

Pakistan Information Commission

Government Of Pakistan

Camp Office, Lahore

Order

Appeal No: 3843-08/24

Syed Majid Ali Shah

VS

Sheikh Zayed Hospital, Lahore

September 09, 2024

Appellant present in person. Tahir Yaseen Qureshi, Law Officer, Sheikh Zayed Hospital Lahore appeared on behalf of the public body. The public body has filed written reply which has been received in the Registrar office on 26-08-24. In the written statement the public body has submitted that the appellant claimed the hospital file pertaining to the record of inter-personal nature in regard to social aspect and socio-economic condition of the patient and other personal information. The medical professionals/institutions both are duty bound to preserve the information regarding each and every patient who approach this sacred institution for their treatment. It is further added that the institute has provided a complete summary with day to day treatment and prognosis as well copy of which is attached as Annex-A. The said copy has not been found annexed with the written reply.

2. Syed Majid Ali Shah appellant is the real brother of Syed Sajjad Ali Shah who was admitted in Sheikh Zayed Hospital on 13-04-2024 (Saturday) in emergency of the said hospital, who unfortunately died during the said admission on 16-04-24 at 11:55 PM. The appellant has requested to provide him copy of the complete file of the patient / deceased along with notes of the concerned doctors and treatment provided to the said patient. He has also desired to let him know the cause of death of the said patient.
3. On the last date of hearing, Mr. Tahir Yaseen appeared before the Commission and furnished photocopy of the summary with day-to-day treatment and prognosis, which was already provided to the appellant on the last date of hearing and the appellant after seeing it, was not satisfied with that and insisted to provide him copy of the file of the patient/deceased along with notes of the doctors whereupon the law officer was directed to call any responsible

officer of the public body and ensure his presence before the Commission. The Commission waited till 3 O' Clock on the last date hearing and it was informed by the law officer to the staff of the Commission that written reply shall be submitted through post. The Commission has examined the contents of the information request, appeal and written reply furnished by the public body. The appellant claims to be real brother of the patient/deceased and he has annexed copy of his CNIC card in support of this claim which shows that the appellant is not alien to the patient but is real brother of the deceased and has the right to have the information about his treatment and cause of death. As far as, the plea of the public body about the personal information of the deceased is concerned, it is noted that said information is not personal to the extent of kich and kin of the deceased and they have legal right to have the said information and it is also a case of public importance as it involves the death of a patient during the admission in hospital and his treatment. Furthermore, the preamble of the Act also states that the Government believes in transparency and the right to have access to information to ensure that the people of Islamic Republic of Pakistan have improved access to records held by public authorities and promote the purpose of making the government more accountable to its people, of improving participation by the people in public affairs, of reducing corruption and inefficiency in Government, of promoting sound economic growth, of promoting good governance and respect for human rights.

The Commission heard the arguments of the appellant and the representative of the public body and has also examined the information request, written reply of the public body and relevant provisions of the law. The plea of the public body about exemption from disclosure of the required information has not been found justified therefore, the appeal is allowed. The CEO, Sheikh Zayed Hospital is directed to furnish the required information (certified copy of the complete file of the treatment of the patient along with cause of death) within 10 days to the Commission as well as to the appellant.

4. Copy of the order be sent to both the parties. The appeal stands disposed of.

Ijaz Hassan Awan
Information Commissioner

Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui
Chief Information Commissioner

