that the names of the signatories of the letter are not exempt from disclosure. *Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability v. Illinois Attorney General, Public Access Bureau, and Policemen's Benevolent And Protective Association*, 2025CH00983 (January 29, 2025).