



Health Net of Connecticut v. Freedom of Information Commission (Conn. S.Ct.)

Topics Covered: Freedom of Information Act

Outcome: Very Favorable

Issue

The issue in this case was whether managed care organizations (MCOs) were required to disclose their records under the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA").

AMA Interest

The AMA believes that managed care organizations have a disclosure obligation under FOIA.

Case Summary

The Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission ruled that several large MCOs, who helped to administer the Connecticut Medicaid program, were required to disclose information under the Connecticut FOIA relating to payment for physician services and prescription drug formulary policies and expenditures. The disclosure would help to assure transparency in and efficient administration of the Medicaid program. It would also help to determine whether physician payments were sufficient to secure adequate coverage for specialized medical care.

The trial court ruled that the MCOs were required to disclose their records under the Connecticut FOIA. Although the MCOs initially indicated that they would appeal to the Connecticut Supreme Court, they later dropped their appeal.

Litigation Center Involvement

If the case had been appealed to the Connecticut Supreme Court, the Litigation Center and the Connecticut State Medical Society would have filed an *amicus* brief to argue that the MCOs have a disclosure obligation.