

### The disclosure of personal information

This article addresses a case in which a state agency sought to verify whether one of its officials had indeed sought medical treatment at a hospital. Let's see whether the hospital shall disclose such information and how it shall be disclosed.

Mr. Kanong, the Municipal Officer of Klang Nam Town Municipality, signed in for duty on August 16, 2025. However, he later cancelled his attendance and submitted a sick leave request for that day, stating that he had sought medical treatment at Pracharak Hospital. Klang Nam Town Municipality then issued a letter to Pracharak Hospital requesting verification of whether Mr. Kanong had indeed sought medical treatment on August 16, 2025. In response, Pracharak Hospital provided Mr. Kanong's medical history along with a copy of his medical record to Klang Nam Town Municipality. Subsequently, Mr. Kanong filed a complaint alleging that Pracharak Hospital had unlawfully disclosed his personal information. The Subcommittee, responsible for the case, considered filing an appeal letter inquiring whether Klang Nam Town Municipality, as a state agency, was legally authorized under Section 24 (8) of the Official Information Act, B.E. 2540 (1997), to request personal information in such circumstances.

Upon consideration, the Consultative Subcommittee under the Information Disclosure Commissioner concluded that the mayor has the authority and responsibility to oversee and supervise the performance of the Municipality's officials in accordance with relevant laws and regulations. Klang Nam Town Municipality's action in verifying whether Mr. Kanong had indeed sought medical treatment on August 16, 2025, was within its authority, as such information was necessary to support its consideration of approving sick leave under the Regulation on Civil Servant Leave, B.E. 2535 (1992). However, in this case, the Municipality had only requested verification regarding whether Mr. Kanong had indeed sought medical treatment on August 16, 2025, and did not request a copy of Mr. Kanong's medical record. The hospital's provision of a copy of Mr. Khanong's medical record to the Municipality may constitute disclosure beyond the scope of the purpose of the verification inquiry and may be considered as providing excessive information.

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.

“Transparent Information without any Corruption among Thai Authorities”

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