

APR 21 2025

tcamarda@gmx.com

From: tcamarda@gmx.com  
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 3:09 PM  
To: 'civilrights.justice@usdoj.gov'; 'hfs.rnru@illinois.gov'; 'hfs.dcscaru@illinois.gov'; 'publicaccess@atg.state.il.us'; 'attorney\_general@ilag.gov'; 'attorney\_general@atg.state.il.us'; 'jib@illinois.gov'  
Cc: 'CA07\_pro\_se\_filings@ca7.uscourts.gov'  
Subject: SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE OF POST-FILING IWO RETALIATION & FOIA NON-DISCLOSURE  
Attachments: 25-215 Camarda 04-14-2025.pdf

## IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT

**THOMAS E. CAMARDA**  
Plaintiff-Appellant, Pro Se

v.

**ELIZABETH WHITEHORN, et al.**  
Defendants-Appellees

Case No. 24-3244

### SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE OF POST-FILING IWO RETALIATION & FOIA NON-DISCLOSURE

TO THE HONORABLE CLERK AND PANEL OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT:

Plaintiff-Appellant Thomas E. Camarda hereby files this supplemental notice pursuant to FRAP 27, Rule 60(b)(4), and 28 U.S.C. § 1651(a), in continued support of federal enforcement and to notify the Court of active violations by the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS), which are directly interfering with the lawful enforcement of this Court's perfected summary judgment order (DKT113) and underlying federal protections.

#### I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On April 14, 2025, Plaintiff-Appellant received a formal FOIA response from the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services in reference to **FOIA Request #25-215**, seeking post-filing documentation concerning Income Withholding Orders (IWOs) unlawfully issued or amended **after** the entry of summary judgment on April 2, 2025.

The response confirms two critical points:

1. **Post-judgment IWO enforcement occurred without citing lawful authority — and without court approval or statutory justification.**

2. **All other documentation and records** (including who issued the amended orders and under what legal framework) were **withheld, redacted, or denied** under non-applicable FOIA exemptions and procedural pretexts.

This is not a clerical dispute — it is material evidence of a **retaliatory post-judgment garnishment** designed to evade federal relief, continue economic warfare against Plaintiff, and obstruct review by this Court.

## **II. LEGAL BASIS – POST-JUDGMENT ENFORCEMENT IS UNLAWFUL**

### **A. Summary Judgment Is Final and Federal**

This Court entered perfected Rule 56(a) summary judgment on April 2, 2025, following procedural default under FRAP 31(c) (DKT113). No further brief, motion, or request for reconsideration has been filed by Appellees.

Under the **Supremacy Clause**, no state administrative agency may:

- Initiate or amend financial enforcement contrary to the federal record
- Ignore a pending appeal and perfected judgment
- Retaliate against a prevailing party in active litigation

See:

- **Marbury v. Madison**, 5 U.S. 137 (1803)
- **Ex parte Young**, 209 U.S. 123 (1908)
- **Hartman v. Moore**, 547 U.S. 250 (2006)
- 42 U.S.C. § 1983, § 1988
- 18 U.S.C. § 1512(b)

### **B. FOIA Confirms Post-Filing Retaliation**

The FOIA response dated **April 14, 2025** (Exhibit A) includes:

- A redacted copy of the IWO
- No explanation of how or why a new garnishment was issued
- No responsible parties identified
- No statutory authority cited for enforcement after April 2 judgment

Instead, the agency invoked:

- **45 C.F.R. § 303.21** (irrelevant to enforcement process questions)
- **305 ILCS 5/11-9** and **89 Ill. Admin Code 102.30** (pertaining to confidentiality of recipient records, not due process rights of the payor)
- **5 ILCS 140/3(g)** to avoid producing any documentation

This is a **blatant circumvention of constitutional and procedural duties**, issued by a department that has **already been placed in default** and sued federally.

### III. PATTERN OF RETALIATORY LEVY CONTINUES POST-JUDGMENT

This garnishment follows:

- An unlawful levy in **April 2024** (\$7,900+)
- A failed withdrawal attempt in **February 2024** ~~October 2024~~ (\$13,016)
- A second levy of **\$2,077** in **February 2025**, after federal brief submission
- And now, a **post-judgment garnishment** with no disclosed basis or authority

The pattern is clear:

**Defendants are abusing the IWO system as a tool of financial coercion** in response to Plaintiff's successful federal action.

This violates:

- The **First Amendment** right to petition
- **FRE 408** protections during settlement periods
- Federal debt collection restrictions under **15 U.S.C. § 1692 (FDCPA)**
- Due Process protections under the **Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments**

### IV. VIOLATIONS INVOKED BY THIS ACTION

- **18 U.S.C. § 1512(b)** – Retaliation against a party for legal proceedings
- **42 U.S.C. § 1983** – Deprivation of rights under color of law
- **18 U.S.C. § 242** – Criminal liability for rights deprivation

- 5 ILCS 140/3(g) – FOIA abuse to conceal material public records
- UCC § 9-601 & § 9-625 – Unauthorized interference with secured party enforcement
- 15 U.S.C. § 1692(e) – Misleading debt collection activity during federal dispute

## V. RELIEF REQUESTED

Plaintiff-Appellant respectfully demands the following:

1. **Immediate enforcement recognition** of DKT113 as a perfected judgment barring all post-April 2 collection activity
2. **Referral of Kiran Mehta and HFS** to federal authorities for obstruction, retaliation, and misuse of IWO mechanisms
3. **Striking of any pending state-level proceedings** (McHenry County Case No. 24CM000976) as tainted by post-judgment interference

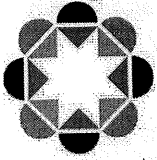
## VI. ATTACHMENTS

- Exhibit A – FOIA Response #25-215 (IWO Enforcement Post-Judgment, Redacted)

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas E. Camarda  
Plaintiff-Appellant, Pro Se  
Seventh Circuit – Case No. 24-3244  
[tcamarda@gmx.com](mailto:tcamarda@gmx.com)  
(224) 279-8856

Dated: April 14, 2025

**HFS****Illinois Department of  
Healthcare and Family Services**

JB Pritzker, Governor

Elizabeth M. Whitehorn, Director

201 South Grand Avenue East, Springfield, Illinois 62763

Telephone: +1 217-782-1200, TTY: +1 800-526-5812

April 14, 2025

Thomas Camarda  
[tcamarda@gmx.com](mailto:tcamarda@gmx.com)

RE: FOIA #25-215 Camarda

Dear Thomas Camarda:

Thank you for writing to the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services with your request for information pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.

Our Office received your FOIA request on March 31, 2025, for the following information:

I request access to the following public records:

**Records Requested**

1. All versions (original and amended) of the Income Withholding Order (IWO) issued in the name of:

- Thomas Edward Camarda
- Associated case numbers or docket numbers in state or administrative court
- Any related enforcement or amendment notices sent to employers, financial institutions, or third parties

2. All documentation outlining the legal authority, internal procedures, and approval workflows used to amend, reissue, or enforce an IWO in my name after the filing of my federal lawsuit *Camarda v. Whitehorn et al.*, 7th Cir. No. 24-3244 on November 15, 2024.

3. Internal memoranda, policy manuals, email threads, or directives relating to how HFS/DCSS handles IWOs that are:

- Contested in federal court
- Potentially retaliatory
- Amended after federal litigation is filed
- Under review or challenge for procedural fraud

4. A copy of the statutory authority (state or federal) that HFS/DCSS claims to rely upon when issuing or amending an IWO in a federally pending matter where the Plaintiff-Appellant has asserted constitutional violations.



5. The names, positions, and contact information of any HFS/DCSS employees or agents who participated in issuing, reissuing, or amending any IWO in my name after February 13, 2025 (date of federal brief filing).

Responsive records are attached for item 1 of your request with redactions pursuant to Section 7(1)(a) and 7(1)(o) of FOIA. Regarding item 5 of your request, pursuant to *Kenyon v. Garrels*, 184 Ill. App. 3d 29, 32 (4th Dist. 1989), FOIA does not require a public body to answer questions posed by a requester. Moreover, Section 3.3 of FOIA (5 ILCS 140/3.3 (West 2010)) specifically provides that "[t]his Act is not intended to compel public bodies to interpret or advise requesters as to the meaning or significance of public records." In addition, the Illinois Freedom of Information Act is not intended to create an obligation on the part of the public body to maintain or prepare a public record which was not already maintained or prepared by the public body. 5 ILCS 140/1. As a result, the Department has no records responsive to this portion of your request.

Section 7(1)(a) of FOIA provides in pertinent part:

#### Section 7. Exemptions

(1) When a request is made to inspect or copy a public record that contains information that is exempt from disclosure under this Section, but also contains information that is not exempt from disclosure, the public body may elect to redact the information that is exempt. The public body shall make the remaining information available for inspection and copying. Subject to this requirement, the following shall be exempt from inspection and copying:

- (a) Information specifically prohibited from disclosure by federal or State law or rules and regulations implementing federal or State law.

Federal regulations prohibit States that operate Title IV-D (Child Support) programs from disclosing any information that can be used to identify a specific individual, including but not limited to: Social Security numbers, residential or mailing addresses, employment information, and financial information, unless the disclosure is necessary to the administration of the Child Support (IV-D) program. 45 C.F.R. § 303.21.

The State satisfies this Federal requirement by prohibiting the Department from disclosing public aid applicant and recipient information, including the contents of any records, files, papers and communications except for purposes directly connected with the administration of the program. 305 ILCS 5/11-9; 89 IL Admin Code 102.30. This request is not necessary to the administration of the child support program (e.g. establishing eligibility; determining support amounts; providing services) and therefore the Department has redacted the following information: notes regarding communications with the Custodial Parent (CP), the CP's Recipient Identification Number (RIN), and names, birthdates, and RINs of minor children that the CP has custody of.

Section 7(1)(o) of FOIA provides in pertinent part:

#### Sec. 7. Exemptions.

- (1) When a request is made to inspect or copy a public record that contains information that is exempt from disclosure under this Section, but also contains information that is not exempt from disclosure, the public body may elect to redact the information that is exempt. The public body shall make the remaining information available for

inspection and copying. Subject to this requirement, the following shall be exempt from inspection and copying:

(o) Administrative or technical information associated with automated data processing operations, including, but not limited to, software, operating protocols, computer program abstracts, file layouts, source listings, object modules, load modules, user guides, documentation pertaining to all logical and physical design of computerized systems, employee manuals, and any other information that, if disclosed, would jeopardize the security of the system or its data or the security of materials except under this Section.

Employee identification numbers have been redacted to protect the security of the Department's systems. These IDs are used to log into the Department's mainframe systems. These IDs have security around them based on what access the user does in the system.

It is of the utmost importance that HFS makes every effort to maintain the integrity of its data security. HFS cannot risk disclosure of administrative and technical information concerning the location and sensitivity of protected data. In the present circumstances, HFS's legitimate security interests outweigh the public interest in access to this particular information.

The exemption in 7(1)(o) does not merely protect actual source code or compiled software. It also protects the individuals that use these systems. The General Assembly clearly showed its intent to allow public entities to take every precaution to protect their data processing operations by passing this exemption. HFS and all state agencies are obligated to take all reasonable steps to protect its data, up to and including concealing unique ID numbers that employees use to access the system.

The remainder of your request is unduly burdensome pursuant to Section 3(g) of FOIA. Many of your requests above seeking "all documentation..." are extremely overbroad and in some cases do not sufficiently identify the records you are seeking. Therefore, your requests are burdensome.

Section 3(g) of FOIA states the following:

Requests calling for all records falling within a category shall be complied with *unless compliance with the request would be unduly burdensome for the complying public body and there is no way to narrow the request and the burden on the public body outweighs the public interest in the information*. Before invoking this exemption, the public body shall extend to the person making the request an opportunity to confer with it in an attempt to reduce the request to manageable proportions. If any public body responds to a categorical request by stating that compliance would unduly burden its operation and the conditions described above are met, it shall do so in writing, specifying the reasons why it would be unduly burdensome and the extent to which compliance will so burden the operations of the public body. Such a response shall be treated as a denial of the request for information. (Emphasis added). 5 ILCS 140 3(g) (West 2014).

In order to comply with your request as written, the Department would need to research, identify, procure and review a vast quantity of records. Without a narrowed request from you, such an endeavor would pose an undue burden on the operations of this Department. As the Illinois Attorney General's Public Access Counselor has noted (see 2017 PAC 47756, issued June 20, 2017), Illinois courts have held, "[a] request to inspect or copy must reasonably identify a public record[.]" *Chicago Tribune Co. v. Dept. of Financial and Professional Regulation*, 2014 IL App (4th) 130427, par. 33. A FOIA request "reasonably describes records if 'the agency is

able to determine precisely what records are being requested.” *Kowalczyk v. Dept. of Justice*, 73 F.3d 386, 388 (D.C. Cir. 1996) (quoting *Yeager v. Drug Enforcement Admin.*, 678 F.2d 315, 326 (D.C. Cir. 1982)). Under Section 3(g) of FOIA, a public body may decline to comply with a FOIA request if “compliance with the request would be unduly burdensome for the complying public body and there is no way to narrow the request and the burden on the public body outweighs the public interest in the information.” *Shéhadeh v. Madigan*, 996 N.E.2d 1243, 1247 (Ill. App. 4th Dist. 2013).

In order to adequately address the competing demands on the Department's limited resources, the Department is extending you an opportunity to narrow your request to more manageable proportions.

To the extent you view this as a denial of your FOIA request, you have the right to submit a request for review by the Public Access Counselor (the “PAC”) in the Office of the Illinois Attorney General to:

Public Access Counselor  
Office of the Attorney General  
500 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62706  
Fax: 217-782-1396  
E-mail: [public.access@ilag.gov](mailto:public.access@ilag.gov)

If you choose to submit a request for review to the PAC, you must do so within 60 days after the date of this letter. Your request for review must be in writing, signed by you, and include a copy of your FOIA request and this response. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). You also have the right to seek judicial review of this response. See 5 ILCS 140/11(a),(b).

Sincerely,

//S//

Kiran Mehta  
Freedom of Information Officer  
Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services



tcamarda@gmx.com

**From:** tcamarda@gmx.com  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2025 3:26 PM  
**To:** 'civilrights.justice@usdoj.gov'; 'hfs.mru@illinois.gov'; 'hfs.dcscaru@illinois.gov'; 'publicaccess@atg.state.il.us'; 'attorney\_general@ilag.gov'; 'attorney\_general@atg.state.il.us'; 'jib@illinois.gov'  
**Cc:** 'CA07\_pro\_se\_filings@ca7.uscourts.gov'  
**Subject:** SUPPLEMENTAL FEDERAL NOTICE OF CONFLICTED FOIA OFFICER AND RECURSION VIOLATION  
**Attachments:** 25-216 Camarda 04-14-2025.pdf; 25-217 Camarda 04-14-2025.pdf

## IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT

**THOMAS E. CAMARDA**  
Plaintiff-Appellant, Pro Se

v.

**ELIZABETH WHITEHORN, et al.**  
Defendants-Appellees

Case No. 24-3244

### SUPPLEMENTAL FEDERAL NOTICE OF CONFLICTED FOIA OFFICER AND RECURSION VIOLATION

#### TO THE HONORABLE CLERK AND PANEL OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT:

Plaintiff-Appellant Thomas E. Camarda hereby submits this supplemental notice and preservation of objection pursuant to **FRAP 27, Rule 60(b)(4)**, and **28 U.S.C. § 1651(a)** regarding continued interference with this Court's perfected judgment (DKT113), and the use of conflicted and recused parties in matters relating to enforcement transparency and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) compliance.

#### I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – RECURSION OF A CONFLICTED PARTY

The Freedom of Information Officer who issued the April 14, 2025 FOIA responses — **Kiran Mehta** — is a named agent in the ongoing federal litigation and was previously **recused by implication and direct legal notice** due to her proximity to the enforcement misconduct.

Yet on April 14, 2025, the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) assigned this conflicted individual to act as final decisionmaker, reviewer, and correspondent for:

- **FOIA #25-215** (concerning Income Withholding Orders issued post-judgment)

- **FOIA #25-216** (Title IV-D certification, compliance, and RICO-related fraud)
- **FOIA #25-217** (federal coordination on the Camarda v. Whitehorn matter)

This is an **unlawful recursion of a conflicted party**, whose actions now include concealment, procedural obstruction, and continued retaliation in violation of federal notice, due process, and open records law.

## **II. BACKGROUND – KIRAN MEHTA’S CONFLICTED ROLE**

Kiran Mehta is:

- **Listed in prior legal notices** sent to HFS and State FOIA offices
- **A direct participant or approver** of IWC enforcement procedures challenged in this case
- **A probable recipient or author of internal memos and directives** now shielded from FOIA under her own decision

Despite this, HFS allowed her to:

- **Adjudicate her own legal exposure**
- **Deny or redact requests** that could implicate her conduct
- **Serve as both witness and gatekeeper** in a federal enforcement matter

This is a **textbook conflict of interest**, and it fatally taints the FOIA record.

## **III. FEDERAL VIOLATIONS AND DUE PROCESS FAILURE**

Mehta’s participation violates:

- **5 U.S.C. § 552 (Freedom of Information Act – Federal Guidance)**
- **5 ILCS 140/3(d), (g), (h) – Requiring impartial FOIA review**
- **42 U.S.C. § 1983 – Due process interference under color of law**
- **18 U.S.C. § 1512(c) – Obstruction by suppression of evidence**
- **28 U.S.C. § 1651(a) – All Writs Act protection of this Court’s jurisdiction**

Illinois law explicitly forbids biased participation in public record handling where the party has a vested interest in the outcome, and Mehta’s ongoing exposure was already documented prior to her April 14 authorship of denials and redactions.

#### IV. MATERIAL CONSEQUENCES

Because Mehta served as **the approving official for all three responses**, the following must now be presumed:

- Redactions or denials are **procedurally invalid**
- Conflicts of interest are **unwaived**
- Any invocation of FOIA § 7(1)(a), § 7(1)(o), or § 3(g) is **tainted by self-interest**
- Responsive records were likely **withheld to conceal misconduct**

This act not only violates FOIA standards — it further demonstrates the **administrative panic and disarray** within the Department, whose agents now answer to federal litigation by recycling conflicted personnel in the name of damage control.

#### V. PRECEDENT AND ANALOGS

In **Light v. DOJ**, 968 F. Supp. 2d 30 (D.D.C. 2013), the court found that improper withholding due to internal bias and failure to recuse rendered the FOIA review fatally flawed.

In **Vaughn v. Rosen**, 484 F.2d 820 (D.C. Cir. 1973), courts clarified that “sufficient specificity and neutrality” are required in all FOIA denials, especially where federal suits are pending.

This case exceeds those standards: Mehta not only lacked neutrality — she is an active enforcement participant under current federal scrutiny.

#### VI. DEMAND FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE AND REMEDY

Plaintiff-Appellant respectfully demands:

1. **Formal docket recognition** that FOIA responses issued by Kiran Mehta are procedurally invalid due to conflict of interest
2. **Referral of Kiran Mehta and HFS FOIA handling** to the Illinois Public Access Counselor and the DOJ's Office of Information Policy for obstruction and ethical violation

#### VII. ATTACHMENTS

- FOIA #25-216 and 217 Responses (Title IV-D funding and federal communications)

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Thomas E. Camarda**

Plaintiff-Appellant, Pro Se

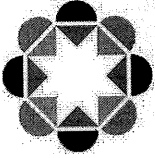
Seventh Circuit – Case No. 24-3244

[tcamarda@gmx.com](mailto:tcamarda@gmx.com)

(224) 279-8856

Filed: April 14, 2025



**HFS****Illinois Department of  
Healthcare and Family Services**

JB Pritzker, Governor

Elizabeth M. Whitehorn, Director

201 South Grand Avenue East, Springfield, Illinois 62763

Telephone: +1 217-782-1200, TTY: +1 800-526-5812

April 14, 2025

Thomas Camarda  
[tcamarda@gmx.com](mailto:tcamarda@gmx.com)

RE: FOIA #25-216 Camarda

Dear Thomas Camarda:

Thank you for writing to the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services with your request for information pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.

Our Office received your FOIA request on March 31, 2025, for the following information:

**I am requesting access to the following records, which are held by the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) and/or its Division of Child Support Services (DCSS):**

**Records Requested**

**1. All Title IV-D federal reimbursement claims submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and/or the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) from January 1, 2020 through March 28, 2025, including but not limited to:**

- **Form OCSE-396 (Child Support Enforcement Program Financial Report)**
- **Form OCSE-157 (Annual Data Report)**
- **Supporting documentation for performance-based incentives under 42 U.S.C. § 658a**

**2. All internal communications, emails, memos, or summaries concerning the calculation, review, or projection of Title IV-D performance metrics related to paternity establishment, support order establishment, and collections.**

**3. Copies of any official certifications made by Illinois officials (or subcontractors) to HHS/OCSE in connection with Title IV-D eligibility, compliance, or performance incentive qualification—especially those made during or after enforcement actions involving: Warrantless seizures Income Withholding Orders disputed in federal court Retaliatory enforcement, such as the McHenry County case (24CM000976)**

**4. Documentation of any internal audits, compliance reviews, or federal correspondence related to fraud, performance irregularities, or erroneous certifications under Title IV-D, including responses to or from HHS-OIG.**

**5. Names and titles of officials who signed, approved, or transmitted any Title IV-D reports or federal financial certification documents during the above-referenced period.**

Items 1 through 4 of your request are unduly burdensome under Section 3(g) of FOIA. Regarding item 5 of your request, pursuant to *Kenyon v. Garrels*, 184 Ill. App. 3d 29, 32 (4th Dist. 1989), FOIA does not require a public body to answer questions posed by a requester. Moreover, Section 3.3 of FOIA (5 ILCS 140/3.3 (West 2010)) specifically provides that "[t]his Act is not intended to compel public bodies to interpret or advise requesters as to the meaning or significance of public records." In addition, the Illinois Freedom of Information Act is not intended to create an obligation on the part of the public body to maintain or prepare a public record which was not already maintained or prepared by the public body. 5 ILCS 140/1. As a result, the Department has no records responsive to this portion of your request.

Many of your requests above seeking "all documentation..." are extremely overbroad and in some cases do not sufficiently identify the records you are seeking. Therefore, your requests are burdensome.

Section 3(g) of FOIA states the following:

Requests calling for all records falling within a category shall be complied with *unless compliance with the request would be unduly burdensome for the complying public body and there is no way to narrow the request and the burden on the public body outweighs the public interest in the information*. Before invoking this exemption, the public body shall extend to the person making the request an opportunity to confer with it in an attempt to reduce the request to manageable proportions. If any public body responds to a categorical request by stating that compliance would unduly burden its operation and the conditions described above are met, it shall do so in writing, specifying the reasons why it would be unduly burdensome and the extent to which compliance will so burden the operations of the public body. Such a response shall be treated as a denial of the request for information. (Emphasis added). 5 ILCS 140 3(g) (West 2014).

In order to comply with your request as written, the Department would need to research, identify, procure and review a vast quantity of records. Without a narrowed request from you, such an endeavor would pose an undue burden on the operations of this Department. As the Illinois Attorney General's Public Access Counselor has noted (see 2017 PAC 47756, issued June 20, 2017), Illinois courts have held, "[a] request to inspect or copy must reasonably identify a public record[.]" *Chicago Tribune Co. v. Dept. of Financial and Professional Regulation*, 2014 IL App (4th) 130427, par. 33. A FOIA request "reasonably describes records if 'the agency is able to determine precisely what records are being requested.'" *Kowalczyk v. Dept. of Justice*, 73 F.3d 386, 388 (D.C. Cir. 1996) (quoting *Yeager v. Drug Enforcement Admin.*, 678 F.2d 315, 326 (D.C. Cir. 1982)). Under Section 3(g) of FOIA, a public body may decline to comply with a FOIA request if "compliance with the request would be unduly burdensome for the complying public body and there is no way to narrow the request and the burden on the public body outweighs the public interest in the information." *Shehadeh v. Madigan*, 996 N.E.2d 1243, 1247 (Ill. App. 4th Dist. 2013).

In order to adequately address the competing demands on the Department's limited resources, the Department is extending you an opportunity to narrow your request to more manageable proportions.

To the extent you view this as a denial of your FOIA request, you have the right to submit a request for review by the Public Access Counselor (the "PAC") in the Office of the Illinois Attorney General to:

Public Access Counselor

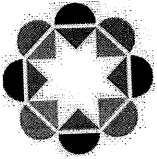
Office of the Attorney General  
500 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62706  
Fax: 217-782-1396  
E-mail: [public.access@ilag.gov](mailto:public.access@ilag.gov)

If you choose to submit a request for review to the PAC, you must do so within 60 days after the date of this letter. Your request for review must be in writing, signed by you, and include a copy of your FOIA request and this response. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). You also have the right to seek judicial review of this response. See 5 ILCS 140/11(a),(b).

Sincerely,

//S//

Kiran Mehta  
Freedom of Information Officer  
Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services

**HFS****Illinois Department of  
Healthcare and Family Services**JB Pritzker, Governor  
Elizabeth M. Whitehorn, Director201 South Grand Avenue East, Springfield, Illinois 62763  
Telephone: +1 217-782-1200, TTY: +1 800-526-5812

April 14, 2025

Thomas Camarda  
[tcamarda@gmx.com](mailto:tcamarda@gmx.com)

RE: FOIA #25-217 Camarda

Dear Thomas Camarda:

Thank you for writing to the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services with your request for information pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.

Our Office received your FOIA request on March 31, 2025, for the following information:

I am requesting access to public records pertaining to intergovernmental communication concerning *Camarda v. Whitehorn et al.*, 7th Cir. Case No. 24-3244, including but not limited to any discussions of:

**Records Requested**

1. All emails, memos, letters, phone logs, or reports exchanged between the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS), the Division of Child Support Services (DCSS), the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR), and the Illinois Office of the Attorney General with the following federal agencies, from September 1, 2024 to present:
  - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
  - Office of Inspector General (OIG), HHS
  - U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)
  - Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
  - Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
  - Social Security Administration (SSA)
  - U.S. Postal Inspection Service
  - U.S. Department of Treasury
  - Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
2. All documents, briefs, summaries, or internal notes referencing or discussing:
  - *Camarda v. Whitehorn et al.*, Case No. 24-3244 (7th Cir.)
  - Title IV-D enforcement procedures under federal oversight
  - Allegations of civil rights violations, retaliation, unlawful garnishment, or misuse of federal certification
  - Active or proposed referrals to federal authorities (including IRS, DOJ, or HHS-OIG)
  - Legal concerns or risk assessments regarding FOIA, bond liability, or unconstitutional enforcement.



3. Any internal instructions, risk assessments, or alert bulletins distributed within your agency as a result of communications with any of the above-listed federal departments.
4. Copies of any federal responses or guidance received by your agency concerning Camarda v. Whitehorn or Title IV-D compliance and oversight matters.

Your request, as written, is unduly burdensome under Section 7(1)(g) of FOIA. Many of your requests above seeking "all documentation..." are extremely overbroad and in some cases do not sufficiently identify the records you are seeking. Therefore, your requests are burdensome.

Section 3(g) of FOIA states the following:

Requests calling for all records falling within a category shall be complied with *unless compliance with the request would be unduly burdensome for the complying public body and there is no way to narrow the request and the burden on the public body outweighs the public interest in the information*. Before invoking this exemption, the public body shall extend to the person making the request an opportunity to confer with it in an attempt to reduce the request to manageable proportions. If any public body responds to a categorical request by stating that compliance would unduly burden its operation and the conditions described above are met, it shall do so in writing, specifying the reasons why it would be unduly burdensome and the extent to which compliance will so burden the operations of the public body. Such a response shall be treated as a denial of the request for information. (Emphasis added). 5 ILCS 140 3(g) (West 2014).

In order to comply with your request as written, the Department would need to research, identify, procure and review a vast quantity of records. Without a narrowed request from you, such an endeavor would pose an undue burden on the operations of this Department. As the Illinois Attorney General's Public Access Counselor has noted (see 2017 PAC 47756, issued June 20, 2017), Illinois courts have held, "[a] request to inspect or copy must reasonably identify a public record[.]" *Chicago Tribune Co. v. Dept. of Financial and Professional Regulation*, 2014 IL App (4th) 130427, par. 33. A FOIA request "reasonably describes records if 'the agency is able to determine precisely what records are being requested.'" *Kowalczyk v. Dept. of Justice*, 73 F.3d 386, 388 (D.C. Cir. 1996) (quoting *Yeager v. Drug Enforcement Admin.*, 678 F.2d 315, 326 (D.C. Cir. 1982)). Under Section 3(g) of FOIA, a public body may decline to comply with a FOIA request if "compliance with the request would be unduly burdensome for the complying public body and there is no way to narrow the request and the burden on the public body outweighs the public interest in the information." *Shehadeh v. Madigan*, 996 N.E.2d 1243, 1247 (Ill. App. 4th Dist. 2013).

In order to adequately address the competing demands on the Department's limited resources, the Department is extending you an opportunity to narrow your request to more manageable proportions.

To the extent you view this as a denial of your FOIA request, you have the right to submit a request for review by the Public Access Counselor (the "PAC") in the Office of the Illinois Attorney General to:

Public Access Counselor  
Office of the Attorney General  
500 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62706  
Fax: 217-782-1396  
E-mail: [public.access@ilag.gov](mailto:public.access@ilag.gov)

If you choose to submit a request for review to the PAC, you must do so within 60 days after the date of this letter. Your request for review must be in writing, signed by you, and include a copy of your FOIA request and this response. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). You also have the right to seek judicial review of this response. See 5 ILCS 140/11(a),(b).

Sincerely,

//S//

Kiran Mehta  
Freedom of Information Officer  
Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services

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tcamarda@gmx.com

**From:** tcamarda@gmx.com  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2025 3:52 PM  
**To:** 'civilrights.justice@usdoj.gov'; 'hfs.mru@illinois.gov'; 'hfs.dcsscru@illinois.gov'; 'publicaccess@atg.state.il.us'; 'attorney\_general@ilag.gov'; 'attorney\_general@atg.state.il.us'; 'jib@illinois.gov'  
**Cc:** 'CA07\_pro\_se\_filings@ca7.uscourts.gov'  
**Subject:** SUMMARY OF FOIA OBSTRUCTION PATTERN (THREE RESPONSES, THREE VIOLATIONS, ZERO COMPLIANCE)

## IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT

**THOMAS E. CAMARDA**  
Plaintiff-Appellant, Pro Se

v.

**ELIZABETH WHITEHORN, et al.**  
Defendants-Appellees

Case No. 24-3244

### SUMMARY OF FOIA OBSTRUCTION PATTERN (THREE RESPONSES, THREE VIOLATIONS, ZERO COMPLIANCE)

#### TO THE HONORABLE CLERK AND PANEL OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT:

Plaintiff-Appellant submits this summary notice under **FRAP 27, 28 U.S.C. § 1651(a), and Rule 60(b)(4)** to preserve and present a **coherent evidentiary pattern of FOIA obstruction** by the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) — across three separate, legally submitted FOIA requests — each handled by a **conflicted, non-neutral party**, and each violating the core transparency obligations of the law.

This establishes a **pattern of obstruction**, procedural retaliation, and bad-faith nondisclosure amid active federal enforcement proceedings.

#### I. THREE RESPONSES – THREE OBSTRUCTIONS

Between April 12–14, 2025, the Department issued **three formal FOIA responses**, all signed by **Kiran Mehta**, a recused and conflicted party, in response to the following FOIA filings:

**FOIA #25-215**

► Request: Full IWO documentation post-summary judgment

► **Obstruction:** Provided partial redacted record only; withheld employer notices and approval logs

► **Conflict:** Mehta is involved in enforcement activity under federal litigation; her redactions conceal self-interest

#### **FOIA #25-216**

► **Request:** Title IV-D reimbursement records (Forms OCSE-396, 157), internal certification logs, and audit materials

► **Obstruction:** Categorical denial under § 3(g) “unduly burdensome” language, with no search effort demonstrated

► **Conflict:** Documents would expose misrepresentations to HHS, trigger federal clawback, and implicate core RICO issues

#### **FOIA #25-217**

► **Request:** Intergovernmental records exchanged with DOJ, HHS, IRS, and federal enforcement agencies regarding this case

► **Obstruction:** Blanket refusal, citing volume and lack of specificity despite clear date range and party limitation

► **Conflict:** This request would reveal attempted concealment of federal risk assessments and retaliatory planning

## **II. SHARED VIOLATIONS ACROSS ALL THREE RESPONSES**

Each of the above responses features **the same procedural defects**, including:

✓ **Conflict of Interest** – All signed by a party under federal scrutiny (Mehta)

✓ **Patterned Denial** – Relying on vague burdensome exemptions, without fulfilling the search duty under FOIA

✓ **Concealment of Evidence** – Each request targeted evidence relevant to Plaintiff’s damages, lien enforcement, or federal claims

✓ **Failure to Confer in Good Faith** – No true offer was made to narrow scope — only pro forma rejection language