

**From:** [Barkus, Paul](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Mishaan, Jessica](#)  
**Subject:** Island Pond Raid / Public Records Request  
**Date:** Thursday, February 24, 2022 2:36:14 PM  
**Attachments:** [Island Pond Raid Pineles.docx](#)

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**109 STATE STREET**

**MONTPELIER, VT  
05609-1001**

February 22, 2022

Dean Pineles

[REDACTED]  
Stowe, VT 05672  
[REDACTED]

**RE: Public Records Request – ISLAND POND RAID**

Dear Mr. Pineles,

The initial review of your Public Records request, dated January 29, 2022, has been completed. The materials requested were originally contained in 15 large cardboard paper boxes. At some point in time, the documents contained within those boxes were copied to microfilms and the original documents were destroyed.

The Island Pond operation was conducted, at least partially, through the actions of the Department of Children and Families (formerly SRS) and involved juvenile court matters that may not be disclosed to the public. *See* 33 V.S.A. § 5117. Records of that operation that are in the possession of the Attorney General's Office are thereby designated as confidential by law pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(1)-(2) and exempt from disclosure.

While there may be documents within the microfilms that are not exempt from disclosure, there is no practical means to determine whether they exist without reviewing all the documents on the microfilms. That review would be extremely costly and may or may not uncover documents that are not exempt from disclosure. *See* "Uniform Schedule of Public Records Charges for State Agencies, Vermont Secretary of State," *available at*: <https://www.sec.state.vt.us/archives-records/certifications-fees/uniform-fee-schedule.aspx>.

Should you believe that the requested information has been withheld in error, you may appeal that decision in writing to Deputy Attorney General, Joshua Diamond and addressed as follows:

Joshua Diamond, Esq.  
Deputy Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me.

Sincerely,

    /s/ Paul A. Barkus                    

Paul A. Barkus

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