

AN ACT concerning disclosure of information.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:

Section 5. The Illinois Public Aid Code is amended by
changing Section 11-9 as follows:

(305 ILCS 5/11-9) (from Ch. 23, par. 11-9)

Sec. 11-9. Protection of records - Exceptions. For the
protection of applicants and recipients, the Illinois
Department, the county departments and local governmental
units and their respective officers and employees are
prohibited, except as hereinafter provided, from disclosing
the contents of any records, files, papers and
communications, except for purposes directly connected with
the administration of public aid under this Code.

In any judicial proceeding, except a proceeding directly
concerned with the administration of programs provided for in
this Code, such records, files, papers and communications,
and their contents shall be deemed privileged communications
and shall be disclosed only upon the order of the court,
where the court finds such to be necessary in the interest of
justice.

The Illinois Department shall establish and enforce
reasonable rules and regulations governing the custody, use
and preservation of the records, papers, files, and
communications of the Illinois Department, the county
departments and local governmental units receiving State or
Federal funds or aid. The governing body of other local
governmental units shall in like manner establish and enforce
rules and regulations governing the same matters.

The contents of case files pertaining to recipients under
Articles IV, V, and VI shall be made available without

subpoena or formal notice to the officers of any court, to all law enforcing agencies, and to such other persons or agencies as from time to time may be authorized by any court. In particular, the contents of those case files shall be made available upon request to a law enforcement agency for the purpose of determining the current address of a recipient with respect to whom an arrest warrant is outstanding, and the current address of a recipient who was a victim of a felony or a witness to a felony shall be made available upon request to a State's Attorney of this State or a State's Attorney's investigator. Information shall also be disclosed to the Illinois State Scholarship Commission pursuant to an investigation or audit by the Illinois State Scholarship Commission of a delinquent student loan or monetary award.

This Section does not prevent the Illinois Department and local governmental units from reporting to appropriate law enforcement officials the desertion or abandonment by a parent of a child, as a result of which financial aid has been necessitated under Articles IV, V, or VI, or reporting to appropriate law enforcement officials instances in which a mother under age 18 has a child out of wedlock and is an applicant for or recipient of aid under any Article of this Code. The Illinois Department may provide by rule for the county departments and local governmental units to initiate proceedings under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 to have children declared to be neglected when they deem such action necessary to protect the children from immoral influences present in their home or surroundings.

This Section does not preclude the full exercise of the powers of the Board of Public Aid Commissioners to inspect records and documents, as provided for all advisory boards pursuant to Section 5-505 of the Departments of State Government Law (20 ILCS 5/5-505).

This Section does not preclude exchanges of information

among the Illinois Department of Public Aid, the Department of Human Services (as successor to the Department of Public Aid), and the Illinois Department of Revenue for the purpose of verifying sources and amounts of income and for other purposes directly connected with the administration of this Code and of the Illinois Income Tax Act.

The provisions of this Section and of Section 11-11 as they apply to applicants and recipients of public aid under Article V shall be operative only to the extent that they do not conflict with any Federal law or regulation governing Federal grants to this State for such programs.

The Illinois Department of Public Aid and the Department of Human Services (as successor to the Illinois Department of Public Aid) shall enter into an inter-agency agreement with the Department of Children and Family Services to establish a procedure by which employees of the Department of Children and Family Services may have immediate access to records, files, papers, and communications (except medical, alcohol or drug assessment or treatment, mental health, or any other medical records) of the Illinois Department, county departments, and local governmental units receiving State or federal funds or aid, if the Department of Children and Family Services determines the information is necessary to perform its duties under the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act, the Child Care Act of 1969, and the Children and Family Services Act.

(Source: P.A. 91-239, eff. 1-1-00; 92-111, eff. 1-1-02.)

Section 10. The Unemployment Insurance Act is amended by changing Section 1900 as follows:

(820 ILCS 405/1900) (from Ch. 48, par. 640)

Sec. 1900. Disclosure of information.

A. Except as provided in this Section, information

obtained from any individual or employing unit during the administration of this Act shall:

1. be confidential,
2. not be published or open to public inspection,
3. not be used in any court in any pending action or proceeding,
4. not be admissible in evidence in any action or proceeding other than one arising out of this Act.

B. No finding, determination, decision, ruling or order (including any finding of fact, statement or conclusion made therein) issued pursuant to this Act shall be admissible or used in evidence in any action other than one arising out of this Act, nor shall it be binding or conclusive except as provided in this Act, nor shall it constitute res judicata, regardless of whether the actions were between the same or related parties or involved the same facts.

C. Any officer or employee of this State, any officer or employee of any entity authorized to obtain information pursuant to this Section, and any agent of this State or of such entity who, except with authority of the Director under this Section, shall disclose information shall be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor and shall be disqualified from holding any appointment or employment by the State.

D. An individual or his duly authorized agent may be supplied with information from records only to the extent necessary for the proper presentation of his claim for benefits or with his existing or prospective rights to benefits. Discretion to disclose this information belongs solely to the Director and is not subject to a release or waiver by the individual. Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, an individual or his or her duly authorized agent may be supplied with a statement of the amount of benefits paid to the individual during the 18 months preceding the date of his or her request.

E. An employing unit may be furnished with information, only if deemed by the Director as necessary to enable it to fully discharge its obligations or safeguard its rights under the Act. Discretion to disclose this information belongs solely to the Director and is not subject to a release or waiver by the employing unit.

F. The Director may furnish any information that he may deem proper to any public officer or public agency of this or any other State or of the federal government dealing with:

1. the administration of relief,
2. public assistance,
3. unemployment compensation,
4. a system of public employment offices,
5. wages and hours of employment, or
6. a public works program.

The Director may make available to the Illinois Industrial Commission information regarding employers for the purpose of verifying the insurance coverage required under the Workers' Compensation Act and Workers' Occupational Diseases Act.

G. The Director may disclose information submitted by the State or any of its political subdivisions, municipal corporations, instrumentalities, or school or community college districts, except for information which specifically identifies an individual claimant.

H. The Director shall disclose only that information required to be disclosed under Section 303 of the Social Security Act, as amended, including:

1. any information required to be given the United States Department of Labor under Section 303(a)(6); and
2. the making available upon request to any agency of the United States charged with the administration of public works or assistance through public employment, the name, address, ordinary occupation and employment status

of each recipient of unemployment compensation, and a statement of such recipient's right to further compensation under such law as required by Section 303(a)(7); and

3. records to make available to the Railroad Retirement Board as required by Section 303(c)(1); and

4. information that will assure reasonable cooperation with every agency of the United States charged with the administration of any unemployment compensation law as required by Section 303(c)(2); and

5. information upon request and on a reimbursable basis to the United States Department of Agriculture and to any State food stamp agency concerning any information required to be furnished by Section 303(d); and

6. any wage information upon request and on a reimbursable basis to any State or local child support enforcement agency required by Section 303(e); and

7. any information required under the income eligibility and verification system as required by Section 303(f); and

8. information that might be useful in locating an absent parent or that parent's employer, establishing paternity or establishing, modifying, or enforcing child support orders for the purpose of a child support enforcement program under Title IV of the Social Security Act upon the request of and on a reimbursable basis to the public agency administering the Federal Parent Locator Service as required by Section 303(h); and

9. information, upon request, to representatives of any federal, State or local governmental public housing agency with respect to individuals who have signed the appropriate consent form approved by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and who are applying for or participating in any housing assistance program

administered by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development as required by Section 303(i).

I. The Director, upon the request of a public agency of Illinois, of the federal government or of any other state charged with the investigation or enforcement of Section 10-5 of the Criminal Code of 1961 (or a similar federal law or similar law of another State), may furnish the public agency information regarding the individual specified in the request as to:

1. the current or most recent home address of the individual, and
2. the names and addresses of the individual's employers.

J. Nothing in this Section shall be deemed to interfere with the disclosure of certain records as provided for in Section 1706 or with the right to make available to the Internal Revenue Service of the United States Department of the Treasury, or the Department of Revenue of the State of Illinois, information obtained under this Act.

K. The Department shall make available to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, upon request, information in the possession of the Department that may be necessary or useful to the Commission in the collection of defaulted or delinquent student loans which the Commission administers.

L. The Department shall make available to the State Employees' Retirement System, the State Universities Retirement System, and the Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois, upon request, information in the possession of the Department that may be necessary or useful to the System for the purpose of determining whether any recipient of a disability benefit from the System is gainfully employed.

M. This Section shall be applicable to the information obtained in the administration of the State employment

service, except that the Director may publish or release general labor market information and may furnish information that he may deem proper to an individual, public officer or public agency of this or any other State or the federal government (in addition to those public officers or public agencies specified in this Section) as he prescribes by Rule.

N. The Director may require such safeguards as he deems proper to insure that information disclosed pursuant to this Section is used only for the purposes set forth in this Section.

O. (Blank).

P. Within 30 days after the effective date of this amendatory Act of 1993 and annually thereafter, the Department shall provide to the Department of Financial Institutions a list of individuals or entities that, for the most recently completed calendar year, report to the Department as paying wages to workers. The lists shall be deemed confidential and may not be disclosed to any other person.

Q. The Director shall make available to an elected federal official the name and address of an individual or entity that is located within the jurisdiction from which the official was elected and that, for the most recently completed calendar year, has reported to the Department as paying wages to workers, where the information will be used in connection with the official duties of the official and the official requests the information in writing, specifying the purposes for which it will be used. For purposes of this subsection, the use of information in connection with the official duties of an official does not include use of the information in connection with the solicitation of contributions or expenditures, in money or in kind, to or on behalf of a candidate for public or political office or a political party or with respect to a public question, as

defined in Section 1-3 of the Election Code, or in connection with any commercial solicitation. Any elected federal official who, in submitting a request for information covered by this subsection, knowingly makes a false statement or fails to disclose a material fact, with the intent to obtain the information for a purpose not authorized by this subsection, shall be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

R. The Director may provide to any State or local child support agency, upon request and on a reimbursable basis, information that might be useful in locating an absent parent or that parent's employer, establishing paternity, or establishing, modifying, or enforcing child support orders.

S. The Department shall make available to a State's Attorney of this State or a State's Attorney's investigator, upon request, the current address or, if the current address is unavailable, current employer information, if available, of a victim of a felony or a witness to a felony or a person against whom an arrest warrant is outstanding.

(Source: P.A. 90-425, eff. 8-15-97; 90-488, eff. 8-17-97; 90-655, eff. 7-30-98; 91-342, eff. 1-1-00.)

Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January 1, 2004.