

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,  
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENSE CENTER, )  
)  
Plaintiff, )  
)  
v. )  
)  
WILL COUNTY STATE’S )  
ATTORNEY’S OFFICE, )  
)  
Defendant. )

2022CH000017

**COMPLAINT**

NOW COMES Plaintiff, HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENSE CENTER (“HRDC”), by the undersigned attorneys, Loevy & Loevy, and brings this suit to overturn Defendant WILL COUNTY STATE’S ATTORNEY’S OFFICE’s (“WCSAO”) willful violation of the Illinois Freedom of Information Act in improperly asserting FOIA’s undue burden provision in response to HRDC’s request for non-exempt records showing the payment of legal claims involving the Will County Sheriff’s Office. While WCSAO had no statutory basis to combine multiple separate requests into a single request, in an effort to avoid litigation, HRDC offered a 90-calendar-day extension to WCSAO, but WCSAO refused. In support of the Complaint, HRDC states as follows:

**INTRODUCTION**

1. Pursuant to the fundamental philosophy of the American constitutional form of government, it is the public policy of the State of Illinois that all persons are entitled to full and complete information regarding the affairs of government and the official acts and policies of those who represent them as public officials and public employees consistent with the terms of the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”). 5 ILCS 140/1.

**Initial case management set for**

**at: a.m.**

~~FILED~~ ~~BY~~ ~~CLERK~~ ~~OF~~ ~~COURT~~ ~~IN~~ ~~WILL~~ ~~COUNTY~~ ~~ILLINOIS~~

2. Restraints on access to information, to the extent permitted by FOIA, are limited exceptions to the principle that the people of this state have a right to full disclosure of information relating to the decisions, policies, procedures, rules, standards, and other aspects of government activity that affect the conduct of government and the lives of the people. 5 ILCS 140/1.

3. Under FOIA Section 1.2, “[a]ll records in the custody or possession of a public body are presumed to be open to inspection or copying. Any public body that asserts that a record is exempt from disclosure has the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that it is exempt.” 5 ILCS 140/1.2.

### **PARTIES**

4. Plaintiff HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENSE CENTER (“HRDC”) is a non-profit organization and made the FOIA request at issue in this case.

5. Defendant WILL COUNTY STATE’S ATTORNEY’S OFFICE (“WCSAO”) is a public body located in Will County, Illinois.

### **BACKGROUND**

6. On September 14, 2021, HRDC submitted a FOIA request to WCSAO for “all claims or lawsuits brought against Will County Sheriff’s Office, the Will County Jail, and/or any of their employees or agents in which payments totaling \$1,000 or more were disbursed from either the Sheriff’s Office or its insurers to resolve claims against it between January 1, 2016, to present.”

7. On September 17, 2021, WCSAO denied the request in full by stating that it is not a proper request.

8. HRDC obtained the case numbers and claim numbers that meet the above criteria through a FOIA request to Will County Department of Finance.

## SIX SEPARATE FOIA REQUESTS

9. Between October 29, 2021, and November 11, 2021, HRDC submitted six separate FOIA requests (collectively, the “Requests”) to WCSAO for 1) the “complaint or claim form and any amended versions” and 2) the “verdict form, final judgment, settlement agreement, consent decree, or other paper that resolved the case” for various claims or lawsuits brought against the Will County Sheriff’s Office, the Will County Jail, and/or any of their employees or agents. To aid WCSAO’s search, HRDC provided a list with the Plaintiff’s or Claimant’s names and the corresponding case or claim numbers. Each Request sought records for no more than fifteen cases and claims. In total, HRDC sought records from 81 cases and claims. Group Exhibit 1.

10. For HRDC’s first three Requests, WCSAO sought an extension of five business days, respectively on November 5, November 9, and November 12, 2021. Group Exhibit 2.

11. On November 15, 2021, WCSAO combined HRDC’s Requests, denied all Requests by claiming that they are “unduly burdensome,” and invited HRDC to confer about narrowing the scope of the Requests. Exhibit 3.

12. In this letter and its subsequent correspondences, WCSAO failed to acknowledge HRDC’s November 10, 2021 Request and erroneously stated that there were five Requests at issue. *Compare Ex. 1 with Ex. 3.*

13. Even though WCSAO’s “undue burden” claim was improper because FOIA does not authorize public bodies to combine multiple separate requests into a single request, HRDC engaged in the confer and narrow process in an effort to avoid litigation.

14. On November 19, 2021, HRDC asked WCSAO how much time it needs to respond to the Requests and suggested that HRDC would extend the deadline for the Requests. Exhibit 4.

15. On December 3, 2021, WCSAO stated that the issue is the “volume” as it would be “difficult to pull all the files.” Exhibit 5.

16. On December 10, 2021, in an effort to alleviate WCSAO’s burden, HRDC offered to extend the deadline to respond to the Requests by 90 calendar days. HRDC also suggested that WCSAO can start the search from the most recent period and work its way back in time. Exhibit 6.

17. On December 30, 2021, WCSAO claimed that “even with the extension of time,” the Requests are “unduly burdensome.” WCSAO stated that it would take more than “1 hour per file.” Exhibit 7.

18. By WCSAO’s own calculation, it would take approximately 81 hours (1 hour for each claim or case), which is approximately 10 business days, to process the Requests.

19. HRDC’s extension of 90 calendar days, which is about 60 business days, would take WCSAO less than 7 hours per week to process the Requests. This is more than enough time for WCSAO to comply with the Requests without burdening its day-to-day operations.

20. Even though HRDC significantly reduced the Requests to manageable portions by offering the extension, WCSAO refused to comply with the Requests and denied them.

21. Further, the public interest in the documents is significant as the records responsive to the Requests would show the use of public funds to pay claims alleging misconduct by law enforcement officials.

22. As of the date of this filing, WCSAO has not complied with FOIA and has produced no records responsive to the Requests.

**COUNTS I-VI: HRDC'S SIX FOIA REQUESTS,  
FAILURE TO PRODUCE RECORDS**

23. The above paragraphs are incorporated by reference.

24. WCSAO is a public body under FOIA.

25. The records sought in the FOIA Requests are non-exempt public records of WCSAO.

26. CCSAO violated FOIA by failing to produce records responsive to the Requests.

**COUNTS VII-XII: HRDC'S SIX FOIA REQUESTS,  
FAILURE TO PERFORM AN ADEQUATE SEARCH**

27. The above paragraphs are incorporated by reference.

28. WCSAO is a public body under FOIA.

29. WCSAO bears the burden of proving beyond material doubt that it performed an adequate search for records responsive to the Requests.

30. WCSAO has failed to come forward with sufficient evidence to carry this burden.

31. WCSAO has violated FOIA by failing to adequately search for records responsive to the Requests.

**COUNTS XIII-XVIII: HRDC'S SIX FOIA REQUESTS,  
WILLFUL AND INTENTIONAL VIOLATION OF FOIA**

32. The above paragraphs are incorporated by reference.

33. WCSAO is a public body under FOIA.

34. The records sought in the FOIA Requests are non-exempt public records of WCSAO.

35. During the time period of October 29, 2021, to present, WCSAO's FOIA Officer was aware that FOIA does not allow public bodies to combine multiple separate requests into a single request.

36. During the time period of October 29, 2021, to present, WCSAO's FOIA Officer was aware that FOIA does not allow public bodies to assert Section 3(g) as a basis to deny the Requests because it is "too difficult" to comply with the requests.

37. Because WCSAO had no good faith basis to deny the Requests pursuant to Section 3(g) even after HRDC offered 90 calendar days to comply with the Requests, WCSAO willfully and intentionally, or otherwise in bad faith, failed to comply with FOIA.

**WHEREFORE**, HRDC asks that the Court:

- i. declare that WCSAO has violated FOIA;
- ii. order WCSAO to conduct an adequate search for records responsive to the Requests;
- iii. order WCSAO to produce the records responsive to the Requests;
- iv. enjoin WCSAO from withholding non-exempt public records under FOIA;
- v. order WCSAO to pay civil penalties;
- vi. award HRDC reasonable attorneys' fees and costs; and
- vii. award such other relief the Court considers appropriate.

Dated: February 7, 2022

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,  
/s/ Merrick J. Wayne

Attorneys for Plaintiff,  
HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENSE CENTER

Matthew Topic, ARDC #6290922  
Josh Loevy, ARDC #6327897  
Merrick Wayne, ARDC #6330610  
Shelley Geiszler, ARC #6335917  
LOEVY & LOEVY  
311 North Aberdeen, 3rd Floor  
Chicago, IL 60607  
312-243-5900  
foia@loevy.com

## Samantha Beauvais

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**From:** FOIA General Mailbox <FOIA@humanrightsdefensecenter.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 29, 2021 11:01 AM  
**To:** saofia@willcountyillinois.com  
**Subject:** Public Records Request from the Human Rights Defense Center  
**Attachments:** Will County States Attorney - 2016-2021 V&SI (1 of 7) - HRDC Records Request 10-29-21.pdf

To the Freedom of Information Officer:

**Attached, please find a public records request from the Human Rights Defense Center; the text of this request is duplicated in the body of this message.**

The Human Rights Defense Center (HRDC) makes this request pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1.

HRDC seeks the below specified records in 15 claims or lawsuits brought against the Will County Sheriff's Office, the Will County Jail, and/or any of their employees or agents in which payments totaling \$1,000 or more were disbursed from either the Sheriff's Office or its insurers to resolve claims against it between January 1, 2016 to the present. These payments include but are not limited to settlements, damages, attorney fee awards, and sanctions, irrespective of the identity of the plaintiff or claimant. Specifically, HRDC requests records in the following cases, provided in electronic native format where possible, and otherwise in electronic format:

1. **Timothy Carter**, claim no. 180315W037
2. **Quinntin Gilber**, claim no. 200508W010
3. **Euron Matthews**, case no. 14CV6003, claim no. 141201W006
4. **Eboni Dockery**, claim no. 180627W018
5. **Ronald Johnson**, claim no. 180627W018
6. **Michael Bulger**, claim no. 181023W002
7. **Michael Hollis**, claim no. 190617W008
8. **James Davis**, case no. 19CV3395, claim no. 190529W015
9. **Gordon Dickson**, claim no. 180227W005
10. **Aaron Ortiz**, claim no. 181004W035
11. **Howard Cryer**, claim no. 160407W015
12. **Nathan Musur**, claim no. 190516W018
13. **Joseph Mescall**, claim no. 160318W003
14. **David Krivickas**, claim no. 170324W003
15. **Frank Orsini**, claim no. 180227W005

For each case or claim detailed above, please include:

- The complaint or claim form and any amended versions;
- The verdict form, final judgment, settlement agreement, consent decree, or other paper that resolved the case.

If this request is denied in whole or part, please justify all denials by reference to specific exemptions. If any records responsive to this request are denied in part, release all segregable portions of those records. Additionally, please outline any administrative appeals process available.

If there are any fees for searching or copying these records, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$50. However, I would also like to request a waiver of all fees in that the disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest and will contribute significantly to the public's understanding of the operation of the Will County Sheriff's Office and how local government manages taxpayer money. HRDC is a member of the news media and publishes two monthly



magazines, *Prison Legal News* and *Criminal Legal News*. This request is being made for news gathering purposes. This information is not being sought for commercial purposes.

Please contact me via email at [FOIA@humanrightsdefensecenter.org](mailto:FOIA@humanrightsdefensecenter.org) should you require any additional information. Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

**Samantha Beauvais**  
*Public Records Manager &  
Development Coordinator*  
[Human Rights Defense Center](#)  
[Prison Legal News](#)  
M: 561-305-4643

 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

## Samantha Beauvais

---

**From:** FOIA General Mailbox <FOIA@humanrightsdefensecenter.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 2, 2021 9:28 AM  
**To:** saofia@willcountyillinois.com  
**Subject:** Public Records Request from the Human Rights Defense Center  
**Attachments:** Will County States Attorney - 2016-2021 V&SI (2 of 7) - HRDC Records Request 11-2-21.pdf

To the Freedom of Information Officer:

**Attached, please find a public records request from the Human Rights Defense Center; the text of this request is duplicated in the body of this message.**

The Human Rights Defense Center (HRDC) makes this request pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1.

HRDC seeks the below specified records in 15 claims or lawsuits brought against the Will County Sheriff's Office, the Will County Jail, and/or any of their employees or agents in which payments totaling \$1,000 or more were disbursed from either the Sheriff's Office or its insurers to resolve claims against it between January 1, 2016 to the present. These payments include but are not limited to settlements, damages, attorney fee awards, and sanctions, irrespective of the identity of the plaintiff or claimant. Specifically, HRDC requests records in the following cases, provided in electronic native format where possible, and otherwise in electronic format:

1. **William Clark**, claim no. 181217W007
2. **Andrea Dunn**, claim no. 200211W023
3. **Jose Sanchez**, claim no. 180628W022
4. **Anna Faveron**, claim no. 200302W002
5. **Andrea Dunn**, claim no. 180927W013
6. **Winfred Richter**, claim no. 191111W006
7. **John Stroh**, claim no. 180713W022
8. **Myzekial Taylor**, claim no. 190225W009
9. **Violet Petkus**, claim no. 170515W037
10. **Arthur Unger**, claim no. 190327W002
11. **Amya Roberts**, claim no. 160808W036
12. **Jose Vasquez**, claim no. 171016W036
13. **Louise Goodman**, claim no. 190418W001
14. **Domonique Chamos**, claim no. 160808W036
15. **Christopher Ramirez**, claim no. 160808W036, case no. 17L657

For each case or claim detailed above, please include:

- The complaint or claim form and any amended versions;
- The verdict form, final judgment, settlement agreement, consent decree, or other paper that resolved the case.

If this request is denied in whole or part, please justify all denials by reference to specific exemptions. If any records responsive to this request are denied in part, release all segregable portions of those records. Additionally, please outline any administrative appeals process available.

If there are any fees for searching or copying these records, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$50. However, I would also like to request a waiver of all fees in that the disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest and will contribute significantly to the public's understanding of the operation of the Will County Sheriff's Office and how local government manages taxpayer money. HRDC is a member of the news media and publishes two monthly

magazines, *Prison Legal News* and *Criminal Legal News*. This request is being made for news gathering purposes. This information is not being sought for commercial purposes.

Please contact me via email at [FOIA@humanrightsdefensecenter.org](mailto:FOIA@humanrightsdefensecenter.org) should you require any additional information. Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

**Samantha Beauvais**  
*Public Records Manager &  
Development Coordinator*  
[Human Rights Defense Center](#)  
[Prison Legal News](#)  
M: 561-305-4643

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## Samantha Beauvais

---

**From:** FOIA General Mailbox <FOIA@humanrightsdefensecenter.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 9:03 AM  
**To:** saofia@willcountyillinois.com  
**Subject:** Public Records Request from the Human Rights Defense Center  
**Attachments:** Will County States Attorney - 2016-2021 V&SI (3 of 7) - HRDC Records Request 11-4-21.pdf

To the Freedom of Information Officer:

**Attached, please find a public records request from the Human Rights Defense Center; the text of this request is duplicated in the body of this message.**

The Human Rights Defense Center (HRDC) makes this request pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1.

HRDC seeks the below specified records in 15 claims or lawsuits brought against the Will County Sheriff's Office, the Will County Jail, and/or any of their employees or agents in which payments totaling \$1,000 or more were disbursed from either the Sheriff's Office or its insurers to resolve claims against it between January 1, 2016 to the present. These payments include but are not limited to settlements, damages, attorney fee awards, and sanctions, irrespective of the identity of the plaintiff or claimant. Specifically, HRDC requests records in the following cases, provided in electronic native format where possible, and otherwise in electronic format:

1. **Erin Taylor**, claim no. 170601W006
2. **DeShawn Smith**, claim no. 190115W028
3. **Stephen Kimak**, claim no. 131218W013
4. **Vincent Shelby**, claim no. 170315W026
5. **Marques Hinton**, claim no. 180823W013
6. **Elisha Reichling**, claim no. 180731W007
7. **Santos Loza, Jr**, claim no. 170222W023, case no. 16CV8111
8. **Justin Wojtkowski**, claim no. 140625W027
9. **Michael Carey**, claim no. 180215W008, case no. 17CV9297
10. **Robert Troester**, claim no. 180521W030
11. **David Fonza**, claim no. 170425W024
12. **Joshua Jackson**, claim no. 170124W032, case no. 17CV300
13. **Dreiana Loggins**, claim no. 170810W019, case no. 17CV7489
14. **Rikia Fadir**, claim no. 171107W013
15. **Wincie Collins**, claim no. 151007W029

For each case or claim detailed above, please include:

- The complaint or claim form and any amended versions;
- The verdict form, final judgment, settlement agreement, consent decree, or other paper that resolved the case.

If this request is denied in whole or part, please justify all denials by reference to specific exemptions. If any records responsive to this request are denied in part, release all segregable portions of those records. Additionally, please outline any administrative appeals process available.

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Please contact me via email at [FOIA@humanrightsdefensecenter.org](mailto:FOIA@humanrightsdefensecenter.org) should you require any additional information. Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

**Samantha Beauvais**  
*Public Records Manager &  
Development Coordinator*  
[Human Rights Defense Center](#)  
[Prison Legal News](#)  
M: 561-305-4643

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## Public Records Request from the Human Rights Defense Center

FOIA General Mailbox <FOIA@humanrightsdefensecenter.org>

Mon 11/8/2021 2:10 PM

To: States Attorney FOIA <safoia@willcountyillinois.com>

To the Freedom of Information Officer:

**Attached, please find a public records request from the Human Rights Defense Center; the text of this request is duplicated in the body of this message.**

The Human Rights Defense Center (HRDC) makes this request pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1.

HRDC seeks the below specified records in 15 claims or lawsuits brought against the Will County Sheriff's Office, the Will County Jail, and/or any of their employees or agents in which payments totaling \$1,000 or more were disbursed from either the Sheriff's Office or its insurers to resolve claims against it between January 1, 2016 to the present. These payments include but are not limited to settlements, damages, attorney fee awards, and sanctions, irrespective of the identity of the plaintiff or claimant. Specifically, HRDC requests records in the following cases, provided in electronic native format where possible, and otherwise in electronic format:

1. **Cleveland Grimes**, claim no. 151028W037
2. **Denzil Lawrence**, claim no. 170210W007, case no. 16CV9337
3. **Robert Goldsmith**, claim no. 140717W008
4. **Robert Goldsmith**, claim no. 160418W002
5. **Martez R. Nabors Jr.**, claim no. 170206W006
6. **Josh Fazio**, claim no. 131014W011
7. **Robert Moore**, claim no. 161025W022, case no. 16CV8945
8. **Whitley Klingler**, claim no. 160725W003
9. **John Norris**, claim no. 160316W003, case no. 15CV7306
10. **Eric Tremaine Heard**, claim no. 160609W026
11. **Cheryl Wilson**, claim no. 1105160012
12. **Kerwin Doss**, claim no. 0905280009
13. **Matthew Mangold**, claim no. 170227W015
14. **Euron Matthews**, claim no. 150327W035, case no. 14CV6002
15. **Viridian Galvan**, claim no. 170425W014

For each case or claim detailed above, please include:

- The complaint or claim form and any amended versions;
- The verdict form, final judgment, settlement agreement, consent decree, or other paper that resolved the case.

If this request is denied in whole or part, please justify all denials by reference to specific exemptions. If any records responsive to this request are denied in part, release all segregable portions of those records. Additionally, please outline any administrative appeals process available.

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Please contact me via email at [FOIA@humanrightsdefensecenter.org](mailto:FOIA@humanrightsdefensecenter.org) should you require any additional information. Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

**Samantha Beauvais**

*Public Records Manager &*

*Development Coordinator*

[Human Rights Defense Center](#)

[Prison Legal News](#)

M: 561-305-4643



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

## Samantha Beauvais

---

**From:** FOIA General Mailbox <FOIA@humanrightsdefensecenter.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 9:12 AM  
**To:** saofia@willcountyillinois.com  
**Subject:** Public Records Request from the Human Rights Defense Center  
**Attachments:** Will County States Attorney - 2016-2021 V&SI (5 of 7) - HRDC Records Request 11-10-21.pdf

To the Freedom of Information Officer:

**Attached, please find a public records request from the Human Rights Defense Center; the text of this request is duplicated in the body of this message.**

The Human Rights Defense Center (HRDC) makes this request pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1.

HRDC seeks the below specified records in 15 claims or lawsuits brought against the Will County Sheriff's Office, the Will County Jail, and/or any of their employees or agents in which payments totaling \$1,000 or more were disbursed from either the Sheriff's Office or its insurers to resolve claims against it between January 1, 2016 to the present. These payments include but are not limited to settlements, damages, attorney fee awards, and sanctions, irrespective of the identity of the plaintiff or claimant. Specifically, HRDC requests records in the following cases, provided in electronic native format where possible, and otherwise in electronic format:

1. **Miguel Gonzalez**, claim no. 160831W018, case no. 16CV8045
2. **Alejandro Lara-Leyva**, claim no. 160518W015
3. **Mario Cooperwood**, claim no. 160119W005
4. **Brian Trainauskas**, claim no. 150121W004, case no. 14CV4437
5. **Derek Walsh**, claim no. 150415W002, case no. 14CV6966
6. **Peter McCloud**, claim no. 160615W026, case no. 15CV7438
7. **Daniel Fox**, claim no. CL1-0018274
8. **Bennie Gipson Jr.**, claim no. 151210W005
9. **Tammy Butwil**, claim no. 160623W008
10. **Jennifer Raitt**, claim no. 140807W007
11. **Coretta Coleman**, claim no. 0905280007
12. **Blanca Haro**, claim no. 1302250008
13. **Dakota Lenzie**, claim no. 151028W038
14. **DeShawn Smith**, claim no. 160226W003
15. **Magda Markowska**, claim no. 160127W021

For each case or claim detailed above, please include:

- The complaint or claim form and any amended versions;
- The verdict form, final judgment, settlement agreement, consent decree, or other paper that resolved the case.

If this request is denied in whole or part, please justify all denials by reference to specific exemptions. If any records responsive to this request are denied in part, release all segregable portions of those records. Additionally, please outline any administrative appeals process available.

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Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

**Samantha Beauvais**

*Public Records Manager &*

*Development Coordinator*

[Human Rights Defense Center](#)

[Prison Legal News](#)

M: 561-305-4643

 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

## Samantha Beauvais

---

**From:** FOIA General Mailbox <FOIA@humanrightsdefensecenter.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 12, 2021 10:00 AM  
**To:** saofia@willcountyillinois.com  
**Subject:** Public Records Request from the Human Rights Defense Center  
**Attachments:** Will County States Attorney - 2016-2021 V&SI (6 of 7) - HRDC Records Request 11-12-21.pdf

To the Freedom of Information Officer:

**Attached, please find a public records request from the Human Rights Defense Center; the text of this request is duplicated in the body of this message.**

The Human Rights Defense Center (HRDC) makes this request pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1.

HRDC seeks the below specified records in 6 claims or lawsuits brought against the Will County Sheriff's Office, the Will County Jail, and/or any of their employees or agents in which payments totaling \$1,000 or more were disbursed from either the Sheriff's Office or its insurers to resolve claims against it between January 1, 2016 to the present. These payments include but are not limited to settlements, damages, attorney fee awards, and sanctions, irrespective of the identity of the plaintiff or claimant. Specifically, HRDC requests records in the following cases, provided in electronic native format where possible, and otherwise in electronic format:

1. **Ernest Lopez**, claim no. 150423W026
2. **Ernest Lopez Sr.**, claim no. 150423W026
3. **Steven Chavez**, claim no. 150423W026
4. **Concepcion Lopez**, claim no. 150423W026
5. **Edward Green**, claim no. 130917W011
6. **Liam Cunningham**, claim no. 140102W027

For each case or claim detailed above, please include:

- The complaint or claim form and any amended versions;
- The verdict form, final judgment, settlement agreement, consent decree, or other paper that resolved the case.

If this request is denied in whole or part, please justify all denials by reference to specific exemptions. If any records responsive to this request are denied in part, release all segregable portions of those records. Additionally, please outline any administrative appeals process available.

If there are any fees for searching or copying these records, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$50. However, I would also like to request a waiver of all fees in that the disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest and will contribute significantly to the public's understanding of the operation of the Will County Sheriff's Office and how local government manages taxpayer money. HRDC is a member of the news media and publishes two monthly magazines, *Prison Legal News* and *Criminal Legal News*. This request is being made for news gathering purposes. This information is not being sought for commercial purposes.

Please contact me via email at [FOIA@humanrightsdefensecenter.org](mailto:FOIA@humanrightsdefensecenter.org) should you require any additional information. Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

**Samantha Beauvais**  
*Public Records Manager &  
Development Coordinator*

[Human Rights Defense Center](#)

[Prison Legal News](#)

M: 561-305-4643

 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail



# JAMES W. GLASGOW

STATE'S ATTORNEY OF WILL COUNTY  
Will County Court Annex  
57 North Ottawa Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432  
815-727-8453

November 5, 2021

Samantha Beauvais  
Human Rights Defense Center  
P.O. Box 1151  
Lake Worth, FL 33498

Via E-mail to: [FOIA@humanrightsdefensecenter.org](mailto:FOIA@humanrightsdefensecenter.org)

Re: FOIA Request dated October 29, 2021

Ms. Beauvais,

We are in receipt of your FOIA request dated October 29, 2021 and received by our office on October 29, 2021 regarding your request for complaints, settlement agreements and other records from fifteen different claims or lawsuits.

This letter is to inform you that we are extending the time to respond to your request an additional five business days, pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/3(e), as the requested records may be stored in whole or in part at other locations, the request requires the collection of a substantial number of specified records, the request is couched in categorical terms and requires an extensive search for the records responsive to it, the requested records require examination and evaluation by personnel having the necessary competence and discretion to determine if they are exempt or should be revealed only with appropriate deletions, and the request for records cannot be complied with by us within the time limits prescribed by 5 ILCS 140/3(d) without unduly burdening or interfering with the operations of our office.

You should expect a further communication to be mailed or e-mailed by November 12, 2021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Daniel McGrath, Jr.", written over a white background.

J. Daniel McGrath, Jr.  
Assistant State's Attorney

**Exhibit 2**



# JAMES W. GLASGOW

STATE'S ATTORNEY OF WILL COUNTY

57 N. OTTAWA STREET JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60432

TELEPHONE: 815-727-8453

WWW.WILLCOUNTYSAO.COM

November 9, 2021

SENT VIA E-MAIL [FOIA@humanrightsdefensecenter.org](mailto:FOIA@humanrightsdefensecenter.org)

Human Rights Defense Center  
Attn: Samantha Beauvais  
Public Records Manager & Development Coordinator  
P.O. Box 1151  
Lake Worth, FL 33460

Re: FOIA Request

Ms. Beauvais:

We are in receipt of your FOIA request dated November 2, 2021. This letter is to inform you that we are extending the time to respond to your request an additional five business days, pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/3(e)(ii), (iii), (v) & (vi) as the request requires the collection of a substantial number of specified records as the requested records, the request is couched in categorical terms and requires an extensive search for the records responsive to it, the request requires examination and evaluation by personnel having the necessary competence and discretion to determine if they are exempt from disclosure under Section 7 of FOIA or should be revealed only with appropriate deletions, and the request for records cannot be complied within the time limits prescribed without unduly burdening or interfering with the operations of this office.

You should expect a further communication to be mailed or e-mailed by November 16, 2021.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erika M. Hamer".

Erika M. Hamer

Assistant State's Attorney



# JAMES W. GLASGOW

STATE'S ATTORNEY OF WILL COUNTY  
Will County Court Annex  
57 North Ottawa Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432  
815-727-8453

November 12, 2021

Samantha Beauvais  
Human Rights Defense Center  
P.O. Box 1151  
Lake Worth, FL 33498

Via E-mail to: [FOIA@humanrightsdefensecenter.org](mailto:FOIA@humanrightsdefensecenter.org)

Re: FOIA Request dated November 4, 2021

Ms. Beauvais,

We are in receipt of your FOIA request dated November 4, 2021 and received by our office on November 4, 2021 regarding your request for complaints, settlement agreements and other records from fifteen different claims or lawsuits.

This letter is to inform you that we are extending the time to respond to your request an additional five business days, pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/3(e), as the requested records may be stored in whole or in part at other locations, the request requires the collection of a substantial number of specified records, the request is couched in categorical terms and requires an extensive search for the records responsive to it, the requested records require examination and evaluation by personnel having the necessary competence and discretion to determine if they are exempt or should be revealed only with appropriate deletions, and the request for records cannot be complied with by us within the time limits prescribed by 5 ILCS 140/3(d) without unduly burdening or interfering with the operations of our office.

You should expect a further communication to be mailed or e-mailed by November 19, 2021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Daniel McGrath, Jr.", written over a white background.

J. Daniel McGrath, Jr.  
Assistant State's Attorney



# JAMES W. GLASGOW

STATE'S ATTORNEY OF WILL COUNTY

57 N. Ottawa Street • Joliet, Illinois 60432

TELEPHONE: 815-727-8453 • FAX: 815-727-8405

November 15, 2021

Samantha Beauvais  
Human Rights Defense Center  
foia@humanrightsdefensecenter.org

**Via email**

Re: FOIA

Ms. Beauvais,

This letter is in response to your October 29, November 2, 4, 8, and 12, 2021 FOIA's for complaints, amended complaints, and "papers that resolved the case" for 86 separate cases. Your request is denied as unduly burdensome. 5 ILCS 140/3(g). Your 5 letters for multiple cases both individually and in the aggregate would disrupt the other statutory duties of this office by requiring this office to locate the responsive files, identify what material may be responsive to your request, redact any exempt material, and then reproduce documents to provide them to you. This would consume multiple days of staff time, which greatly would outweigh any benefit to the public interest. We would be more than happy to consult with you and consider any ideas you may have to reduce the burden of your request.

If you wish to contest this response you may do so judicially (under §11 of this Act) or by requesting review from a Public Access Counselor within 60 days (under §9.5 of this Act). The Public Access Counselor may be reached at 1-877-299-3642 or Public Access Counselor, Office of the Attorney General, 500 S. 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701.

Regards,

Kevin Meyers  
Assistant State's Attorney



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**RE: Public Records Request from the Human Rights Defense Center**

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**FOIA General Mailbox** <FOIA@humanrightsdefensecenter.org>  
To: States Attorney FOIA <saofia@willcountyillinois.com>

Fri, Nov 19, 2021 at 9:26 AM

Good Morning,

I have reviewed your letter and would like to extend the deadline for production in order to make the requests less burdensome. How long would you need to respond to these requests in a more convenient way? Do you have any other suggestions on how to reduce the administrative burden?

Best regards,

**Samantha Beauvais**

*Public Records Manager &*

*Development Coordinator*

[Human Rights Defense Center](#)

[Prison Legal News](#)

M: 561-305-4643



---

**From:** Kevin Meyers <[kmeyers@willcountyillinois.com](mailto:kmeyers@willcountyillinois.com)> **On Behalf Of** States Attorney FOIA  
**Sent:** Monday, November 15, 2021 5:06 PM  
**To:** FOIA General Mailbox <[FOIA@humanrightsdefensecenter.org](mailto:FOIA@humanrightsdefensecenter.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Public Records Request from the Human Rights Defense Center

Please see the attached.



## Samantha Beauvais

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**From:** Kevin Meyers <kmeyers@willcountyillinois.com> on behalf of States Attorney FOIA <saofia@willcountyillinois.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 3, 2021 10:29 AM  
**To:** FOIA General Mailbox  
**Subject:** RE: Public Records Request from the Human Rights Defense Center

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I apologize for not getting back to you sooner. The main issue is the volume in my estimation, it would be exceeding difficult to pull all the files (some which are many years old, and would have to be traced to see if they had been destroyed in accordance with state record laws) and then go through what might be fairly voluminous files looking for the responsive record. Some of these cases may have been handled by outside counsel which would increase the expense and burden.

Is there a general area of information you are looking to gather data on, that I may be able to approach this from in a different direction?

**From:** FOIA General Mailbox [mailto:FOIA@humanrightsdefensecenter.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 19, 2021 9:26 AM  
**To:** States Attorney FOIA <saofia@willcountyillinois.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Public Records Request from the Human Rights Defense Center

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Good Morning,

I have reviewed your letter and would like to extend the deadline for production in order to make the requests less burdensome. How long would you need to respond to these requests in a more convenient way? Do you have any other suggestions on how to reduce the administrative burden?

Best regards,

**Samantha Beauvais**  
*Public Records Manager &  
Development Coordinator*  
[Human Rights Defense Center](#)  
[Prison Legal News](#)  
M: 561-305-4643

 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

## Samantha Beauvais

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**From:** FOIA General Mailbox <FOIA@humanrightsdefensecenter.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 10, 2021 1:42 PM  
**To:** States Attorney FOIA  
**Subject:** RE: Public Records Request from the Human Rights Defense Center  
**Attachments:** Will County States Attorney - 2016-2021 V&SI (1 of 7) - HRDC Records Request 10-29-21.pdf; Will County States Attorney - 2016-2021 V&SI (2 of 7) - HRDC Records Request 11-2-21.pdf; Will County States Attorney - 2016-2021 V&SI (3 of 7) - HRDC Records Request 11-4-21.pdf

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for your response. I believe that the original request was very clear and I don't see a way to narrow it further. That being said, I am willing to extend the period of time to respond to the request by 90 calendar days in order to reduce the administrative burden. If it would help, you can also start the records search by looking for the more recent cases/complaints (originally requested on 10/29, 11/2, and 11/4). I've attached the original requests here for reference.

Best regards,

**Samantha Beauvais**  
*Public Records Manager &  
Development Coordinator*  
[Human Rights Defense Center](#)  
[Prison Legal News](#)  
M: 561-305-4643



---

**From:** Kevin Meyers <kmeyers@willcountyllinois.com> **On Behalf Of** States Attorney FOIA  
**Sent:** Friday, December 3, 2021 10:29 AM  
**To:** FOIA General Mailbox <FOIA@humanrightsdefensecenter.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Public Records Request from the Human Rights Defense Center

I apologize for not getting back to you sooner. The main issue is the volume in my estimation, it would be exceeding difficult to pull all the files (some which are many years old, and would have to be traced to see if they had been destroyed in accordance with state record laws) and then go through what might be fairly voluminous files looking for the responsive record. Some of these cases may have been handled by outside counsel which would increase the expense and burden.

Is there a general area of information you are looking to gather data on, that I may be able to approach this from in a different direction?



# JAMES W. GLASGOW

STATE'S ATTORNEY OF WILL COUNTY

57 N. Ottawa Street • Joliet, Illinois 60432

TELEPHONE: 815-727-8453 • FAX: 815-727-8405

December 30, 2021

Samantha Beauvais  
Human Rights Defense Center  
foia@humanrightsdefensecenter.org

**Via email**

Re: FOIA

Ms. Beauvais,

This letter is in response to your October 29, November 2, 4, 8, and 12, 2021 FOIA's for complaints, amended complaints, and "papers that resolved the case" for 86 separate cases. After our denial of November 15, 2021, you and I have corresponded about narrowing the scope, and you indicated that you could not narrow it in any appreciable way. Therefore, even with the extension of time you allowed us, this request is unduly burdensome. To comply, we would have to locate the archived files (as they are not stored electronically), review each file, find the documents to make sure that we provided exactly what you were seeking, and then copy them in whatever format you would accept. At a minimum I would expect that this would take more than 1 hour per file. As such, your request is denied.

If you wish to contest this response you may do so judicially (under §11 of this Act) or by requesting review from a Public Access Counselor within 60 days (under §9.5 of this Act). The Public Access Counselor may be reached at 1-877-299-3642 or Public Access Counselor, Office of the Attorney General, 500 S. 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701.

Regards,

Kevin Meyers

Assistant State's Attorney