

this information as evidence in an existing case. We will review your letter to decide whether it is necessary to contact you for additional information. We do not have the resources to follow-up on every letter.

Contact

civilrights.justice.gov



U.S. Department of
Justice
Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue,
NW
Washington, D.C. 20530-
0001



(202) 514-3847
1-855-856-1247 (toll-free)
Telephone Device for the
Deaf
(TTY) (202) 514-0716

Thank you for submitting a report to the Civil Rights Division

From DOJ Civil Rights - Do Not Reply <civilrightsdonotreply@mail.civilrights.usdoj.gov>

Date Sat 11/9/2024 6:08 AM

To aabiwr@live.com <aabiwr@live.com>



U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division

civilrights.justice.gov

Please do not reply to this email. This is an unmonitored account.

Thank you for submitting a report to the Civil Rights Division. Please save your record number for tracking. Your record number is: **533252-GXC**.

If you reported an incident where you or someone else has experienced or is still experiencing physical harm or violence, or are in immediate danger, please call 911 and contact the police.

What to Expect

1. We review your report

Our specialists in the Civil Rights Division carefully read every report to identify civil rights violations, spot trends, and determine if we have authority to help with your report.

2. Our specialists determine the next steps

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- Collect more information before we can look into your report.

- Recommend another government agency that can properly look into your report. If so, we'll let you know.

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Date Mon 11/11/2024 7:57 AM

To aabiwr@live.com <aabiwr@live.com>



U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division

civilrights.justice.gov

Please do not reply to this email. This is an unmonitored account.

Thank you for submitting a report to the Civil Rights Division. Please save your record number for tracking. Your record number is: **534060-HWM**.

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Date Mon 11/11/2024 8:27 AM

To aabiwr@live.com <aabiwr@live.com>



U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division

civilrights.justice.gov

Please do not reply to this email. This is an unmonitored account.

Thank you for submitting a report to the Civil Rights Division. Please save your record number for tracking. Your record number is: **534069-BRQ**.

If you reported an incident where you or someone else has experienced or is still experiencing physical harm or violence, or are in immediate danger, please call 911 and contact the police.

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Thank you for submitting a report to the Civil Rights Division

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Date Mon 11/11/2024 10:05 AM

To aabiwr@live.com <aabiwr@live.com>



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Civil Rights Division

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Please do not reply to this email. This is an unmonitored account.

Thank you for submitting a report to the Civil Rights Division. Please save your record number for tracking. Your record number is: **534094-QZH**.

If you reported an incident where you or someone else has experienced or is still experiencing physical harm or violence, or are in immediate danger, please call 911 and contact the police.

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Response: Your Civil Rights Division Report - 534659-XGL from the Disability Rights Section

From DOJ Civil Rights - Do Not Reply <civilrightsdonotreply@mail.civilrights.usdoj.gov>

Date Fri 11/22/2024 10:58 AM

To aabiwr@live.com <aabiwr@live.com>



U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division

civilrights.justice.gov

Dear David Medeiros,

You contacted the Department of Justice on November 12, 2024. After careful review of what you submitted, we have decided not to take any further action on your complaint.

What we did:

Team members from the Civil Rights Division reviewed the information you submitted. Based on our review, we have decided not to take any further action on your complaint. We receive several thousand reports of civil rights violations each year and cannot take direct action on every report.

Your report number was 534659-XGL.

What you can do:

We are not determining that your report lacks merit. Your issue may still be actionable by others - your state bar association or local legal aid office may be able to help.

To find a local office:

American Bar Association

https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_services/flh-home

(800) 285-2221

Legal Services Corporation (or Legal Aid Offices)

<https://www.lsc.gov/find-legal-aid>

How you have helped:

While we cannot take on each individual report, your report can help us find issues affecting multiple people or communities. It also helps us understand emerging trends and topics.

Thank you for taking the time to contact the Department of Justice about your concerns. We regret we are not able to provide more help on this matter.

Sincerely,

U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division

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Thank you for submitting a report to the Civil Rights Division

From DOJ Civil Rights - Do Not Reply <civilrightsdonotreply@mail.civilrights.usdoj.gov>

Date Wed 11/13/2024 4:05 PM

To aabiwr@live.com <aabiwr@live.com>



U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division

civilrights.justice.gov

Please do not reply to this email. This is an unmonitored account.

Thank you for submitting a report to the Civil Rights Division. Please save your record number for tracking. Your record number is: **535276-FSL**.

If you reported an incident where you or someone else has experienced or is still experiencing physical harm or violence, or are in immediate danger, please call 911 and contact the police.

What to Expect

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Thank you for submitting a report to the Civil Rights Division

From DOJ Civil Rights - Do Not Reply <civilrightsdonotreply@mail.civilrights.usdoj.gov>

Date Fri 11/22/2024 1:00 PM

To aabiwr@live.com <aabiwr@live.com>



U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division

civilrights.justice.gov

Please do not reply to this email. This is an unmonitored account.

Thank you for submitting a report to the Civil Rights Division. Please save your record number for tracking. Your record number is: **539298-RJM**.

If you reported an incident where you or someone else has experienced or is still experiencing physical harm or violence, or are in immediate danger, please call 911 and contact the police.

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Date Fri 11/22/2024 1:57 PM

To aabiwr@live.com <aabiwr@live.com>



U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division

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Please do not reply to this email. This is an unmonitored account.

Thank you for submitting a report to the Civil Rights Division. Please save your record number for tracking. Your record number is: **539330-JBZ**.

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Thank you for submitting a report to the Civil Rights Division

DOJ Civil Rights - Do Not Reply <civilrightsdonotreply@mail.civilrights.usdoj.gov>

Thu 9/28/2023 1:37 PM

To: davidmedeiros@live.com <davidmedeiros@live.com>



U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division

civilrights.justice.gov

Please do not reply to this email. This is an unmonitored account.

Thank you for submitting a report to the Civil Rights Division. Please save your record number for tracking. Your record number is: **352533-WJH**.

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United States Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
civilrights.justice.gov

Thank you for submitting a report to the Civil Rights Division.

Report successfully submitted

Please save your record number for tracking.



Your record number is: **545526-ZDV**

Save report

What to expect

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② Our specialists determine the next step

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② Get help immediately if you are in danger

If you reported an incident where you or someone else has experienced or is still experiencing physical harm or violence, or are in immediate danger, please call 911 and contact the police.

Your submission

Contact

Contact information

Your name

David Medeiros

Email address

aabiwr@live.com

Phone number

+18604633638

Address

215 Mountain St

-

Willimantic, Connecticut 06226

Are you now or have ever been an active duty service member?

No

Primary concern

What is your primary reason for contacting the Civil Rights Division?

Something else happened

Location

Where did this happen?

Organization name

Department of Justice

Address

950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW

-

Washington, District of Columbia

Personal characteristics

Do you believe any of these personal characteristics influenced why you were treated this way?

Disability (including temporary or recovered and including HIV and drug addiction)

Other reason

Date

When did this happen?

12/10/2024

Personal description

In your own words, describe what happened

Date: December 10, 2024

To: U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division

Subject: Reconsideration and Escalation of Formal Complaint #542283-VPS

Dear DOJ Civil Rights Division,

Thank you for acknowledging receipt of my complaint (Report #542283-VPS). However, I respectfully request reconsideration and escalation of this matter, as the systemic violations outlined demand federal oversight and accountability.

1. Denial of FOIA Requests and ADA Non-Compliance

The Connecticut Attorney General's Office has obstructed transparency under FOIA (5 U.S.C. § 552) and Connecticut FOIA statutes (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-200 et seq.), denying my ability to petition the government effectively. Additionally, my ADA accommodation requests — mandated under 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq. — have been repeatedly ignored, excluding me from critical public processes.

2. Whistleblower Retaliation and Suppression of Advocacy

As a whistleblower, I have faced procedural barriers, retaliatory exclusions, and delays aimed at obstructing my advocacy for transparency in Medicaid oversight. These actions contravene federal whistleblower protections.

3. Urgent Need for Federal Oversight

The Connecticut Attorney General's failure to comply with constitutional, statutory, and regulatory mandates has broader implications for taxpayer funds and Medicaid recipients. Immediate intervention is necessary to prevent ongoing harm to vulnerable populations.

Request for Action

I respectfully request:

Reconsideration: Reevaluate the decision to close this matter and provide statutory grounds for the determination.

Referral to Oversight Agencies: Ensure this matter is escalated to relevant federal authorities, including the HHS Office for Civil Rights and CMS.

Accountability Measures: Require the Connecticut Attorney General's Office to comply with FOIA, ADA, and whistleblower protection statutes.

4. Public Interest Impact

This case underscores systemic failures that jeopardize public trust in federally funded programs.

Transparency, accountability, and ADA compliance are essential for equitable governance.

Thank you for your continued attention to these critical issues. I look forward to your response and further guidance on this matter.

Sincerely,

David Medeiros

Founder, ABI Resources

DB.42.131.Inf.

ABI Resources <https://www.ctbraininjury.com/blog/tags/db-42-131-inf>

<https://x.com/ABlresources/status/1866212331279339765> https://www.youtube.com/@ABI.RESOURCES-CT-ABI-MFP-CARE/videos?view=0&sort=dd&shelf_id=2

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop C5-11-06
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs/Freedom of Information Group

Refer to: Control Number 112020247009 and PIN NHX2

1/3/2025

David Medeiros
ABI Resources LLC
39 Kings Hwy Ste C
Gales Ferry, CT 06335

Dear Mr. Medeiros:

I am acknowledging receipt of your 12/11/2024 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) appeal that you sent to the Principal Deputy Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). We will process your appeal as expeditiously as possible, consistent with Department of Health and Human Services FOIA rules set forth at 45 CFR Part 5.

Questions regarding your appeal should be directed to Emmert Nicholson at Emmett.Nicholson@cms.hhs.gov or 410-786-5353, if you have any concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Tripline". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph Tripline
CMS FOIA Officer
Deputy Director
Freedom of Information Group

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop C5-11-06
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs/Freedom of Information Group

Refer to: Control Number 112020247009 and PIN NHX2

1/3/2025

David Medeiros
ABI Resources LLC
39 Kings Hwy Ste C
Gales Ferry, CT 06335

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Tripline". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph Tripline
CMS FOIA Officer
Deputy Director
Freedom of Information Group



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Information Policy
Sixth Floor
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

David Medeiros

Appeal Nos. A-2025-00394, A-
Re: 2025-00395, A-2025-00420 & A
-2025-00469
Request No. 25-00044-F

175283-88556684@requests.muckrock.com

VIA: Online Portal - 12/19/2024

Dear David Medeiros:

You attempted to appeal from the failure of the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice to respond to your Freedom of Information Act request for access to certain records concerning the Medicaid Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Waiver Program provider registry.

The Civil Rights Division responded to your request by letter dated December 17, 2024 (copy enclosed). Because the Civil Rights Division responded to your request, your appeal from the Civil Rights Divisions failure to respond to your request is moot. Accordingly, I am closing your appeal file in this Office.

Additionally, by letters dated November 21, 2024, November 22, 2024, and December 3, 2024, this Office informed you that your additional appeals from your FOIA request for the above-referenced records had been received by this Office and would be assigned for adjudication under Appeal Nos. A-2025-00395, A-2025-00420, and A-2025-00469. However, this Office subsequently learned that your appeal files were a duplicate of Appeal No. A-2025-00394. In light of these circumstances, I am administratively closing Appeal Nos. A-2025-00395, A-2025-00420, and A-2025-00469 in this Office.

If you have any questions regarding the action this Office has taken on your appeals, you may contact this Office and speak with the undersigned agency official by calling 202-514-3642.

Sincerely,

X *Rianna Barrett*

Rianna Barrett

Associate Chief, for Christina Troiani, Chief,
Administrative Appeals Staff

Enclosure



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of Connecticut*

*Bank of America Building
157 Church Street, 25th Floor
New Haven, Connecticut 06510*

*(203) 821-3700
Fax (860) 760-7979
www.usdoj.gov/usao/ct*

January 11, 2024

SENT VIA EMAIL: AABIWR@LIVE.COM
And REGULAR US MAIL

ABI Resources
c/o David Medeiros
39 Kings Hwy, Ste C
Ledyard, CT 06335

Dear Mr. Medeiros:

This letter is in response to the complaints that you filed with this office alleging numerous issues with the Connecticut Department of Social Services and the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. We have reviewed the allegations in your complaints and have decided not to investigate or take any further action at this time.

Unfortunately, due to the hundreds of complaints received by our office each year, we do not have the resources to address every one. We have made no determination regarding the merits of your complaints. Moreover, our decision does not affect your right to pursue your complaints in another manner. You may wish to contact a private attorney to determine what other remedies may be available.

We regret that we are unable to assist you. We wish you all the best.

Very truly yours,

VANESSA ROBERTS AVERY
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

William M. Brown, Jr.
Assistant United States Attorney



Comprehensive FOIA Request for OCR Transaction Number: 01-25-592844 (Department Of Health And Human Services, Office For Civil Rights)

Edit

Share



DAVID MEDEIROS filed this request with the [Department Of Health And Human Services, Office For Civil Rights](#) of the [United States of America](#).

Tracking #	2025-00024-A-OS
	2025-00516-FOIA-OS
	2025-00501-FOIA-PHS
Multi Request	Comprehensive FOIA Request for OCR Transaction Number: 01-25-592844

Submitted	Nov. 7, 2024	
Due	Dec. 9, 2024	
Est. Completion	None	Edit

STATUS

Edit

Awaiting Response

EMBARGO

Edit

This request has no embargo.

TAGS

Edit

No tags. Add some!

Clone

Download as Zip

Get Help

Withdraw Request



Filter communications

Collapse All

From: DAVID MEDEIROS

11/07/2024

Subject: Freedom of Information Act Request: Comprehensive FOIA Request for OCR Transaction Number: 01-25-5... Portal

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, I hereby request the following records:

Comprehensive FOIA Request for OCR Transaction Number: 01-25-592844

To: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) – Office for Civil Rights (OCR) CC: FOIA Compliance Officers and Relevant Oversight Authorities Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) FOIA Division U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division – ADA Compliance Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO)

Dear FOIA Officers, Supervisory Officers, and Relevant Authorities,

This letter constitutes a formal and detailed FOIA request for all records associated with OCR Transaction Number: 01-25-592844. This request is made under the federal Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552) and relevant state FOIA statutes, including the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-200 et seq.). As a brain injury survivor, whistleblower, and Medicaid consumer advocate, I seek these records to ensure transparency, procedural integrity, and ADA compliance.

Scope of Request: This FOIA request encompasses all relevant records associated with OCR Transaction Number: 01-25-592844, including records created, received, reviewed, or used by the Office for Civil Rights, CMS, DOJ Civil Rights Division, Connecticut DSS, and CHRO. The scope of this request is intended to capture all documentation, communications, and procedural records relevant to my case, OCR Transaction Number: 01-25-592844, which involves complaints regarding ADA non-compliance, discrimination, and procedural obstructions within DSS and CHRO.

Specifically, I request comprehensive disclosure of records under the following categories:

1. Complete Internal and External Communications

Emails, internal messages, letters, and digital communications related to OCR Transaction Number: 01-25-592844.

Communications between OCR personnel, CMS representatives, DOJ Civil Rights Division, Connecticut DSS, CHRO, and other stakeholders concerning ADA compliance, civil rights protections, whistleblower retaliation, and procedural handling.



2. Personnel Documentation and Oversight Records

Records detailing the job roles, responsibilities, and titles of all OCR, CMS, DSS, and CHRO personnel involved in handling or overseeing my case, including specific ADA compliance roles, civil rights enforcement roles, and whistleblower handling responsibilities.

Organizational charts and supervisory oversight documentation for all personnel involved in or overseeing OCR Transaction Number: 01-25-592844.

3. Case Handling and Decision-Making Documentation

Internal and external case reports, status updates, decision-making logs, case processing logs, workflow charts, and progress reports specific to OCR Transaction Number: 01-25-592844.

Detailed descriptions and timelines for each action taken, including explanations for any delays, incomplete responses, or procedural omissions related to this case.

Records outlining guidance documents and internal policies referenced in processing OCR Transaction Number: 01-25-592844, particularly ADA, FOIA, and civil rights compliance guidelines.

4. Contracts, Agreements, and Financial Records

Any contracts, agreements, MOUs, or financial transactions relevant to OCR's engagement with external consultants or resources in relation to my case.

Records reflecting financial allocations and expenditures applied to the investigation, management, or oversight of OCR Transaction Number: 01-25-592844, including budgets for ADA compliance and civil rights enforcement.

5. Policy and Procedural Documentation

Complete internal policies, procedural guidelines, and compliance standards related to OCR's handling of ADA complaints, civil rights compliance, whistleblower protections, and procedural integrity.

OCR's guidelines and directives for ADA accommodation and compliance processing, especially regarding brain injury survivors, Medicaid consumer protections, and the handling of complex FOIA requests.

6. Historical Records and Documentation of Previous Complaints

Complaint histories, retaliation protections, and whistleblower complaint records involving personnel handling OCR Transaction Number: 01-25-592844.

Previous investigations, formal complaints, and procedural changes related to ADA, FOIA, and whistleblower protections within OCR, DSS, or CHRO.

7. Complete Document Histories, Drafts, and Revisions

All drafts, versions, and annotated notes of official documents generated in relation to OCR Transaction Number: 01-25-592844.

Complete histories of document revisions, including tracked changes, comments, and updates by OCR, DSS, or CHRO personnel.



procedural handling of ADA complaints, FOIA administration, and whistleblower protections, particularly those affecting OCR Transaction Number: 01-25-592844.

Documentation of federal or state compliance investigations or oversight reports relevant to OCR's ADA and civil rights compliance responsibilities.

9. FOIA Compliance and Denials, Redactions, and Justifications

Documentation of any previous FOIA responses, denials, redactions, and exemptions applied to my requests concerning OCR Transaction Number: 01-25-592844.

For any redactions, I request a clear explanation, including specific legal exemptions cited, justifications, and summaries of withheld content to maintain transparency and accessibility.

Accommodation Requirements for Compliance

To ensure that all records are accessible and ADA-compliant, please apply the following accommodations consistently:

Exclusive Email-Only Communication:

Send all responses, records, and updates exclusively via email to AabiWR@live.com. Do not use physical mail, phone calls, portal-based communications, or any external links. This ensures uninterrupted and barrier-free access to information.

Accessible Document Formatting:

Include the full text of each response within the email body, and attach all supporting documents as labeled PDFs, organized by category and date.

Ensure documents are screen reader-compatible to maintain accessibility.

Clear Justifications for Redactions and Denials:

For any withheld or redacted records, provide a complete justification, including specific statutes or legal exemptions. Include a summary of redacted content wherever feasible.

Identification of Responsible FOIA Officers and Supervisory Personnel:

Provide the full names, titles, email addresses, and phone numbers of all FOIA officers, decision-makers, or supervisors handling this request.

Request for Expedited Processing

Given the significance of OCR Transaction Number: 01-25-592844 and the public interest in ADA compliance, civil rights enforcement, and procedural integrity within DSS and CHRO, I request expedited processing under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E). Delayed access to these records obstructs effective oversight and hinders efforts to protect vulnerable populations.

Justification for Fee Waiver

This request seeks information critical to the public interest regarding ADA enforcement, civil rights protections, and DSS's handling of Medicaid-related complaints. Disclosure will directly benefit public



Timeline for Response

Under FOIA, I request acknowledgment within the statutory timeframe, along with a timeline for compliance. Please notify me promptly if clarifications or additional processing time are needed. Contact me exclusively at AabiWR@live.com.

Legal Basis for This Request

This request and appeal are grounded in the following statutes:

5 U.S.C. § 552 (Federal FOIA) – Governing the public's right to access federal records.

Connecticut FOIA (C.G.S. §§ 1-200 to 1-242) – Requiring prompt, transparent access to state records.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.) – Ensuring reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. § 794) – Mandating equal access and accommodation for individuals with disabilities in federally funded programs.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Full and prompt disclosure of these records is crucial for ensuring transparency, ADA compliance, and public accountability within the government's handling of ADA-related complaints and civil rights protections.

Sincerely,

David Medeiros
Founder, ABI Resources
Email: AabiWR@live.com

The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes.

In the event that there are fees, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request. I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or CD-ROM if not.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Sincerely,

DAVID MEDEIROS

From: Department Of Health And Human Services, Office For Civil Rights

11/10/2024



Subject: Status Update for Request #2025-00501-FOIA-PHS

Email



The status of your FOIA request #2025-00501-FOIA-PHS has been updated to the following status
'Received'. To log into the HHS FOIA Submission Site click on the Application URL below.

<https://requests.publiclink.hhs.gov>

Sincerely,
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

From: Department Of Health And Human Services, Office For Civil Rights

11/10/2024



Subject: Request Acknowledgement by U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Email

Dear David Medeiros,

Request #2025-00501-FOIA-PHS has been assigned to the request you submitted. In all future correspondence regarding this request please reference request #2025-00501-FOIA-PHS.

Regards,
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

From: DAVID MEDEIROS

11/11/2024



Subject: RE: Freedom of Information Act Request #2025-00501-FOIA-PHS

Email

Subject: Demand for Immediate Compliance with ADA and FOIA Standards for FOIA Request No. 2025-00501-FOIA-PHS

To: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) – Office for Civil Rights (OCR)
CC: FOIA Compliance Officers, HHS Supervisory Authorities, and Relevant Oversight Agencies

Dear FOIA Officer,

I am submitting this formal demand to ensure that all responses associated with FOIA request No. 2025-00501-FOIA-PHS are in strict compliance with both the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552) and ADA requirements under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12132). My request for these records involves OCR Transaction Number: 01-25-592844 and addresses ADA compliance, civil rights enforcement, and whistleblower protections within government programs.

This demand details critical deficiencies in your recent communications and reiterates the required accommodations and FOIA standards necessary to achieve legal compliance.

1. Non-Compliance with ADA Accommodation: Exclusive Email-Only Communication

Date of Non-Compliance: November 10, 2024

Details: The agency issued an acknowledgment through a portal link, disregarding my ADA-mandated request for exclusive email-based communications. Under Title II of the ADA (42 U.S.C. § 12132) and



method presents undue burdens and inhibits effective access for individuals with visual or cognitive disabilities.

Required Action: Immediately provide all future FOIA-related communications and records solely via email, directly to AabiWR@live.com, without the use of portal systems, links, or external access barriers. This adjustment is essential to comply with ADA and FOIA standards for reasonable accommodations and equitable access.

2. Requirement for Accessible Document Formatting in Emails

Date of Non-Compliance: November 8, 2024

Details: Records provided to date lack essential formatting for screen-reader compatibility, particularly when attachments are sent without embedded text or accessible formatting. Compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act and ADA guidelines mandates that text is embedded directly within emails or that accessible PDF formats are used to ensure compatibility with assistive technologies.

Required Action: All responses must embed key content within the email body and attach supporting documents as screen reader-compatible, labeled PDFs organized by category and date. This structure is necessary to facilitate navigable, ADA-compliant document access.

3. Full Identification and Accountability of FOIA Officers and Decision-Makers

Date of Non-Compliance: November 8, 2024

Details: Communications to date have omitted critical identification information, including the full names, titles, and contact information of the officers responsible for handling this request. Under both Connecticut FOIA statutes (§§ 1-212 and 1-213) and general ADA standards for transparency, it is essential to provide full identification of individuals responsible for the management and oversight of FOIA requests.

Required Action: Moving forward, all responses must include the full name, title, and contact information (including email and phone number) of the designated FOIA officer and any supervisory personnel involved. This adherence to transparency is non-negotiable under both ADA and FOIA obligations.

4. Requirement for Detailed Redaction Justifications

Details: If any records are redacted or withheld, it is imperative to provide a complete statutory justification for each redaction, along with summaries or descriptions of redacted content where permissible. Under FOIA (5 U.S.C. § 552) and corresponding state statutes, agencies are required to disclose specific legal exemptions and reasons for each instance of redaction to ensure transparency and protect the rights of requestors.

Required Action: All future redactions must include an explicit citation of the legal grounds for redaction and a description of withheld content to maintain transparency and accessibility.



Details: ADA guidelines (28 C.F.R. § 35.160) mandate that communications be equally effective for individuals with disabilities. Complex documents or procedural communications require simplified summaries to facilitate comprehension, especially for individuals with cognitive impairments.

Required Action: Provide simplified summaries for all complex or procedural documents to ensure ADA-compliant accessibility and equitable comprehension of FOIA responses. This accommodation is crucial to maintain effective communication and full access under ADA standards.

6. Confirmed Compliance with All Requested Accommodations

Date of Non-Compliance: November 10, 2024

Details: No written confirmation was provided indicating compliance with requested ADA accommodations. Title II of the ADA and Section 508 require public agencies to confirm and implement reasonable accommodations effectively, thus providing confirmation of compliance for transparency and accountability.

Required Action: The agency must provide a formal, written acknowledgment confirming compliance with each ADA accommodation requested in relation to this FOIA request. This includes adherence to exclusive email-only communication, accessible formatting, clear redaction justifications, and identification of responsible personnel.

Request for Expedited Processing and Fee Waiver

In addition to standard processing requirements, I request expedited processing for FOIA request No. 2025-00501-FOIA-PHS. Given the significant public interest and potential civil rights implications of OCR Transaction Number: 01-25-592844, timely access to these records is critical. Under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6) (E), expedited processing is warranted to uphold accountability and to support public awareness of ADA enforcement within federally funded programs.

Additionally, I request a fee waiver for this FOIA request, as disclosure is in the public interest and contributes significantly to government transparency and accountability in matters of ADA and civil rights compliance. This request is strictly non-commercial and aims to promote public understanding of these issues.

Timeline for Compliance and Legal Basis

This FOIA request and ADA accommodation appeal are grounded in the following federal statutes:

Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552): Governing public access to federal records, including requirements for response timelines and specific legal grounds for any redactions or denials.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (42 U.S.C. § 12132): Mandating reasonable accommodations to ensure access to public records for individuals with disabilities.

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. § 794d): Requiring accessible electronic and information technology in federally funded programs.



exclusively to AabiWR@live.com in the specified accessible formats.

Sincerely,
David Medeiros
Founder, ABI Resources
Email: AabiWR@live.com

From: Department Of Health And Human Services, Office For Civil Rights

11/13/2024



Subject: Your Request #2025-00501-FOIA-PHS changed!

Email

Dear David Medeiros,

Your request number was changed from 2025-00501-FOIA-PHS to 2025-00516-FOIA-OS, by the agency. Please note the new case number to quote in your future correspondence about the request.

Regards,
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

From: Department Of Health And Human Services, Office For Civil Rights

11/13/2024



Subject: HHS FOIA Acknowledgement Letter -- 2025-00516-FOIA-OS

Email

Dear Requester Medeiros Please see the attached Acknowledgement Letter in response to your FOIA Request submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) via PAL on November 12, 2024.

The letter contains important information concerning your FOIA matter which has been assigned tracking number 2025-00516-FOIA-OS. For status updates or other inquiries, please contact our office via email at FOIARequest@hhs.gov. Please include your tracking number in the subject line of your inquiry, Sincerely,
OS FOIA Division Queue

OS FOIA Division Intake Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs (ASPA) Office of the Secretary (OS) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)



Acknowledgement Letter

View Embed Download



PAL Request Form

View Embed Download

From: Department Of Health And Human Services, Office For Civil Rights

11/13/2024



Subject: HHS FOIA Acknowledgement Letter -- 2025-00516-FOIA-OS

Email



The letter contains important information concerning your FOIA matter which has been assigned tracking number 2025-00516-FOIA-OS. For status updates or other inquiries, please contact our office via email at FOIARequest@hhs.gov. Please include your tracking number in the subject line of your inquiry, Sincerely,
OS FOIA Division Queue
OS FOIA Division Intake Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs (ASPA) Office of the Secretary (OS) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)



Expedited Processing Denial Letter

[View](#)

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[Download](#)

From: DAVID MEDEIROS

11/13/2024



Subject: RE: Freedom of Information Act Request #2025-00516-FOIA-OS

Email

David Medeiros
ABI Resources, LLC
39 Kings Highway, Suite C
Gales Ferry, CT 06335
Date: November 13, 2024

Subject: Formal Appeal: FOIA Expedited Processing and ADA Compliance for Request 2025-00516-FOIA-OS (OCR Transaction Number: 01-25-592844)

To:
William Holzerland
Deputy Agency Chief FOIA Officer
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs (ASPA)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Email: HHS.ACFO@hhs.gov

CC:
FOIA/PA Public Liaison
Email: HHS_FOIA_Public_Liaison@hhs.gov

Introduction and Appeal Summary

This letter serves as a formal appeal to address critical procedural and legal deficiencies in the processing of FOIA request 2025-00516-FOIA-OS concerning OCR Transaction Number 01-25-592844. This appeal



As a brain injury survivor and whistleblower with statutory rights under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552), Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12132), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. § 794), I require expedited processing and full ADA accommodations. The records requested pertain to critical issues of ADA compliance, civil rights enforcement, and Medicaid oversight affecting vulnerable populations, meriting immediate attention under public interest standards.

Grounds for Expedited Processing

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E), I request immediate reconsideration of expedited processing. The denial cited an alleged lack of “compelling need,” but my request meets established criteria for the following reasons:

1. Compelling Public Interest and Urgency

This FOIA request relates to ADA compliance and civil rights protections for individuals with disabilities under state-administered Medicaid programs, specifically the Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Waiver Program in Connecticut. The requested records are essential for exposing whether federal and state agencies, including OCR, CMS, DSS, and CHRO, have fulfilled their statutory obligations to protect the rights of disabled individuals. Delayed access impedes transparency, accountability, and public awareness in critical government functions affecting at-risk populations.

2. Primary Engagement in Public Dissemination of Information

As a public advocate for disability rights and Medicaid consumer protections, my role directly involves disseminating findings and fostering transparency in ADA and civil rights enforcement. This aligns with FOIA’s expedited processing standard, which recognizes urgency when public interest groups are primarily engaged in disseminating government activity information. Prompt access to these records is essential to fulfill my advocacy role and ensure that the public remains informed about government accountability in ADA and Medicaid enforcement.

ADA Compliance Violations and Required Accommodations

My FOIA request included explicit ADA accommodations under Title II of the ADA and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. These accommodations, based on documented cognitive impairments resulting from a traumatic brain injury, are non-negotiable and legally mandated to ensure accessible communication. The agency’s response has systematically failed to implement these accommodations, including the following:

1. MuckRock Platform-Only Communication Requirement

Under 42 U.S.C. § 12132 and 28 C.F.R. § 35.160, federal agencies must ensure accessible communication. My ADA-mandated request specified exclusive communication via the MuckRock platform to eliminate accessibility barriers posed by portals, external links, and third-party platforms. Failure to comply with



Action Required: Confirm in writing that all future responses and records will be provided solely through the MuckRock platform, without the use of alternative portals, physical mail, or other inaccessible methods.

2. Screen Reader-Compatible Document Formatting

Records must be in formats compatible with screen readers and assistive technology, in compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. § 794d) and ADA guidelines. Failure to format documents for screen reader accessibility constitutes a direct ADA violation.

Action Required: Ensure that all documents are provided in PDF format, labeled by category and date, and fully compatible with screen reader software.

3. Provision of Simplified Summaries for Complex Documents

ADA guidelines mandate that public communications are equally effective for individuals with cognitive disabilities. Complex legal and procedural documents must include simplified summaries to facilitate comprehension, as stipulated by 28 C.F.R. § 35.160.

Action Required: Provide simplified summaries of complex procedural or technical documents to ensure ADA-compliant accessibility and effective comprehension.

4. Identification of Responsible FOIA Officers and Decision-Makers

Transparency requirements under both ADA and FOIA mandate that all personnel responsible for request processing be identified. The agency's failure to provide names, titles, and contact details of responsible officers prevents accountability and impedes transparency.

Action Required: Moving forward, include full names, titles, and contact information (email and phone number) of all personnel responsible for managing this FOIA request to ensure compliance with ADA and FOIA standards.

5. Detailed Justification for Redactions or Denials

For any information withheld or redacted, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b) requires that agencies provide clear statutory justifications, including specific legal grounds for each instance. This is essential to maintain transparency and uphold requestor rights under FOIA.

Action Required: Any future redactions must include explicit statutory citations for each exemption applied, with descriptive summaries of withheld content wherever feasible to ensure ADA and FOIA compliance.

Legal Basis and Justification for Fee Waiver



addresses governmental accountability in handling civil rights protections and disability accommodations, benefiting public understanding rather than any commercial purpose.

Timeline for Compliance

This FOIA appeal and ADA accommodation demand are grounded in the following statutes:

- Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552) – Governing public access to federal records, including response timelines, detailed legal grounds for redactions, and conditions for expedited processing.
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (42 U.S.C. § 12132) – Mandating reasonable accommodations to ensure individuals with disabilities have equal access to public records.
- Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. § 794d) – Requiring accessible electronic and information technology in federally funded programs.

Conclusion and Compliance Confirmation

Please confirm receipt of this appeal and provide a written acknowledgment of your commitment to comply with all ADA accommodations and FOIA processing standards specified above. This includes the provision of MuckRock platform-only responses, screen reader-compatible document formats, simplified summaries, and personnel identification.

This matter warrants immediate attention to prevent continued violations of ADA and FOIA standards and ensure transparency and accessibility. If my appeal for expedited processing is denied again without a legally sound basis, I will pursue additional legal avenues, including filing complaints with the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and Office of Government Information Services (OGIS).

Thank you for your prompt attention to these urgent matters. Please confirm compliance and provide a revised timeline for response exclusively through the MuckRock platform.

Sincerely,
David Medeiros
ABI Resources

From: Department Of Health And Human Services, Office For Civil Rights

11/14/2024



Subject: Status Update for Request #2025-00024-A-OS

Email

Dear David Medeiros,

The status of your Appeal request #2025-00024-A-OS has been updated to the following status 'Received'. To log into the HHS FOIA Submission Site click on the Application URL below.

<https://requests.publiclink.hhs.gov>



From: Department Of Health And Human Services, Office For Civil Rights

11/14/2024



Subject: Request Acknowledgement by U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Email

Dear David Medeiros,

Your request has been received by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The request has been assigned tracking # 2025-00024-A-OS, please log into your account and review your submission.

The application address is <https://requests.publiclink.hhs.gov>.

Thank you,
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

From: DAVID MEDEIROS

11/15/2024



Subject: RE: Freedom of Information Act Request #2025-00024-A-OS

Email

David Medeiros
ABI Resources
39 Kings Highway, Suite C
Gales Ferry, CT 06335
Date: November 15, 2024

Subject: Formal Appeal for FOIA Non-Compliance, ADA Violations, and Expedited Processing for Request 2025-00516-FOIA-OS

To:
William Holzerland
Deputy Agency Chief FOIA Officer
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Email: HHS.ACFO@hhs.gov

CC:
FOIA/PA Public Liaison
Email: HHS_FOIA_Public_Liaison@hhs.gov

Introduction



essential to understanding ADA compliance, civil rights enforcement, whistleblower protections, and Medicaid oversight within the **Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS)** and the **Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO)**.

Despite clear statutory requirements under **FOIA**, **Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act**, and **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act**, your agency has failed to provide timely and accessible responses, implement necessary accommodations, or justify the denial of expedited processing. These failures represent violations of my constitutional rights and statutory protections.

Legal and Constitutional Basis

First Amendment: Right to Transparency and Accountability

The First Amendment guarantees the right to access information essential for democratic accountability. FOIA operationalizes this right, ensuring public access to government records.

Violations:

- By failing to process my request adequately and denying expedited processing, HHS obstructed my ability to scrutinize federally funded programs like Medicaid.
- This denial undermines public oversight, a core principle of the First Amendment.

Fifth Amendment: Right to Due Process

The Fifth Amendment guarantees due process, requiring fair and lawful handling of public records requests. HHS has failed to meet procedural standards by improperly delaying responses, denying accommodations, and failing to justify its actions.

Violations:

- Arbitrary Decisions: The denial of expedited processing without a clear rationale violates procedural due process protections.
- Procedural Failures: The lack of transparent communication and adherence to ADA standards denies me fair treatment under federal law.

Fourteenth Amendment: Equal Protection and ADA Compliance

The Fourteenth Amendment mandates equal protection under the law. Together with the ADA and Rehabilitation Act, it ensures that individuals with disabilities have equal access to public records and government services.

Violations:

- HHS has failed to implement my reasonable accommodations, including exclusive communication through the MuckRock platform, screen reader-compatible formats, and simplified summaries.



****Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552)****

FOIA requires agencies to provide timely access to public records and detailed justifications for any redactions, denials, or delays.

Violations:

- HHS failed to provide a sufficient explanation for the denial of expedited processing and has not adhered to statutory response timelines.
- By failing to identify responsible personnel and justify procedural delays, HHS has violated FOIA's accountability and transparency requirements.

****Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794)****

The ADA and Rehabilitation Act mandate that public agencies provide reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access for individuals with disabilities.

Violations:

- HHS failed to honor my explicit request for MuckRock platform-only communication, creating barriers to accessibility.
- The lack of screen reader-compatible document formatting and simplified summaries directly violates accessibility standards.

Specific Failures

1. **Denial of Expedited Processing**

HHS denied my request for expedited processing despite the compelling public interest in ADA and Medicaid compliance, as required under FOIA. The denial obstructs accountability and delays transparency.

2. **Failure to Provide ADA Accommodations**

HHS has failed to implement the accommodations explicitly outlined in my FOIA request, including accessible communication methods and document formatting.

3. **Lack of Transparency and Accountability**

The agency has not provided the names, titles, or contact information of FOIA officers and decision-makers responsible for handling my request.

4. **Non-Compliance with FOIA Redaction Standards**

For any redactions or denials, HHS has not provided the required statutory justifications or summaries, violating FOIA's transparency obligations.



Demands for Corrective Action

1. ****Immediate Reconsideration of Expedited Processing****

Provide expedited processing for FOIA Request 2025-00516-FOIA-OS, as the requested records involve urgent public interest in Medicaid transparency and civil rights enforcement.

2. ****Full Implementation of ADA Accommodations****

- Communicate exclusively through the MuckRock platform to eliminate accessibility barriers.
- Provide all documents in screen reader-compatible formats, labeled by category and date.
- Include simplified summaries for complex procedural or technical documents to ensure accessibility.

3. ****Identification of Responsible Personnel****

Disclose the names, titles, and contact information of all individuals managing and supervising this FOIA request.

4. ****Compliance with FOIA Standards****

- Provide detailed justifications for any redactions or denials, including specific statutory exemptions and descriptive summaries of withheld content.
- Adhere to statutory timelines for response and ensure all communications are accessible and transparent.

Request for Fee Waiver

As this request serves the public interest by promoting transparency in ADA compliance and Medicaid oversight, I request a full fee waiver under FOIA. The disclosure of these records is essential for understanding government accountability in civil rights enforcement and does not serve any commercial purpose.

Consequences of Non-Compliance

If these demands are not met by December 5, 2024, I will take the following actions:

1. File formal complaints with the Office for Civil Rights, Office of Government Information Services, and Department of Justice Civil Rights Division.
2. Pursue legal action under FOIA and ADA statutes to enforce compliance and seek damages for accessibility violations.
3. Publicly escalate this matter through media outlets and advocacy organizations to highlight systemic failures in transparency and accessibility.



Conclusion

This appeal asserts my constitutional rights, statutory protections under FOIA and the ADA, and the urgent need for transparency and accountability in government operations. I urge HHS to comply fully with the outlined demands and provide the requested records promptly and in accessible formats.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
David Medeiros
ABI Resources

CC:
Office of Government Information Services
FOIA/PA Public Liaison

From: DAVID MEDEIROS

12/04/2024



Subject: RE: Freedom of Information Act Request #2025-00024-A-OS

Email

12.04.2024 Subject: Appeal Immediate Compliance Required with ADA Accommodations and FOIA Obligations

Dear FOIA Officer

I am writing to formally reiterate my request for specific ADA accommodations and compliance with FOIA obligations, which are essential for my full participation in this process. These accommodations were explicitly requested to address accessibility needs stemming from my traumatic brain injury and to ensure compliance with federal law. To date, your office has failed to meet these requirements, resulting in undue barriers and systemic non-compliance.

Accommodations Previously Requested

The following accommodations, explicitly outlined in prior communications, remain unfulfilled:

Exclusive Use of MuckRock Platform

Requested: All communications must be routed exclusively through the MuckRock platform. No external portals, password-protected links, or alternate communication methods are acceptable.

Non-Compliance: Communications have directed me to use external portals and password-protected links, violating ADA guidelines and my explicit requests.

Accessible Document Formatting

Requested: All documents must be provided as screen-reader compatible PDFs, properly labeled and indexed for ease of navigation and accessibility.



Simplified Summaries for Complex Records

Requested: Simplified summaries must accompany all complex or technical records to enhance comprehension and ensure equitable participation.

Non-Compliance: No summaries have been provided, creating unnecessary barriers to understanding the records.

Identification of Responsible Personnel

Requested: Each communication must include the name, title, and role of the individual responsible for processing or responding to my requests.

Non-Compliance: Correspondence has consistently lacked this information, hindering accountability and effective follow-up.

Immediate Action Required

To rectify these ongoing failures and ensure compliance with federal laws, I demand the following actions be taken without delay:

Transition All Communications to MuckRock

Immediately cease the use of external portals or non-compliant communication methods and ensure all responses are routed exclusively through the MuckRock platform.

Provide Accessible Documents

Reformat and resend all previously provided documents as screen-reader compatible PDFs, properly labeled and indexed to ensure accessibility.

Include Simplified Summaries

Provide simplified summaries for all complex or technical records, both previously shared and in future communications, to ensure accessibility and equitable participation.

Identify Responsible Personnel

Include the name, title, and role of the individual responsible for every communication moving forward to ensure transparency and accountability.

Legal Basis for Compliance

Your office is legally obligated to comply with these accommodations under the following statutes and principles:

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): Title II, 42 U.S.C. § 12132, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act mandate reasonable accommodations and accessibility in communications for individuals with disabilities.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA): 5 U.S.C. § 552 requires transparency, accessibility, and adherence to procedural fairness.



Executive Order 13392: Mandates improved agency disclosure of information to enhance transparency and accountability.

Deadline for Compliance

Your office must confirm compliance with these accommodations and provide the requested corrective actions within five (5) business days of this notice. Continued non-compliance will be documented as a violation of the ADA and FOIA and may result in escalation, including:

Formal Complaints: Filing with the U.S. Department of Justice and the Office for Civil Rights.

Judicial Remedies: Seeking injunctive relief and damages for ADA and FOIA violations.

Public Advocacy: Reporting systemic failures to oversight agencies, media, and advocacy organizations.

Conclusion

This communication serves as a final request for compliance. It is imperative that your office address these deficiencies promptly to restore transparency, accessibility, and adherence to federal law.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. I look forward to your response and resolution by the stated deadline.

Sincerely,

David Medeiros

Founder, ABI Resources

DB.42.131.Inf.

CC

Federal Officials

Merrick B. Garland

Title: U.S. Attorney General

Contact: Department of Justice Contact Page

Kristen Clarke

Title: Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division

Contact: Civil Rights Division Contact Page

Xavier Becerra

Title: Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Contact: HHS Contact Page

Chiquita Brooks-LaSure

Title: Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

Contact: CMS Contact Page

Lisa M. Gomez



Michael E. Horowitz

Title: Inspector General, U.S. Department of Justice

Contact: DOJ OIG Contact Page

Christi Grimm

Title: Inspector General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Contact: HHS OIG Contact Page

Gene L. Dodaro

Title: Comptroller General, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)

Contact: GAO Contact Page

Connecticut State Officials

Ned Lamont

Title: Governor, State of Connecticut

Contact: Governor's Contact Page

William Tong

Title: Attorney General, State of Connecticut

Contact: Attorney General's Contact Page

Andrea Barton Reeves

Title: Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS)

Contact: DSS Contact Page

Manisha Juthani, MD

Title: Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Public Health

Contact: DPH Contact Page

Jeffrey R. Beckham

Title: Secretary, Connecticut Office of Policy and Management

Contact: OPM Contact Page

Congressional Oversight Committees

House Committee on Oversight and Accountability

Chair: James Comer (R-KY)

Contact: Committee Contact Page

Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Chair: Gary Peters (D-MI)

Contact: Committee Contact Page



Chair: Jamie Raskin (D-MD)
Contact: Subcommittee Contact Page
Senate Judiciary Committee

Chair: Dick Durbin (D-IL)
Contact: Committee Contact Page

From: Department Of Health And Human Services, Office For Civil Rights

12/19/2024



Subject: HHS FOIA Appeal Acknowledgement 2025-00024-A-OS.

Email

Dear Mr. Medeiros Please see the attached Acknowledgement Letter in response to your FOIA Appeal submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) via E-mail on November 13, 2024.

The letter contains important information concerning your FOIA matter which has been assigned tracking number 2025-00024-A-OS.

For status updates or other inquiries, please contact our office via email at FOIARequest@hhs.gov. Please include your tracking number in the subject line of your inquiry, Sincerely, Lori Goodman
OS FOIA Division Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs (ASPA) Office of the Secretary (OS) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)



OS Appeal Acknowledgment Letter - 2025-00024-A-OS (Orig OCR 01-25-592844), final, 12.12.2024

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We'll automatically follow-up with the agency in 4 weeks.

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**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

AFFIDAVIT OF ILLEGAL DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICE

FOR CHRO USE ONLY

Case No. _____

Date: _____

EEOC No. N/A

My name is: David Mederios
My mailing address is: 215 Mountain St, Windham CT 06226
My telephone number is: _____
My email address is: AABIWR@LIVE.COM
The respondent is: Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut (BIAC)
Whose business address is: 200 Day Hill Road, Suite 250, Windsor, CT 06095

I was ...

(Include the date of the actions taken against you. If ongoing, write "ongoing".)

☒ **discriminated against in terms and conditions**

- ☐ discharged _____
- ☐ suspended _____
- ☐ placed on probation _____
- ☐ demoted _____
- ☐ warned _____
- ☐ given a poor evaluation _____
- ☐ denied a raise _____
- ☐ less trained _____
- ☐ denied an office _____
- ☒ **denied equal service(s)** 08/07/2024
- ☐ other: _____

- ☐ not hired/promoted _____
- ☐ given unequal duties _____
- ☒ **harassed**
- ☐ sexually harassed _____
- ☐ earning different pay _____
- ☐ constructively discharged _____
- ☒ **retaliated against**
- ☐ transferred _____
- ☐ given difficult assignment _____
- ☐ not recalled _____

I believe that my...

(Identify the protected class status you believe you were discriminated against because of)

- ☐ Race _____
- ☐ Color _____
- ☐ Religious creed _____
- ☐ Age _____
- ☐ Gender identity/expression _____
- ☐ Marital status _____
- ☐ National origin _____
- ☐ Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female _____
- ☐ Ancestry _____
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Previous opposition to discriminatory conduct _____
- ☒ **Mental disability** _____
- ☒ **Intellectual disability** _____
- ☒ **Learning disability** traumatic brain injury (TBI) and stroke
- ☒ **Physical disability** _____
- ☐ Veteran status _____
- ☐ Prior criminal conviction _____
- ☐ Sexual orientation _____
- ☐ Pregnancy _____
- ☐ Lawful source of income _____
- ☐ Genetic information _____

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Was/Were in part a fact

**THIS SECTION TO BE FILLED OUT BY
CHRO STAFF**

The respondent violated the following statutes and acts listed below, as amended, enforced through CONN. GEN. STAT. § 46a-58(a) if applicable:

- ☐ CONN. GEN. STAT. § 46a-60(b)(1)
- ☐ CONN. GEN. STAT. § 46a-60(b)(4)
- ☐ CONN. GEN. STAT. § 46a-60(b)(5)
- ☐ CONN. GEN. STAT. § 46a-60(b)(7)
- ☐ CONN. GEN. STAT. § 46a-60(b)(8)

X CONN. GEN. STAT. § 46a-64

- ☐ CONN. GEN. STAT. § 46a-70
- ☐ CONN. GEN. STAT. § 46a-71
- ☐ CONN. GEN. STAT. § 46a-80
- ☐ CONN. GEN. STAT. § 46a-81

☐ Other _____

☐ Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-2 (cite for 15 or more individuals employed)

☐ Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, 29 U.S.C. §§ 621-634 (cite for 20 or more individuals employed)

X Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.

☐ Equal Pay Act of 1964, U.S.C. § 206

X Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

I provide the following particulars:

Complainant Information

Name: David Medeiros, Founder of ABI Resources

Mailing Address: 215 Mountain St., Windham, CT 06226

Telephone: N/A – Email Communication Requested

Email: AABIWR@LIVE.COM

Preferred Method of Contact: Email

Accommodations, if Necessary: Request for email-only communication due to disability-related limitations in processing phone conversations.

Respondent Information

Respondent: Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut (BIAC)

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Mailing Address: 200 Day Hill Road, Suite 250, Windsor, CT 06095

Telephone: 800-278-8242

Email: general@biact.org

Complaint Information

Complaint Type: Public Accommodations

Adverse Actions: Segregated or separated, treated differently, harassed or bullied, denied a reasonable accommodation

Basis: Physical Disability (Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and stroke), requiring accommodations for cognitive processing and memory retention

Narrative of the Incident

On August 7, 2024, I attended a public meeting organized by the Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut (BIAC) with the intent to participate fully in a professional setting. While seated among other attendees, I was approached by BIAC representative Bonnie Meyers, MS, CRC, CBIST, who informed me that I could not use my assistive device, which I rely on to support cognitive processing and memory retention. I immediately explained that this device was essential for my ability to participate and requested permission to record the meeting as a reasonable accommodation.

My request was publicly denied, and I was informed that I would need to leave the presentation if I did not comply with the refusal to allow my accommodation. This incident should never have occurred, let alone in front of an entire room of attendees. The open, public denial of my accommodation request violated my privacy and subjected me to unnecessary embarrassment, causing significant emotional distress and preventing me from participating effectively in the meeting.

Moreover, the incident has negatively impacted my professional relationships as the founder of ABI Resources. As my request for accommodations was publicly dismissed, it has potentially affected my reputation and relationships with other stakeholders in the room, undermining my professional credibility and interfering with my ability to represent my business effectively.

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

This conduct constitutes a clear violation of my rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, which guarantee reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. The handling of my request in a public and dismissive manner further contravenes my rights to dignity and privacy as a person with a disability.

Requested Remedies

In light of the violations and harm caused, I respectfully request the following remedies to address the immediate and broader impacts of this incident:

Investigation: A thorough investigation into BIAC's handling of reasonable accommodation requests to ensure compliance with the ADA and Section 504. This should include an examination of policies and practices that govern accommodation requests and public interactions with individuals with disabilities.

Policy Review and Injunctive Relief: Revision of BIAC's policies to mandate compliance with ADA and Section 504 requirements, with specific emphasis on the proper, confidential handling of accommodation requests in all public settings. This should also include ensuring that BIAC staff are trained to implement respectful and private procedures when addressing accommodations.

Compensatory Damages: Compensation for the emotional distress, reputational harm, and impact on my professional relationships resulting from this incident. The public nature of the incident and its potential effects on my role as the founder of ABI Resources warrant consideration for both personal and professional damages.

Mandatory Training: I request that BIAC provide mandatory training for all staff on ADA compliance, including sensitivity training, respectful engagement with individuals who request accommodations, and procedures for handling such requests in a way that protects individuals' privacy and dignity.

Formal Apology: A formal written apology from BIAC acknowledging the distress, reputational impact, and public embarrassment caused by the denial of my reasonable accommodation request. This apology should acknowledge the mishandling of the incident and its effects on both my personal and professional standing.

Assurance of Non-Repetition: A formal commitment from BIAC to implement measures that prevent any