

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by

FINAL DECISION

Raymond Cerilli,

Complainant

against

Docket #FIC 2025-0106

Chief, Police Department, Town of Branford;
Police Department, Town of Branford; and
Town of Branford,

Respondents

January 14, 2026

The above-captioned matter was heard as a contested case on August 19, 2025, at which time the complainant and the 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 Correction. See Docket No. CV 03-0826293, Anthony Sinchak v. FOIC, 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, by letter dated January 13, 2025, the complainant requested copies of records relating to the alleged rape and burning of his daughter (“alleged victim”), on or around September 1, 2024, in the Town of Branford. Specifically, the complainant requested: any and all police reports, investigation reports, warrants, affidavits of arrest, case numbers, names of any defendants or arrestees, names of any employees of the State Department of Correction who may have been involved, and the names of any inmates who may have been involved or arrested.
3. It is found that, on January 23, 2025, the respondents, through the State Department of Correction, mailed certain records to the complainant pursuant to §1-210(c), G.S.¹

¹ Section 1-210(c), G.S., provides, in relevant part:

[w]henver a public agency receives a request from any person confined in a correctional institution or facility ... for disclosure of any public record under the Freedom of Information Act, the public agency shall promptly notify the Commissioner of Correction ... of such request, in the manner prescribed by the commissioner, before complying with the request as required by the Freedom of Information Act. If the commissioner believes the requested record is exempt

4. By letter of complaint, received and filed February 2, 2025, the complainant appealed to this Commission, alleging that the respondents violated the Freedom of Information (“FOI”) Act by failing to provide the records, described in paragraph 2, above.

5. It is found that, upon receiving a copy of the complaint in this matter, the respondents conducted another search for responsive records and located additional hard copies of records that were not previously located or provided to the complainant. It is also found that, by email dated April 1, 2025, the respondents, through the State Department of Correction, provided all records, including the records that had previously been sent, as described in paragraph 3, above, to the complainant.

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 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:

[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.

8. Section 1-212(a), G.S., provides, in relevant part: “[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 requested records, 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. At the hearing in this matter, the respondents testified, and it is found, that they do not maintain any records responsive to the complainant’s request, described in paragraph 2, above, because no rape or burning of the alleged victim occurred, on or around September 1, 2024, in the Town of Branford. It is also found that the respondents provided to the complainant

from disclosure pursuant to subdivision (18) of subsection (b) of this section, the commissioner may withhold such record from such person when the record is delivered to the person's correctional institution or facility

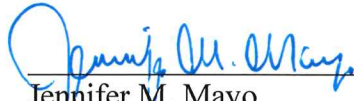
all records that reference the alleged victim, as described in paragraphs 3 and 5, above, even though such records are not responsive to the complainant's records request.

11. It is therefore concluded that the respondents did not violate the disclosure provisions of §§1-210(a) and 1-212(a), G.S., as alleged by the complainant.

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 January 14, 2026.



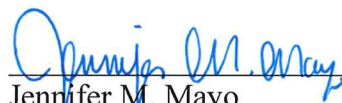
Jennifer M. Mayo
Acting Clerk of the Commission

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.

THE PARTIES TO THIS CONTESTED CASE ARE:

RAYMOND CERILLI, #162375, MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution, 1153 East Street South, Suffield, CT 06080

CHIEF, POLICE DEPARTMENT, TOWN OF BRANFORD; POLICE DEPARTMENT, TOWN OF BRANFORD; AND TOWN OF BRANFORD, c/o Lt. Corrienne Carangelo, Branford Police Department, 33 Laurel Street, Branford, CT 06405



Jennifer M. Mayo
Acting Clerk of the Commission