

July 22, 2026

SENT VIA EMAIL at [REDACTED]

Hello [REDACTED],

This is in response to your email of June 15, 2026, wherein you requested the following:

Pursuant to Wisconsin's Public Records Law, Wis. Stat. §§ 19.31-19.39, I request access to and copies of the following records concerning any decision, policy change, suspension, restriction, limitation, or discontinuation of gender-affirming medical care for patients under the age of 18 by UW Health.

Please provide records created, received, maintained, or distributed between January 1, 2024, and the date this request is processed, including:

1. Final policies, directives, guidance documents, memoranda, talking points, FAQs, or announcements regarding the restriction, suspension, limitation, or discontinuation of gender-affirming care for patients under age 18.
2. Communications among UW Health executives, senior leadership, legal counsel, government relations personnel, public affairs personnel, and board members discussing:
 - * Whether to continue providing gender-affirming care to minors;
 - * Risks, liabilities, legal concerns, political concerns, or financial considerations related to such care;
 - * Potential policy changes or service restrictions.
3. Communications between UW Health and any state or federal governmental entity regarding gender-affirming care for minors, including but not limited to communications with:
 - * The Office of the Governor;
 - * The Wisconsin Legislature;
 - * The Wisconsin Department of Health Services;
 - * The Wisconsin Department of Justice;
 - * Federal agencies.
4. Records presented to, reviewed by, or distributed to any UW Health board, committee, executive council, or leadership body concerning gender-affirming care for minors.

5. Legal memoranda, legal analyses, risk assessments, compliance reviews, or outside counsel communications that evaluate actual or anticipated legal, regulatory, political, accreditation, reimbursement, or funding impacts associated with providing gender-affirming care to patients under age 18.

6. Communications with outside organizations, consultants, trade associations, hospital associations, insurers, or lobbying organizations concerning the continuation, restriction, or discontinuation of gender-affirming care for minors.

As an initial matter, please note that “UW Health” is not itself a legal entity. Rather, “UW Health” is often used to refer to the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority (“UWHCA”) and/or the University of Wisconsin Medical Foundation, Inc. (“UWMF”). I am providing this response on behalf of both UWHCA and UWMF.

It is also important to clarify that UW Health did not discontinue “gender-affirming medical care for patients under the age of 18”. UW Health paused prescribing hormone therapy and puberty blockers as part of gender-affirming care for patients under the age of 18. UW Health continues to provide other care and support for patients and families.

Responses to Requests

1. Final policies, directives, guidance documents, memoranda, talking points, FAQs, or announcements regarding the restriction, suspension, limitation, or discontinuation of gender-affirming care for patients under age 18.

RESPONSE: UWHCA has searched for, identified, and is producing non-privileged, internal communications and announcements related to your inquiry. Relevant documents are attached to this response.

2. Communications among UW Health executives, senior leadership, legal counsel, government relations personnel, public affairs personnel, and board members discussing:

- * **Whether to continue providing gender-affirming care to minors;**
- * **Risks, liabilities, legal concerns, political concerns, or financial considerations related to such care;**
- * **Potential policy changes or service restrictions.**

RESPONSE: To the extent the requested records reflected or encompassed communications between legal counsel and their clients, or communications between those clients and/or lawyers representing UW Health and those

representing its affiliated university with respect to matters of common interest, those communications are protected from disclosure by the attorney-client privilege. See generally Wis. Stat. § 905.03(2) (statute codifying attorney-client privilege); *Armada Broadcasting v. Stirn*, 177 Wis. 2d 272, 279-80 n.3, 501 N.W.2d 889, 893 n.3 (Ct. App. 1993) (attorney-client privilege prohibits state agency from disclosing privileged communications in responding to public records request), rev'd on other grounds, 183 Wis. 2d 463, 516 N.W.2d 357 (1994). To the extent responsive records reflected attorney-client or common interest privileged communications, those references and communications were redacted or the record not provided in its entirety. *Id.* ¶ 148 & n. 2 (Bradley, J., concurring); *id.* ¶ 173 & n. 4 (Gableman, J., concurring), 327 Wis. 2d 572, 786 N.W. 2d 177.

To the extent your request seeks records which may include the mental impressions and strategies of lawyers representing UW Health and those representing its affiliated university, such records are subject to the attorney work-product doctrine. The Open Records Law cannot be used to circumvent established principles that shield work product. *Seifert*, 2007 WI App 207, ¶ 28.

Furthermore, under Wis. Stat. § 19.32(2), the public records law "does not include drafts, notes, preliminary computations, and like materials prepared for the originator's personal use or by the originator in the name of person for whom the originator is working." Therefore, the public's right under the records law does not extend to these documents.

Lastly, to the extent this issue was discussed at an open Board of Directors meeting, those meeting minutes are available on UW Health's Corporate Governance website at corporategovernance@uwhealth.org.

3. Communications between UW Health and any state or federal governmental entity regarding gender-affirming care for minors, including but not limited to communications with:

- * The Office of the Governor;**
- * The Wisconsin Legislature;**
- * The Wisconsin Department of Health Services;**
- * The Wisconsin Department of Justice;**
- * Federal agencies.**

RESPONSE: After conducting a reasonable search, UWH has not identified communications responsive to this request.

4. **Records presented to, reviewed by, or distributed to any UW Health board, committee, executive council, or leadership body concerning gender-affirming care for minors.**

RESPONSE: UWH states that no records were presented to, reviewed by or distributed to any UWH board, committee, executive council or leadership body.

5. **Legal memoranda, legal analyses, risk assessments, compliance reviews, or outside counsel communications that evaluate actual or anticipated legal, regulatory, political, accreditation, reimbursement, or funding impacts associated with providing gender-affirming care to patients under age 18.**

RESPONSE: See UWH's response to Request No. 2.

6. **Communications with outside organizations, consultants, trade associations, hospital associations, insurers, or lobbying organizations concerning the continuation, restriction, or discontinuation of gender-affirming care for minors.**

RESPONSE: After conducting a reasonable search, UWH has not identified communications with outside organizations responsive to this request.

To the extent this response is a denial of your public records request, it may be subject to review by mandamus under Wisconsin Statutes section 19.37, or upon application to the attorney general or district attorney.

Sincerely,

Andrea

Andrea K. Redfield

Paralegal | UW Health Office of Corporate Counsel
7974 UW Health Court | Middleton WI 53562

UWHealth