



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Health and Human Services*  
*Department of Mental Health*  
*25 Staniford Street*  
*Boston, Massachusetts 02114-2575*

CHARLES D. BAKER  
*Governor*

KARYN E. POLITO  
*Lieutenant Governor*

MARYLOU SUDDERS  
*Secretary*

BROOK DOYLE  
*Commissioner*

(617) 626-8000  
[www.mass.gov/dmh](http://www.mass.gov/dmh)

May 11, 2022

Sent via Email: [128137-71420372@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:128137-71420372@requests.muckrock.com)

Ramola Dharmaraj  
411A Highland Ave  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Re: Public Records Request: 2022 04 29 – Dharmaraj - PRR

Dear Ramola Dharmaraj:

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Mental Health (“DMH”), hereby responds to the above referenced public records request, received on April 29, 2022 (the “request” or “PRR”), wherein you specifically requested:

*Records related to a named individual*

Pursuant to applicable privacy laws, DMH is required to redact information from records requested under a public records request that would directly or in combination with the other available information identify individuals served by mental health facilities or programs and/or constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Because you are requesting records regarding named individuals, DMH is unable to redact any such records sufficiently to prevent identification of individual data subjects in the records. DMH is therefore unable to provide any records responsive to your request.

G.L. c. 4, §7(26) (c) specifically provides that medical files or information are not public records. “The Legislature has made such medical files or information absolutely exempt...” *Globe Newspaper Company v. Chief Medical Examiner*, 404 Mass. 132, 135 (1989). “As a general rule, medical information will always be of a sufficiently personal nature to warrant exemption.” *A Guide to the Massachusetts Public Records Law*, Secretary of the Commonwealth, (2017), at 15. Additionally, G.L. c. 4, sec 7(26) (c) provides that materials or data relating to a specifically named individual, the disclosure of which may constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, are exempt from disclosure under G.L. c. 66.

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DMH now considers this PRR closed.

If you believe the agency has violated G.L. c. 66, § 10, pursuant to G.L. c. 66, § 10A, you have the right to submit an appeal to the Supervisor of Public Records in the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth and the right to seek judicial review by commencing a civil action in Suffolk Superior Court.

Please contact me with any questions.

Regards,



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Misael Garcia  
DMH RAO  
[DMH.RAO@mass.gov](mailto:DMH.RAO@mass.gov)