

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN • CHICAGO • SPRINGFIELD

July 28, 2014

Brett Chase
Better Government Association
bchase@bettergov.org

Re: FOIA Request 14-490

Dear Mr. Chase:

I write to respond to your Freedom of Information request dated and received in my office on July 14, 2014, in which you requested:

“*Any and all documents showing legal expenses related to defense of wrongful death lawsuits against the University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System from January 1, 2014 to the present.

*Please include itemized breakdowns detailing case information, names of outside law firms representing the U of I and payments to plaintiff lawyers that are not included in settlement amounts.

To be clear, I’m looking for amounts paid to law firms that helped you defend wrongful death lawsuits and other legal costs not already included in settlement and verdict totals.”

Information responsive to your request is available at the link below. These are public documents numbering 288 pages.

Portions of these documents have been redacted and other documents have been withheld 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.” Under this exemption, information that the University’s attorneys are required to keep confidential under state law, including, without limitation, the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct were withheld or redacted from the responsive documents. Also under 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, personal telephone numbers, credit card numbers, account numbers, FEIN, Tax ID numbers, private medical information and a personal email addresses.
- 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

Office for University Relations

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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.

- 140/7(1)(f) that exempts from disclosure “Preliminary drafts, notes, recommendations, memoranda, and other records in which opinions are expressed, or policies or actions are formulated, except that a specific record of relevant portion of a record shall not be exempt when the record is publicly cited and identified by the head of the public body.” This includes communications containing proposals, preliminary actions, recommendations or information about the formulation of an action.
- 140/7(1)(m) that exempts from disclosure “Communications between a public body and an attorney or auditor representing the public body that would not be subject to discovery in litigation, and materials prepared or compiled by or for a public body in anticipation of a criminal, civil or administrative proceeding upon the request of an attorney advising the public body...” Pursuant to this exemption, communications covered under the attorney client privilege and/or the work product doctrine that would not be subject to discovery were redacted or withheld from the responsive records.

Should you wish to inspect or receive a physical copy of these documents, please call Melanie Kuehn at the phone number below and she will provide you with all the necessary details.

You have a right, under the law, to seek a review of your status as a commercial requestor 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

To access your files, please go to:

This link will expire in ten business days