

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by

FINAL DECISION

Andres Sosa,

Complainant

against

Docket #FIC 2024-0535

Angel Quiros, Commissioner, State of
Connecticut, Department of Correction;
and State of Connecticut, Department
of Correction,

Respondents

August 27, 2025

The above-captioned matter was heard as a contested case on April 17, 2025, at which time the complainant and respondents appeared and presented testimony, exhibits and argument on the complaint. The complainant, who is incarcerated, appeared via teleconference, pursuant to the January 2004 memorandum of understanding between the Commission and the Department of Corrections. See Docket No. CV 03-0826293, Anthony Sinchak v. FOIC et al, Superior Court, J.D. of Hartford at Hartford, Corrected Order dated January 27, 2004 (Sheldon, J.).

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 on August 20, 2024, the complainant submitted a request to the respondents for records seeking: (i) a copy of the document or documents authorizing correction officers at Cheshire Correctional Institute to hire inmates for prison jobs; and (ii) the provision of the post order¹ indicating the same.
3. It is found that the respondents received the complainant's request described in paragraph 2, above, on August 27, 2024.

¹ The respondents testified and it is found that a "post order" refers to the document outlining job duties of a Department of Correction ("DOC") staff member assigned to a specific post (i.e., work assignment) and the procedures applicable to the specific post.

4. It is found that on August 29, 2024, the respondents replied to the complainant indicating that they did not have any records responsive to his request, and that post orders were exempt from disclosure.

5. By letter of complaint received and filed on September 5, 2024, the complainant appealed to this Commission alleging that the respondents violated the Freedom of Information (“FOI”) Act by failing to disclose the records described in paragraph 2, above. The complainant also requested that the Commission impose a civil penalty against the respondents.

6. 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.

7. 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 (1) inspect such records promptly during regular office or business hours, (2) copy such records in accordance with subsection (g) of section 1-212, or (3) receive a copy of such records in accordance with section 1-212.

8. 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.”

9. It is concluded that the records described in paragraph 2, above, to the extent they exist and are maintained by the respondents, are public records within the meaning of §§1-200(5) and 1-210(a), G.S.

10. It is found that the respondents designate staff in two ways (relevant to this matter) — custody staff and non-custody staff. Custody staff includes correction officers, while non-custody staff includes classification counselors.

11. It is found that correction officers, as custody staff, are not authorized to hire inmates for prison jobs. Rather, such function falls within the purview of the classification counselors or classification counselor supervisors in their role as non-custody staff.²

12. Moreover, it is found that the respondents conducted a search of all correction officer post orders for Cheshire Correctional Institute and did not locate any post orders authorizing correction officers to hire inmates for prison jobs.

13. Based on the foregoing, it is found that the records sought by the complainant, described in paragraph 2, above, do not exist and, therefore, are not maintained by the respondents.

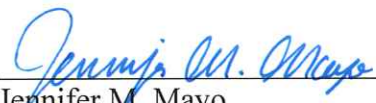
14. Accordingly, it is concluded that the respondents did not violate the disclosure provisions of §§1-210(a) and 1-212(a), G.S.

15. As the respondents have not violated any provision of the FOI Act, the Commission's consideration of a civil penalty is not warranted.

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

1. The complaint is dismissed.

Approved by Order of the Freedom of Information Commission at its regular meeting of August 27, 2025.


Jennifer M. Mayo
Acting Clerk of the Commission

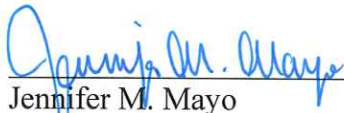
² The complainant testified, and it is found, that he was only seeking records pertaining to DOC correction officers.

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.

THE PARTIES TO THIS CONTESTED CASE ARE:

ANDRES SOSA, #260589, Cheshire Correctional Institution, 900 Highland Avenue, Cheshire, CT 06410

ANGEL QUIROS, COMMISSIONER, STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION; AND STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION, c/o Attorney Jennifer Lepore and Attorney Michael Kochol, State of Connecticut, Department of Correction, 24 Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield, CT 06109



Jennifer M. Mayo
Acting Clerk of the Commission