

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

December 17, 2014

Lisa Pinsonneault, Special Assistant Attorney General
Rhode Island Office of Attorney General
150 South Main Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: **Complaint Against DOC for Violations of APRA**

Dear Attorney Pinsonneault:

ACCESS/RI is a broad-based, non-profit freedom of information coalition dedicated to improving citizen access to the records and processes of government in Rhode Island.

I write on behalf of ACCESS/RI to file a complaint against the Rhode Island Department of Corrections (herein "DOC") for violating the Access to Public Records Act (herein "APRA"), R.I.G.L. § 38-2-1 et seq.

ACCESS/RI through our contractor MuckRock requested a list from your office of those entities (see Appendix A) that certified employee(s) "who have the authority to grant or deny persons or entities access to records...[and] have been provided orientation and training" (§ 38-2-3.16). The DOC did not appear on those lists provided by your office.

MuckRock also requested from the DOC "Written procedures for access to the agency's public records, including any records request forms required or suggested by the agency," required by § 38-2-3(d) (Appendix B), and their response took 27 business days, violating § 38-2-3(e).

Finally, MuckRock requested from the DOC "Contracts for the ten (10) employees with the highest salaries" as authorized by § 38-2-2(4)(A)(I)(b). Their response (Appendix C), that no such documents exist, took 11 business days, violating § 38-2-3(e).

ACCESS/RI asks your office to direct the DOC to correct the issues raised in this complaint. Furthermore we ask that the Attorney General file suit pursuant to § 38-2-8(b) in the Superior Court and seek civil fines for these knowing and willful—or, at a minimum, clearly reckless—violations of APRA pursuant to § 38-2-9(d).

Sincerely,

Linda Lotridge Levin
LLLevin@uri.edu
ACCESS/RI

Attachments (3)