



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

KWAME RAOUL
ATTORNEY GENERAL

June 11, 2026

Via electronic mail



RE: FOIA Request for Review – 2026 PAC 94362; R092286-050526

Dear [REDACTED]:

This determination letter is issued pursuant to section 9.5(c) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).¹ For the reasons explained below, the Public Access Bureau has determined that this Request for Review is unfounded.

On May 4, 2026, you submitted a FOIA request to the Cook County Sheriff's Office (Sheriff's Office) seeking "[c]opies of documents from Parabon Nanolabs services, including Snapshot Advanced DNA services 'Phenotype Report'"² for a named individual. You also stated "I am a retired law enforcement officer serving as a victim advocate for the family of a 1982 murder victim which remains unsolved. I seek the requested public records in order to develop a strategy to persuade the DuPage County Sheriff's Office to engage in the services of Parabon NanoLabs."³ On May 5, 2026, the Sheriff's Office denied your request pursuant to

¹5 ILCS 140/9.5(c) (West 2024), as amended by Public Act 104-438, effective January 1, 2026.

²Cook County Sheriff's Office, Freedom of Information Act Request form, submitted by [REDACTED] (May 4, 2026).

³E-mail from [REDACTED] to FOIA Officer, Cook County Sheriff's Office (May 4, 2026).

section 7(1)(a) of FOIA⁴ in connection with unspecified provisions of the Genetic Information Privacy Act (GIPA) (410 ILCS 513/1 *et seq.* (West 2024)). On May 12, 2026, you submitted this Request for Review challenging the denial.

Section 7(1)(a) of FOIA exempts from disclosure "[i]nformation specifically prohibited from disclosure by federal or State law or rules and regulations implementing federal or State law." Although the Sheriff's Office did not cite specific sections of the GIPA, section 15(a) of the GIPA⁵ provides, in relevant part:

Except as otherwise provided in this Act, **genetic testing and information derived from genetic testing is confidential and privileged** and may be released only to the individual tested and to persons specifically authorized, in writing in accordance with Section 30 [410 ILCS 513/30], by that individual to receive the information. (Emphasis added.)

Section 15(b) of the GIPA⁶ additionally provides, in relevant part:

When a biological sample is legally obtained by a peace officer for use in a criminal investigation or prosecution, information derived from genetic testing of that sample may be disclosed for identification purposes to appropriate law enforcement authorities conducting the investigation or prosecution[.] * * *

The information shall be confidential and may be disclosed only for purposes of criminal investigation or prosecution. (Emphasis added.)

In your Request for Review, you alleged that the Sheriff's Office improperly denied your request in its entirety rather than disclosing copies of responsive records with redactions. The plain language of the above-quoted provisions of the GIPA, however, specifically prohibit the Sheriff's Office from disclosing genetic testing and any information derived therefrom pursuant to FOIA. Your FOIA request expressly sought a Phenotype Report,

⁴5 ILCS 140/7(1)(a) (West 2024), as amended by Public Acts 104-438, effective January 1, 2026; 104-443, effective January 1, 2026. Although the Sheriff's Office instead cited section 7(1)(a-5), section 7(1)(a-5) is a renumbering of section 7(1)(a) that has not yet taken effect. See Public Act 104-300, effective January 1, 2027 (adding a new section 7(1)(a) and redesignating former section 7(1)(a) as section 7(1)(a-5)).

⁵410 ILCS 513/15(a) (West 2024).

⁶410 ILCS 513/15(b) (West 2024).

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which is a report derived from genetic testing of a biological sample. This office reviewed the Parabon Nanolabs website, which explains how such reports are generated: "Snapshot reads tens of thousands of genetic variants ('genotypes') from a DNA sample and uses this information to predict what an unknown person looks like."⁷ Because sections 15(a) and 15(b) of the GIPA specifically prohibit the Sheriff's Office from disclosing the record(s) you requested, this office concludes that no further action is warranted as to this matter.

This file is closed. If you have any questions, please contact me at matthew.goodman@ilag.gov.

Very truly yours,

[REDACTED]

MATT GOODMAN
Assistant Attorney General
Public Access Bureau

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⁷The Snapshot DNA Phenotyping Service, Parabon Nanolabs, <https://snapshot.parabon-nanolabs.com/phenotyping> (last visited June 11, 2026).