

Since 1975



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission • 165 Capitol Avenue, Suite 1100 • Hartford, CT 06106
Toll free (CT only): (860) 374-3617 Tel: (860) 566-5682 Fax: (860) 566-6474 • www.ct.gov/foi • email: foi@ct.gov

NOTICE OF IN-PERSON HEARING AND ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE **DOCKET NO. FIC 2024-0030**

NOTICE: Beginning September 6, 2022, the Freedom of Information Commission will conduct all contested case hearings in person. For information regarding the conduct of in-person hearings during the Covid-19 Pandemic, visit our website at www.ct.gov/foi.

July 9, 2024

TO COMPLAINANT(S):

KAROLYN RYAN, 29 Veranda Avenue, Hamden, CT 06517

TO RESPONDENT(S):

COMMISSIONER, STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES; AND STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, 505 Hudson Street, Hartford, CT 06106

1. This will serve as notice that the Freedom of Information Commission will conduct a hearing concerning the appeal brought by the above-named complainant(s). This appeal alleges violation(s) of the Freedom of Information Act, as set forth in Chapter 14 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
2. Attorney Valicia D. Harmon has been designated hearing officer for the purpose of this appeal and will hold a hearing on its merits at the following date, time and place:

DATE OF HEARING: August 26, 2024

TIME OF HEARING: 11:00 AM

**PLACE OF HEARING: 165 CAPITOL AVE,
SUITE 1100
(GROUND FLOOR)
HARTFORD, CT 06106**

- The hearing will be held in the Commission's Hearing Room, Conference Room H, located on the ground floor at 165 Capitol Avenue.
- Please refrain from contacting your hearing officer directly. All communications to your hearing officer should be in writing and sent to the Commission by email (foi@ct.gov) or regular mail. If you have any questions, you may contact your ombudsman or the Commission by telephone, email, or regular mail.
- **REQUIREMENT FOR SUBMISSION OF ALL DOCUMENTARY MATERIALS: THE COMPLAINANT(S) AND THE RESPONDENT(S) ARE HEREBY ORDERED TO APPEAR AT THE HEARING WITH THREE COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTARY MATERIALS WHICH THEY SEEK TO BE ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE. THE HEARING OFFICER SHALL RULE ON THE ADMISSIBILITY OF ALL SUCH MATERIALS AT THE HEARING. DO NOT PAGINATE OR PRE-MARK YOUR DOCUMENTARY MATERIALS.**

3. The COMPLAINANT(S) named above is (are) hereby ORDERED to appear on the date and time, and at the place indicated, in paragraph 2 in order to present this appeal on the basis of the facts alleged. The complainant(s) may appear in person or by counsel or other authorized representative. Failure to appear may lead to dismissal of the appeal. A copy of the complaint in this matter (three pages) and attachment (fourteen pages) is attached to this Notice and Order.

4. The RESPONDENT(S) named above is (are) hereby ORDERED to appear on the date and time, and at the place, indicated in paragraph 2 in order to show cause why this appeal should not be sustained. The respondent(s) may appear in person or by counsel or other authorized representative. Failure to appear may lead to the sustaining of the appeal and the imposition of appropriate relief. A copy of the complaint in this matter (three pages) and attachment (fourteen pages) is attached to this Notice and Order.

5. The RESPONDENT(S) named above is (are) hereby further ORDERED, if the personnel or medical files or similar files of any of its employees are the subject of the above appeal, to notify such employee(s) and the employee's (ees') collective bargaining representative, if any, of the appeal and of the Freedom of Information Commission's proceedings. If any such employee or collective bargaining representative has filed an objection, pursuant to §1-214 (c), G.S., to disclosure of the records, such notice shall be by certified mail, return receipt requested or by hand delivery with a signed receipt.

6. The hearing is governed by the regulations of the Freedom of Information Commission and will be conducted as a contested case under Chapter 54 of the Connecticut General Statutes. A copy of the Regulations may be obtained from the Commission upon request or can be found on the Commission's website. The hearing will provide the only opportunity to present oral and written evidence. Each party may testify, examine and cross-examine witnesses and present oral argument

on the law. All evidence becomes part of the record of the hearing. Written argument and briefs may be filed, but are not required. The complainant may seek the imposition of the civil penalty permitted under §1-206(b), G.S. In that case, the hearing shall also afford the custodian, or other official(s), responsible for the denial of any right(s) alleged to have been violated under the Freedom of Information Act, an opportunity to show that any such violation was based upon reasonable grounds. If the complainant does not specifically seek the imposition of a civil penalty, the designated hearing officer nevertheless may find that a specific violation of the Freedom of Information Act appears to have been committed without reasonable ground. The Hearing Officer then may recommend that a subsequent hearing be held in order to afford the custodian or other official(s) responsible an opportunity to show that any such violation was based upon reasonable grounds.

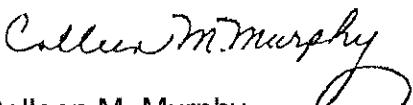
7. Upon conclusion of the hearing, the Hearing Officer will prepare a report consisting of findings of facts and conclusions of law as they apply to the case and a recommended order. The parties will receive a copy of the report together with a notice of the meeting at which the Freedom of Information Commission will consider and vote upon the Hearing Officer's report. The report does not become a decision of the Freedom of Information Commission unless it is approved by it. The Commission may approve, amend or disapprove the Hearing Officer's report. Before a vote is taken, however, the parties may present oral argument. *No additional evidence, however, will be received.* Written argument, briefs or exceptions are not required, but if submitted they should be filed no later than the date indicated in the Notice of Meeting/Transmittal of Proposed Final Decision. The Commission's regular meetings are usually held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Each party is advised to attend the Commission's meeting at which the Hearing Officer's Report will be considered and voted upon, even if the report is in its favor. Please note that all opposing parties may attend the meeting and the Commission may be persuaded to amend or disapprove the Hearing Officer's Report. If a party is not present, it risks that unrebuted or unchallenged arguments may convince the Commission to take an unfavorable action in adopting its Final Decision.

8. If you have any questions concerning this Notice and Order or procedures of the Freedom of Information Commission, you should consult with your attorney or contact the Commission staff at (860) 566-5682. Also, PLEASE BE SURE THAT WE HAVE A TELEPHONE NUMBER WHERE WE MAY CONTACT YOU DURING THE DAY. Due to the large number of cases filed and the requirements for speedy action, the Freedom of Information Commission cannot postpone scheduled hearings at the request of the parties. Should there be a settlement or withdrawal of the complaint prior to the hearing, please notify us and the respondents immediately.

9. In the event of extremely inclement weather conditions, the decision of the Hartford School System as to whether to cancel classes shall also govern the cancellation of Commission hearings for that day. Such information is ordinarily broadcast by various radio stations. If the hearing is canceled, you will be notified by mail of the new hearing date.

10. For further information, the Commission has prepared a "Citizen's Guide to the Freedom of Information Commission." This Guide is available upon request at no charge.

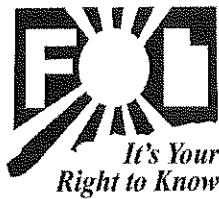
By Order of the Freedom of
Information Commission


Colleen M. Murphy,
Executive Director

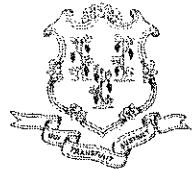
Enc. – Designation of Hearing Officer
Complaint letter and related information

#FIC 2024-0030/OSC/VDH//RB/ST/2024-07-9

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In the Matter of a Complaint by

Designation of Hearing Officer

Karolyn Ryan

Complainant(s)

Against

Docket # FIC 2024-0030

Commissioner, State of Connecticut,
Department of Children and Families; and
State of Connecticut, Department of Children
and Families

Respondent(s)

July 9, 2024

Attorney Valicia D. Harmon:

You have been designated as Hearing Officer in the above-captioned matter.

Enclosed is a copy of the complaint received in the file.

A written report of the facts and issues, and your recommendations for an order, should be prepared when you have completed this matter.

By Order of the Freedom of
Information Commission

/S/Stephanie Tessmer
Stephanie Tessmer
Acting Clerk of the Commission

Enc.

FIC# 2024-0030/DHO/VDH//RB/ST/7/9/2024

NOTICE TO PARTIES

Please note that hearings on appeals to the Freedom of Information Commission will be held within 90-minute time periods.

This procedure, which will allow the Commission to process complaints more efficiently, has become necessary due to the large number of cases handled by the Commission and the limited availability of hearing officers.

Please keep in mind that you will be expected to comply with these time limits and that punctuality will be essential to taking advantage of the full 90-minutes allotted.

REC'D & FILED

JAN 17 2024

January 17, 2024

Complainant: Karolyn Ryan, Esq.
29 Veranda Avenue
Hamden, CT 06517
860-719-2009
Karolynwk@yahoo.com

Freedom of Information Comm.
By M.E.G.
FIC#2024-0030

Offending agency: Department of Children and Families

Date of violation of Freedom of Information Act: December 30, 2023

Contact person in agency: Lynn Herbert, Esq.
Staff Attorney
505 Hudson Street
Hartford, CT 06106
860-550-6399
Lynn.Herbert@ct.gov

DOCKETED

JUN 27 2024

Freedom of Information Comm.
By M.H.

I. Summary of facts and violation

On November 30, 2023 Complainant requested from the Department of Children and Families, pursuant to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, the following:

"The number of CPS referrals made by Hospital staff in 2022 concerning a newborn (defined for these purposes as 28 days old or younger).

The number of CPS referrals made by Hospital staff in 2022 concerning a newborn that were accepted for investigation by the Department of Children and Families. Please include a breakdown by hospital.

Of accepted CPS referrals made by hospital staff in 2022 concerning a newborn, a breakdown of those alleged perpetrators who were subject to the following designation(s):

- Misuse of prescribed over the counter medications
- Prescribed benzodiazepines
- Marijuana
- Other illegal/ unprescribed substances
- PCP
- Prescribed Opiates
- Non prescribed opiates

Of accepted CPS referrals made by hospital staff in 2022 concerning a newborn, a breakdown of those alleged perpetrators by race.

Of accepted CPS referrals made by hospital staff in 2022 concerning a newborn in which the newborn was tested for substances, a breakdown of the type of test that was

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Freedom of Information Comm.
By MEG

FIC#2024-0030

performed (meconium, urine, umbilical cord).

- Breakdown by results (positive, negative, pending)
- Breakdown by hospital

Total amount accepted CPS referrals made by hospital staff concerning a newborn every calendar year from 2015- 2021.

If this data cannot be readily obtained because it requires analytics, please provide the entirety of the documents or program through mail or electronically. If this is not possible because of the manner in which the data is contained, please help coordinate a date and time when the documents or program can be inspected in person."

By email dated December 30, 2023, the Department of Children and Families denied the request (see Exhibit A) in violation of the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act and this Complaint to the Commission follows.

On July 26, 2023 the Commission issued its decision under Docket FIC # 2023-0069 (see Exhibit B) denying Complainant's former January 25, 2023 request for redacted Careline reports that was denied by the Department of Children and Families on the basis that such material constituted a child protection activity. The Commission upheld the denial and dismissed Complainant's complaint. Complainant understands and respects the reasoning of the Commission in its July 26, 2023 decision and has taken no appeal. Notably, the November 30, 2023 Complaint before us now is entirely distinguishable from the January 25, 2023 request. Complainant does not seek Careline reports complete with narratives but rather aggregate data that can be readily obtained through the Department's newborn notification portal.¹ Further, this is aggregate data that Complainant has largely received before in a June 24, 2022 freedom of information response from the Department. Complainant seeks to have the data updated for 2022 and expanded upon.

II. The data sought is a matter of public interest and concern

¹ <https://portal.ct.gov/DCF/CAPTA/HOME>

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The aggregate data Complainant seeks in her November 30, 2023 request is to support pending ^{Connecticut} ~~Information Comm.~~ ^{By MEG} ~~Information Comm.~~ legislation that would protect a woman's prenatal records from disclosure to the Department of Children and Families. Connecticut is in the majority of states that does not consider substance use during pregnancy to be abuse or neglect under the law.² The Department of Children and Families' own regulations under Chapter 22-3 specifies that "the presence of legal or illegal substances in the bodily fluids of a...pregnant person...shall not form the sole or primary basis for any action or proceeding by the Department." Despite this legal groundwork the Department requires, in its newborn notification portal, medical providers to answer as part of any Careline report "Prenatal treatment history. Was mother consistent and compliant with prenatal care? If substance abuse screening completed, dates and results." This information is readily relayed by hospitals, understanding it to be mandatory reporting requirement and is released without the mother's consent and during a time she was receiving prenatal care and would have had a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Accordingly, Complainant requests a contested in-person hearing.

Karolyn Ryan, Esq.
Complainant

² How States Handle Drug Use During Pregnancy (propublica.org)

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Freedom of Information Comm.

By M.E.G.

FIC#2024-0030

EXHIBIT A

Fwd: [Records Center] FOI Records Request :: F000094-122923

1 message

Karolyn Ryan <karolynwk@yahoo.com>
To: maternalrightslawyer@gmail.com

Sat, Dec 30, 2023 at 5:19 AM

REC'D & FILED**JAN 17 2024**

Sent from my iPhone

Freedom of Information Comm.
By M.T.G
FIC#2024-0030

Begin forwarded message:

From: DCF Records <dcfct@govqa.us>
Date: December 29, 2023 at 3:08:02 PM EST
To: karolynwk@yahoo.com
Subject: [Records Center] FOI Records Request :: F000094-122923

--- Please respond above this line ---



RE: FOI Records Request of November 30, 2023., Reference # F000094-122923.

Dear Karolyn Ryan,

The Department of Children and Families received a public information request from you on November 30, 2023. Your request mentioned:

"Pursuant to the provisions of the freedom of information act, I am requesting the following: The number of CPS referrals made by Hospital staff in 2022 concerning a newborn (defined for these purposes as 28 days old or younger).

The number of CPS referrals made by Hospital staff in 2022 concerning a newborn that were accepted for investigation by the Department of Children and Families. Please include a breakdown by hospital.

Of accepted CPS referrals made by hospital staff in 2022 concerning a newborn, a breakdown of those alleged perpetrators who were subject to the following designation(s):

- Misuse of prescribed over the counter medications
- Prescribed benzodiazepines
- Marijuana
- Other illegal/ unprescribed substances
- PCP
- Prescribed Opiates
- Non prescribed opiates

Of accepted CPS referrals made by hospital staff in 2022 concerning a newborn, a breakdown of those alleged perpetrators by race.

Of accepted CPS referrals made by hospital staff in 2022 concerning a newborn in which the newborn was tested for substances, a breakdown of the type of test that was performed (meconium, urine, umbilical cord).

- Breakdown by results (positive, negative, pending)

- Breakdown by hospital

Total amount accepted CPS referrals made by hospital staff concerning a newborn every calendar year from 2015- 2021.

If this data cannot be readily obtained because it requires analytics, please provide the entirety of the documents or program through mail or electronically. If this is not possible because of the manner in which the data is contained, please help coordinate a date and time when the documents or program can be inspected in person.

The Department of Children and Families has reviewed your request and has determined that the records requested are exempt from disclosure under FOIA for the following reasons:

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By MEG

FIC#2024-0030

An agency is required to search for records, but not research/analyze information. In Wildin v. Freedom of Information Commission, 56 Conn App 683, the Appellate Court reaffirmed that agencies are not required to conduct research. The Wildin court distinguished a request that merely requires a gathering of documents from a request that requires the agency to scrutinize each document.

The request as to the documents and/or electronic program is also denied as the records, including but not limited to the Department's client database, are confidential records of the Department of Children and Families and are excluded from disclosure.

Section 1-210(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes states that "except as otherwise provided by any federal law or state statute, all records maintained or kept on file by any public agency . . . shall be public records and every person shall have the right to (1) inspect . . . (2) copy . . . or (3) receive a copy of such records . . ."

Section 17a-28 which governs disclosure of the records of DCF defines records as "information created or obtained in connection with the department's child protection activities or other activities related to a child while in the care or custody of the department, including information in the registry of reports to be maintained by the commissioner pursuant to section 17a-101k." Section 17a-28(b) states, "notwithstanding the provisions of section 1-210, 1-211 or 1-213, records maintained by the department shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed, unless the department receives written consent from the person or as provided in this section, section 17a-101g or section 17a-101k."

The records you are requesting are confidential records obtained by the Department through its child protection activities.

If this is your first time signing into the records center, please use your email address and select "forgot password". You will receive an email which will allow you to establish a personal password for your account.

Sincerely,

LYNN HEBERT
Staff Attorney
Legal Division

To monitor the progress or update this request please log into the DCF Records Center

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Freedom of Information Comm.

By M.G.

FIC#2024-0030

EXHIBIT B

REC'D & FILED

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Freedom of Information Comm.

By MEG
FIC#2024-0030

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of a Complaint by

FINAL DECISION

Karolyn Ryan,

Complainant

against

Docket # FIC 2023-0069

Commissioner, State of Connecticut,
Department of Children and Families; and
State of Connecticut, Department of
Children and Families,

Respondents

July 26, 2023

The above-captioned matter was heard as a contested case on June 5, 2023, at which time the complainant¹ and the respondents appeared and presented testimony, exhibits and argument on the complaint.

After consideration of the entire record, the following facts are found and conclusions of law are reached:

1. The respondents are public agencies within the meaning of §1-200(1), G.S.
2. It is found that, by email dated January 25, 2023, the complainant requested that the respondents provide her with the following:
 - (a) All 2022 accepted Careline reports, redacted for identifying information, in which the "High Risk Newborn" box was checked off of the SDM careline assessment upon intake. ["Careline reports request"]
 - (b) Of these High Risk Newborn 2022 . . . cases, how many were substantiated for abuse or neglect within 45 days of acceptance? ["substantiated cases query"]
 - (c) A copy of any and all contracts or agreements [the Department of Children and Families] DCF [m]ay have with Connecticut hospitals concerning the care and/or reporting of newborns for child protective services. ["contracts request"]

¹The case caption originally identified the complainant as "Assistant Agency Legal Director." At the hearing, the complainant clarified that, although she is an attorney, she does not hold such position. The case caption has been modified to reflect such clarification.

3. By email dated February 22, 2023, the complainant appealed to this Commission, alleging that the respondents violated the Freedom of Information ("FOI") Act by denying her request for certain public records.

4. It is found that, by letter dated March 24, 2023, the respondents responded to the complainant's records request. The respondents denied the complainant's Careline reports request on the ground that such records were exempt from disclosure under §§17a-28(b) and 17a-101k, G.S. The respondents answered the complainant's substantiated cases query, providing relevant statistical data. Finally, the respondents indicated that they did not maintain any records responsive to the complainant's contracts request.²

5. Section 1-200(5), G.S., provides:

"[p]ublic records or files" means any recorded data or information relating to the conduct of the public's business prepared, owned, used, received or retained by a public agency, or to which a public agency is entitled to receive a copy by law or contract under section 1-218, whether such data or information be handwritten, typed, tape-recorded, videotaped, printed, photostated, photographed or recorded by any other method.

6. Section 1-210(a), G.S., provides, in relevant part, that:

[e]xcept as otherwise provided by any federal law or state statute, all records maintained or kept on file by any public agency, whether or not such records are required by any law or by any rule or regulation, shall be public records and every person shall have the right to . . . (3) receive a copy of such records in accordance with section 1-212.

7. Section 1-212(a), G.S., provides, in relevant part, that "[a]ny person applying in writing shall receive, promptly upon request, a plain, facsimile, electronic or certified copy of any public record."

8. It is found that the records described in paragraphs 2(a) and 2(c), above, to the extent that they exist, are public records within the meaning of §§1-200(5) and 1-210(a) and 1-212(a), G.S.

9. At the hearing, the complainant testified that she was satisfied with the respondents' response to her contracts request, described in paragraph 2(c), above. Therefore, that request will not be further considered herein.

²On June 1, 2023, the respondents moved to dismiss the matter, arguing that this Commission lacked jurisdiction to determine the right of access to records of DCF's child protection activities. By notice dated June 2, 2023, the hearing officer advised the parties that the motion to dismiss would be taken up at the hearing. At the close of the hearing, the hearing officer informed the parties that she intended to issue a full report on the matter. Accordingly, on June 7, 2023, the hearing officer denied the respondents' motion to dismiss.

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By M.E.G
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Pls. M.E.G.
FIC#2024-0030

10. The complainant also acknowledged that her substantiated cases query, described in paragraph 2(b), above, was a question, not a records request. Although the respondents answered the question, it is well-settled that they were not required to do so under the FOI Act and that this Commission has no authority to compel them to do so. See Albright-Lazzari v. Murphy, No. CV-10-5014984S, 2011 WL 1886878, at *3 (Conn. Super. Ct. Apr. 21, 2011) (upholding the Commission's determination that a public agency has no obligation under the FOI Act to answer questions). Therefore, it is concluded that the respondents did not violate the FOI Act with regard to the complainant's substantiated cases query, described in paragraph 2(b), above.

11. As to the complainant's Careline reports request, described in paragraph 2(a), above, the respondents argued that such reports are exempt from disclosure under §§17a-101k and 17a-28(b), G.S., because they contain information relative to child abuse and are created in connection with DCF's child protection activities. The complainant argued that they are subject to disclosure because DCF uses them for purposes of screening and intake and that, therefore, the reports, on their own, do not necessarily trigger child protection activities.

12. Section 17a-101k, G.S., provides, in relevant part:

(a) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall maintain a registry of the commissioner's findings of abuse or neglect of children pursuant to section 17a-101g The regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (i) of this section shall provide for the use of the registry on a twenty-four-hour daily basis to prevent or discover abuse of children and the establishment of a hearing process for any appeal by a person of the commissioner's determination that such person is responsible for the abuse or neglect of a child pursuant to subsection (b) of section 17a-101g. The information contained in the registry and any other information relative to child abuse, wherever located, shall be confidential, subject to such statutes and regulations governing their use and access as shall conform to the requirements of federal law or regulations. (Emphasis added).

13. It is found, and undisputed, that Careline reports detail allegations of child abuse or neglect. It is thus found that, by their very nature, such reports contain "information relative to child abuse" pursuant to §17a-101k, G.S.

14. Section 17a-28(b), G.S., provides, in relevant part, that "[n]otwithstanding the provisions of [the FOI Act], records maintained by [DCF] shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed"

15. Section 17a-28(a)(5), G.S., defines "records maintained by [DCF]" as "information created or obtained in connection with [DCF]'s child protection activities or other activities related to a child while in the care or custody of the department, including information in the

registry of reports to be maintained by the commissioner pursuant to section 17a-101k . . .
(Emphasis added.)

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16. The respondents testified, and it is found, that a Careline report initiates DCF's involvement with a family. The respondents further testified that once DCF receives such a report, it responds in one of the following three ways: it either accepts the report for a traditional intake or for further investigation, accepts the report for a family assessment response, or declines to accept the report. Although the respondents acknowledged that DCF declines to accept some Careline reports for further agency action, the ultimate disposition of a report does not change its underlying function, that is, to alert DCF to potential child abuse or neglect. It is thus found that such reports are "created . . . in connection with [DCF]'s child protection activities" pursuant to §17a-28(a)(5), G.S. See Raymond Reynolds v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Children and Families; and State of Connecticut, Department of Children and Families, Docket #FIC 2016-0884 (October 25, 2017) (concluding that Careline reports are exempt from disclosure under the FOI Act); see also Love v. Moynihan, No. HHD-CV-15-6059776S, 2018 WL 794036, at *1 (Conn. Super. Ct. Jan. 17, 2018) (noting that "General Statutes § 17a-28 . . . represents 'a broad legislative declaration of confidentiality.'").

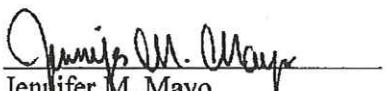
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17. Accordingly, it is concluded that Careline reports are exempt from disclosure under §§17a-28 and 17a-101k, G.S., and therefore, the respondents did not violate §§1-210(a) and 1-212(a), G.S., with respect to the complainant's request, described in paragraph 2(a), above.

The following order by the Commission is hereby recommended on the basis of the record concerning the above-captioned complaint:

1. The complaint is dismissed.

Approved by Order of the Freedom of Information Commission at its regular meeting of July 26, 2023.


Jennifer M. Mayo
Acting Clerk of the Commission

PURSUANT TO SECTION 4-180(c), G.S., THE FOLLOWING ARE THE NAMES OF EACH PARTY AND THE MOST RECENT MAILING ADDRESS, PROVIDED TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION, OF THE PARTIES OR THEIR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE.

REC'D & FILED

THE PARTIES TO THIS CONTESTED CASE ARE:

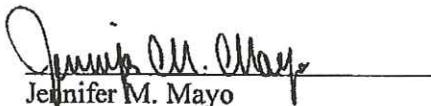
JAN 17 2024

KAROLYN RYAN, 20a Lake Shore Drive, Middlefield, CT 06455

Freedom of Information Comm.
By MEG

COMMISSIONER, STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES; AND STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, c/o Charlotte Shea, Assistant Legal Director, 505 Hudson Street, Hartford, CT 06106

FIC#2024-0030



Jennifer M. Mayo
Acting Clerk of the Commission

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TO: Karolyn Ryan Esq.
FROM: Cynthia A. Cannata, Acting Clerk of the Commission
DATE: March 4, 2024

Your correspondence received on January 17, 2024 by the Freedom of Information Commission (FOIC) will not be scheduled for a hearing for the following reason(s):

Records created or maintained in connection with the Department of Children and Families child protection activities or activities or activities related to a child while in the care or custody of such Department are not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, pursuant to §17a-28, G.S.

Comments: Complaint

2024-0030/awd/CAC/03/04/24

Eady-Gray, Mikia

From: Karolyn Ryan <karolynwk@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 7:22 AM
To: FOI
Cc: lynn.herbert@ct.gov
Subject: Ryan V. DCF
Attachments: Jan 17 FOI Complaint.pdf

REC'D & FILED

JAN 17 2024

Freedom of Information Comm.
By MEG
FIC#2024-0030

[You don't often get email from karolynwk@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Please see attached January 17, 2024 freedom of information Complaint.

Sincerely,

Karolyn Ryan, Esq.
29 Veranda Avenue
Hamden CT 06517
Karolynwk@yahoo.com
860-719-2009

Since 1975



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission • 165 Capitol Avenue, Suite 1100 • Hartford, CT 06106
Toll free (CT only): (866) 374-3617 Tel: (860) 566-5682 Fax: (860) 566-6474 • www.ct.gov/foi • email: foi@ct.gov

July 1, 2024

Karolyn Ryan
29 Veranda Avenue
Hamden, CT 06517

**RE: Docket #FIC 2024-0030; Karolyn Ryan v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut,
Department of Children and Families; and State of Connecticut, Department of
Children and Families**

Dear Complainant:

This letter is to inform you that the Freedom of Information Commission has received and docketed your complaint received January 17, 2024 as indicated above. If the basis of your complaint is a denial of the right to inspect or receive copies of records, please forward a copy of your most recent letter of request to the Commission, if you have not already done so. You will receive a Notice of Hearing and Order to Show Cause, which will notify you of the date, time and place of the hearing.

In the interim, the Commission has instituted an ombudsman program with respect to complaints brought to it. Pursuant to this program, a staff member is assigned to act as liaison between the parties to each contested case filed. It is the responsibility of the ombudsman to effect settlements of complaints where possible, thereby avoiding the delays and expenses caused by unnecessary hearings. Of course, the ombudsman will not communicate nor participate with any person within the Commission who serves in a decision-making role with respect to this particular case.

Russell Blair has been assigned to the above-captioned matter. Please contact him at 860-566-5682 to discuss your case. **Please Note: Any written correspondence directed to this commission, except to the ombudsman, by any party to a contested case, must be copied and sent to all other parties.**

Finally, you must inform the Commission in the event your address or other contact information changes. If the Commission is unable to contact you, your matter may be dismissed.

Sincerely,



Cynthia A. Cannata
Acting Clerk of the Commission

FIC#2024-0030/CORR/RB/CAC/2024-07-1
Enclosure

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July 1, 2024

Commissioner, State of Connecticut,
Department of Children and Families
505 Hudson Street
Hartford, CT 06106

**RE: Docket #FIC 2024-0030; Karolyn Ryan v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut,
Department of Children and Families; and State of Connecticut, Department of
Children and Families**

Dear Respondent:

Please be advised that the Freedom of Information Commission has received a complaint alleging a violation against your agency. A copy of the complaint is enclosed for your reference. The Commission will send you a Notice of Hearing and Order to Show Cause, which will notify you of the date, time and place of the hearing.

In the interim, the Commission has instituted an ombudsman program with respect to complaints brought to it. Pursuant to this program, a staff member is assigned to act as liaison between the parties to each contested case filed. It is the responsibility of the ombudsman to effect settlements of complaints where possible, thereby avoiding the delays and expenses caused by unnecessary hearings. Of course, the ombudsman will not communicate nor participate with any person within the Commission who serves in a decision-making role with respect to this particular case.

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Sincerely,

Cynthia A. Cannata
Acting Clerk of the Commission

FIC#2024-0030/CORR/RB/CAC/2024-07-1
Enclosures

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July 1, 2024

State of Connecticut,
Department of Children and Families
505 Hudson Street
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Docket #FIC 2024-0030; Karolyn Ryan v. Commissioner, State of Connecticut, Department of Children and Families; and State of Connecticut, Department of Children and Families

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Sincerely,

Cynthia A. Cannata
Acting Clerk of the Commission

FIC#2024-0030/CORR/RB/CAC/2024-07-1
Enclosures