

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by
Helene M. Beck,

FINAL DECISION

Complainant

Docket #FIC84-41

against

July 11, 1984

Ridgefield Police Department of
the Town of Ridgefield,

Respondent

The above captioned matter was heard as a contested case on May 7, 1984 at which time the complainant and the respondent appeared and presented testimony, exhibits and argument on the complaint.

After consideration of the entire record the following facts are found:

1. The respondent is a public agency within the meaning of §1-18a(a), G.S.

2. On Friday, February 17, 1984, a private investigator hired by the complainant made a request of the respondent for records relating to the complainant's divorce action, Beck v. Beck. At that time the investigator, Mr. Black, was advised that the respondent's secretary was on vacation, that no one else was available to assist him, and was asked to return at a later date.

3. On Monday, February 20, 1984 Mr. Black returned to the respondent and received copies of approximately one hundred pages of records relating to Beck v. Beck.

4. By letter of complaint filed with the Commission on February 28, 1984 the complainant alleged that her private investigator had been denied access by the respondent to records "relating to [her] case BECK V. BECK."

5. Upon being informed of the complainant's complaint, the respondent, by letter dated March 26, 1984 indicated to the complainant that all information pertaining to her had been given to her agent, Mr. Black.

6. It is found that the complainant has not seen any of the records received by Mr. Black, but from his descriptions of the documents, she has been led to believe that several documents are missing, among them records relating to her children.

7. It is also found that subsequent to Mr. Black's receipt of 100 pages of records on February 20, 1984 the complainant made no attempt to make a more specific request of the respondent for the documents she believed were missing.

8. The respondent claims that it conducted a search of its records based upon the complainant's request for records relating to Beck v. Beck and that all records relating to Mr. or Mrs Beck have been given to the complainant's private investigator. The respondent admits that records relating to the Beck children might not have been retrieved if they were not indexed in such a way that a search for records relating to Mr. and Mrs. Beck would have revealed them. The respondent indicated its willingness to comply with more specific requests by the complainant.

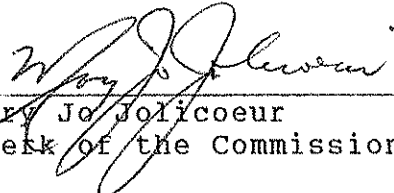
9. It is found that the respondent complied with the complainant's request for records in a timely manner and that the respondent did not intentionally withhold any document from the complainant.

10. The complainant failed to show that she had been denied access to any records specifically requested.

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

1. The complaint is hereby dismissed.

Approved by order of the Freedom of Information Commission at its regular meeting of July 11, 1984.



Mary Jo Jolicoeur
Clerk of the Commission