

Disclosure of information relating to a project for an autistic person

This article shall publicize an appeal against an order prohibiting the disclosure of information regarding the implementation of a project for an autistic person. Let's see whether such information shall be disclosed and how it shall be disclosed.

Mr. Sarat took his son, Mr. Siwat, to join a project for autistic persons hosted by the Office of the Social Promotion for Autistic Persons. Mr. Sarat found that the transportation expenses paid by the host were different from the amount shown on the receipt. The host also collected identification cards of Mr. Sarat, his wife, and his son as required documents for participation. Therefore, Mr. Sarat filed a document to the Office of the Social Promotion for Autistic Persons requesting information regarding the implementation of the project for autistic persons including service charges for the improvement of speaking skills, wellness skills, and other related skills under the mission of the Office, the receipt of transportation expenses for the service and participation, and the summary of the Project implementation. The Office of the Social Promotion for Autistic Persons rejected the request because the requested information was considered information under Section 4 of the Official Information Act, B.E. 2540 (1997), and Section 6 of the Personal Data Protection Act B.E. 2562 (2019). Moreover, a person who was the subject of information has not given written consent to disclose or use such information according to Section 24 of the Official Information Act, B.E. 2540 (1997), and Section 27 of the Personal Data Protection Act B.E. 2562 (2019). Therefore, Mr. Sarat filed an appeal letter to the Information Disclosure Commissioner.

The Information Disclosure Commissioner relating to society, public administration, and law enforcement concluded that in addition to the information of Mr. Sarat and Mr. Siwat, the information as appealed consists of other persons' personal information. The project has been completed; therefore, the disclosure of information will not result in a decline in law enforcement efficiency or failure to achieve its objectives, as per Section 15, Paragraph 1 (2) of the Official Information Act, B.E. 2540 (1997). Furthermore, disclosing the appealed information will reveal the transparency of the Office's operation. Although the information has been classified, disclosure of the information is under consideration by the Information Disclosure Commissioner, as per Section 24 of the Rule on Maintenance of Official Secrets, 2544 (2001). After considering the performance of duties of the state agency under the law, public interests and the interests of the private individuals concerned, the Commission agreed that Office of the Social Promotion for Autistic Persons shall disclose information as appealed to Mr. Sarat as to disclose only such information relates to him and his son with the redaction of other persons' personal information in the Projects including transportation expenses, participant names, identification numbers, position/role, address, agency/affiliation, telephone number, signature, as well as the copy of document which is certified true copy.

Should there be any inquiries on practices regarding the Official Information Act, B.E. 2540 (1997), please contact the Office of the Official Information Commission, the Office of Permanent Secretary, the Prime Minister's Office via telephone at 0 2283 4678-79.

"To disclose is the key, to conceal is the exemption"