

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN • CHICAGO • SPRINGFIELD

May 8, 2014

Brett Chase
Better Government Association
bchase@bettergov.org

Re: FOIA 14-232

Dear Mr. Chase:

I write to respond to your Freedom of Information request dated and received in my office on April 11, 2014, in which you requested:

“Please provide copies of the following for the time period of January 1, 2004, to present:

*All agreements (for example, settlement agreements and release agreements) resolving any wrongful death allegations or threatened allegations, including both resolution of lawsuits and agreements entered into outside of litigation.

*Documents sufficient to show the amount of each judgment entered against you in any wrongful death lawsuit (for example, court documents showing the judgment entered).

*For any payment to resolve any actual or threatened wrongful death allegations not covered by my first two requests, documents sufficient to show the amount paid, the party paid, the case number, and the nature of the allegations.

*Any reports, studies, or analyses discussing the amount of payments for actual or threatened wrongful death allegations (for example, an annual report showing the total amount paid for a given year).

*A description of the manner in which records stored by means of electronic data processing and related to payments to resolve actual or threatened wrongful death allegations may be obtained in a form comprehensible to persons lacking knowledge of computer language or printout format (for example, please identify what electronic data regarding wrongful death payments exists, what related data fields exist, and how the database can be queried).”

Information responsive to your request is available and attached. These are public documents numbering 135 pages.

Portions of these documents have been redacted pursuant to the following section(s) of the Act:

- 140/7(1)(a) that exempts from disclosure “Information specifically prohibited from disclosure by federal or State law or rules and regulations implementing adopted under federal or State law.” Pursuant to this exemption, patient information (or information that could lead to the identification of a patient) that is prohibited from being released under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) was redacted from the responsive documents.
- 140/7(1)(b) that exempts from disclosure “Private information, unless disclosure is required by another provision of this Act, a State or federal law or a court order.” This includes home addresses and private medical information.

Office for University Relations

Urbana • 108 Henry Administration Building • MC 370 • 506 South Wright Street • Urbana, IL 61801 • (217) 333-6400 • Fax (217) 333-5733
Chicago • 414 Administrative Office Building • MC 971 • 1737 West Polk Street • Chicago, IL 60612-7228 • (312) 996-3772 • Fax (312) 996-1836

- 140/7(1)(c) that exempts from disclosure “Personal information contained within public records, the disclosure of which, if disclosed, would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, unless the disclosure is consented to in writing by the individual subjects of the information.” This includes the identification of patients or information that could lead to the identification of patients and private medical information.

Pursuant to your request, we have provided you with all responsive documentation. However, settlements and adverse judgments in wrongful death claims over a ten year period do not provide a complete or necessarily fair portrayal of the efforts at patient safety underway at the University of Illinois Hospital and Health Sciences System. The University of Illinois has the largest teaching hospital in the nation and many of the patients being treated at the hospital are of high risk and the procedures that they are undergoing are also of equally high risk. If you have any questions about the documents we are releasing to you or about this issue, please contact the University.

You have a right, under the law, to seek a review of this response by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) in the Office of the Attorney General. The PAC may be reached by phone at 217-782-1396, by email to publicaccess@atg.state.il.us, or by postal mail at the Public Access Bureau, 500 S. 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois 62706. You also have the right to seek judicial review under section 11 of this Act.

If you have questions for our office, please contact 217-333-6400.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Hardy
Executive Director
and Chief Records Officer