



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
STATE OF ILLINOIS

KWAME RAOUL  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

January 14, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. David Burger

*True Signal Media*



@truesignalmedia.news

RE: Freedom of Information Act Request  
2025 FOIA 077736

Dear Mr. Burger:

Thank you for writing to the Office of the Illinois Attorney General with your request for information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 ILCS 140/1 *et seq.*).

In a request received via our Public Records Center on December 30, 2025, you requested the following:

[A]ccess to communications between the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the Governor concerning whistleblower allegations, prosecutorial decisions, and related investigations.

**RECORDS REQUESTED:**

ALL communications between the Attorney General's Office and the Governor's Office concerning:

Jenny Thornley

- Criminal prosecution
- Charging decisions

500 South 2nd Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62701  
(217) 782-1090 • Fax: (217) 782-7046

115 South LaSalle Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60603  
(312) 814-3000 • Fax: (312) 814-3806

1745 Innovation Drive, Suite C  
Carbondale, Illinois 62903  
(618) 529-6400 • Fax: (618) 529-6416

Individuals with hearing or speech disabilities can reach us by using the 7-1-1 relay service.

[www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov)

- Plea negotiations
- Sentencing recommendations
- Workers' compensation fraud allegations
- Employment status
- Any matters related to Jenny Thornley

Emily Fox and People ex rel. Fox v. State of Illinois, et al.

- The qui tam lawsuit
- Motion to dismiss
- Litigation strategy
- Emily Fox's whistleblower allegations
- Settlement discussions
- Any matters related to Emily Fox or the lawsuit

Illinois State Police Merit Board

- Merit Board proceedings
- Investigations
- Referrals to Attorney General's Office
- Coordination on cases
- Any matters related to Merit Board activities

Jack Garcia

- Allegations involving Jack Garcia
- Investigations concerning Jack Garcia
- Merit Board proceedings involving Jack Garcia
- Any matters related to Jack Garcia

Workers' Compensation Fraud Investigations

- Referrals from Illinois Department of Insurance
- Investigation decisions
- Prosecutorial decisions
- Case declinations
- Any matters related to workers' compensation fraud

McGuireWoods Investigation

- The McGuireWoods investigation of State Police
- Coordination on investigation findings
- Response to investigation
- Implementation of recommendations
- Any matters related to the McGuireWoods investigation

DEFINITION OF "COMMUNICATIONS": For purposes of this request, "communications" includes but is not limited to:

- Emails, text messages, instant messages, and other electronic communications
- Letters, memoranda, and written correspondence
- Meeting notes, agendas, and summaries of meetings or phone calls
- Briefing materials prepared for meetings between the offices
- Calendar entries showing meetings between the offices on these topics
- Any other records documenting information exchange between the two offices

SCOPE OF OFFICES: This request includes communications between any staff member of the Attorney General's Office and any staff member of the Governor's Office, including but not limited to:

- Attorney General Kwame Raoul and Governor J.B. Pritzker
- Deputy Attorneys General and Deputy Governors
- Communications staff between both offices
- Legal counsel in both offices
- Chiefs of Staff and senior advisors
- Any other personnel in either office

TIME PERIOD: January 1, 2020 through present

SCOPE CLARIFICATION: This request seeks records documenting coordination, information sharing, or consultation between two constitutional offices on matters involving whistleblower allegations, prosecutorial decisions, and investigations. These are not attorney-client privileged communications as the Governor's Office is not the client of the Attorney General's Office in these matters, nor are they attorney work product as they concern coordination between separate government offices rather than litigation preparation. The public has a paramount interest in understanding whether and how political considerations from the Governor's Office influenced the Attorney General's exercise of prosecutorial discretion and handling of whistleblower allegations against the Governor's administration. (Capitalization in original.)

On January 7, 2026, we extended the time to respond to your request by five business days pursuant to section 3(e)(iv) of FOIA (5 ILCS 140/3(e)(iv)) because the requested records had not been located in the course of routine search and additional efforts were being made to locate them.

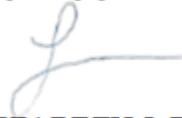
This office has conducted a search and we have determined your request is unduly burdensome under section 3(g) of the FOIA (5 ILCS 140/3(g)). Your request seeks all communications between this office and the Governor's Office concerning any workers' compensation investigations and any Illinois State Police Merit Board investigations or proceedings over a six-year period, as well as all such communications concerning Jenny Thornley and a qi tam lawsuit related to Ms. Thornley. As we advised in response to your prior request, this office possesses over 2,000 e-mails (exclusive of any other written correspondence) that pertain to Jenny Thornley. These records relate to litigation conducted in our General Law and Special Litigation bureaus, a Workers Compensation claim, at least one appeal, and potential referrals for prosecution. Moreover, the staff of the Governor's office use the same e-mail suffix as many other state agencies so that it is not possible to conduct an automated search for e-mail communications conducted solely with that office. Accordingly, in order to locate records responsive to your request staff would be required to manually review at least 2,000 e-mail communications to identify responsive records. Assuming it takes only 1 minute to review each file and make copies of any responsive records, it would take over 30 hours to compile records responsive to just those portions of your request. Additionally, staff would then be required to review and redact information from all responsive records in order to protect against the release of exempt information. See 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(b), (c), (d)(iv).

Responding to FOIA requests is a primary duty of the Office of the Illinois Attorney General. In this case, however, the burden on this office to review, redact, and produce responsive records would be very large due to the volume of material involved, the complexity of identifying exempt information within the files, and staffing limitations. See *Shehadeh v. Madigan*, 2013 IL App (4<sup>th</sup>) 120742, 996 N.E.2d 1243 (2013). Further, the public interest involved in this case is outweighed by the burden on this office. "A request that is overly broad and requires the public body to locate, review, redact and arrange for inspection a vast quantity of material that is largely unnecessary to the [requester's] purpose constitutes an undue burden." *National Ass'n of Criminal Defense Lawyers v. Chicago Police Dept.*, 399 Ill. App. 3d 1, 17 (2010), citing *American Federation of Government Employees, Local 2782 v. United States Department of Commerce*, 907 F.2d 203, 208-09 (D.C. Cir. 1990).

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Accordingly, we request that you narrow the scope of your request to bring it within manageable proportions pursuant to section 3(g) of FOIA. 5 ILCS 140/3(g). A suggestion for narrowing your request includes limiting your request to a specific matter and with specific staff members of the Governor's office.

Very truly yours,



ELIZABETH J. PTACEK  
Assistant Attorney General  
FOIA Officer

EJP:ga

cc: Annie Thompson, Senior Press Secretary  
Office of the Illinois Attorney General

Andrew Hill, Deputy Press Secretary  
Office of the Illinois Attorney General

April McLaren, Deputy Press Secretary  
Office of the Illinois Attorney General

Jamey Dunn-Thomason, Press Secretary  
Office of the Illinois Attorney General