

**Devine, Krystal shared "Michaels, Ryan, 1-14-2026" with you**

10 messages

**Devine, Krystal** <Krystal.Devine@maine.gov>  
Reply-To: "Devine, Krystal" <Krystal.Devine@maine.gov>  
To: "rtgmich@gmail.com" <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Wed, Feb 4, 2026 at 10:14 AM

**Devine, Krystal shared a file with you**

Attached please find the recording you requested. There is no charge for this copy. Please be advised that any unauthorized review, use, copying, forwarding, disclosure, distribution, or dissemination is prohibited and subject to penalties according to 22 M.R.S. sec.4008(4).



Michaels, Ryan, 1-14-2026



This link only works for the direct recipients of this message.

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To: "Devine, Krystal" <Krystal.Devine@maine.gov>

Hello Ms. Devine,

Thank you for providing the recording I requested.

I am writing to request clarification regarding the confidentiality notice included in your message, specifically the reference to 22 M.R.S. §4008(4).

To ensure I fully understand my rights and obligations, I would appreciate clarification on the following:

- Whether 22 M.R.S. §4008(4) applies to me as a party to the administrative appeal hearing.
- Whether the statute restricts disclosure of statements made by me during the proceeding.
- Whether any portion of the recording is considered confidential versus public record, and on what basis.
- Whether the statute applies to procedural discussion that occurred prior to the formal start of the hearing.
- Whether there is any written order, policy, or agreement in this case that limits redistribution or public disclosure of the recording.
- What specific conduct would constitute a violation under the statute, and what penalties would apply.

My intent is to ensure compliance with all applicable laws before taking any action, and I appreciate your assistance in clarifying these points.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Ryan Michaels

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**Devine, Krystal** <Krystal.Devine@maine.gov>  
To: rtgmich <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Thu, Feb 5, 2026 at 11:15 AM

Good morning Mr. Michaels,

Thank you for your email. I am just the person who sends out the recordings. I cannot give legal advice.

Thank you,

Krystal Devine

Senior Legal Secretary

Division of Administrative Hearings

Department of Health and Human Services

[109 Capitol Street](#)

[11 State House Station](#)

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone (207) 624-5352

Fax (207) 287-8448

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**From:** Ryan michaels <[rtgmich@gmail.com](mailto:rtgmich@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 4, 2026 1:16 PM  
**To:** Devine, Krystal <[Krystal.Devine@maine.gov](mailto:Krystal.Devine@maine.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Devine, Krystal shared "Michaels, Ryan, 1-14-2026" with you

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**Ryan michaels** <[rtgmich@gmail.com](mailto:rtgmich@gmail.com)>  
Reply-To: [rtgmich@gmail.com](mailto:rtgmich@gmail.com)  
To: "Devine, Krystal" <[Krystal.Devine@maine.gov](mailto:Krystal.Devine@maine.gov)>

Thu, Feb 5, 2026 at 11:20 AM

Thank you for your response.

I understand you are not able to provide legal advice.

However, because the confidentiality notice references 22 M.R.S. §4008(4), I am trying to obtain clarification from the appropriate authority regarding whether any portion of this administrative hearing recording is actually confidential or restricted from disclosure.

I am evaluating whether portions of the recording may be shared as part of public-interest advocacy, but I want to ensure compliance before taking any action.

Could you please direct me to the appropriate person or office (hearing officer, agency counsel, or records access officer) who can provide an official determination?

Thank you,  
Ryan Michaels

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**4 attachments**



image001.png  
3K



image002.png  
1K



image003.png  
3K



image004.png  
5K

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**Devine, Krystal** <Krystal.Devine@maine.gov>  
To: rtgmich <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Thu, Feb 5, 2026 at 11:55 AM

Hello Mr. Michaels,

I apologize, but I cannot. I am just the person sending out the recording.

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**Ryan michaels** <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Thu, Feb 5, 2026 at 12:02 PM

Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com

To: "Devine, Krystal" <Krystal.Devine@maine.gov>

Cc: "Schleck, Peter" <Peter.Schleck@legislature.maine.gov>, "Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability" <opega@legislature.maine.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>

Hello Ms. Devine,

Thank you for your response. I understand you are not able to provide legal advice and that your role is limited to distributing the recording.

However, because the Department included a confidentiality notice citing 22 M.R.S. §4008(4) when transmitting the audio, I have been attempting in good faith to obtain written clarification regarding what, if any, disclosure restrictions apply to a party in an administrative appeal proceeding.

At this time, no explanation, policy determination, or appropriate point of contact has been provided who can clarify whether the recording is confidential, partially confidential, or part of the administrative record.

This is especially important because the recording and related communications involve matters of significant public interest, including transparency in Department processes, the handling of administrative appeals, and the Department's own communications surrounding delays tied to MaineCare prioritization.

Accordingly, I respectfully request that the Division identify the appropriate person or office (hearing officer, agency counsel, or records access officer) who can provide an official determination regarding any confidentiality or disclosure obligations.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Ryan Michaels

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**8 attachments**



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3K



**image002.png**  
1K



**image003.png**  
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**image001.png**  
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**image002.png**  
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**image003.png**  
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**Devine, Krystal** <Krystal.Devine@maine.gov>  
To: rtgmich <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Fri, Feb 6, 2026 at 3:02 PM

Good afternoon Mr. Michaels,

The statute was provided to you. If you would like clarification, you may seek an attorney for that.

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**Ryan michaels** <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb 9, 2026 at 8:00 AM

Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com

To: "Devine, Krystal" <Krystal.Devine@maine.gov>

Cc: "Schleck, Peter" <Peter.Schleck@legislature.maine.gov>, "Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability" <oepga@legislature.maine.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>

Hello Ms. Devine,

Thank you for your response.

I understand you are not able to provide legal interpretation of the statute referenced in your original email.

However, for the sake of clarity and compliance, I am requesting confirmation of one factual point:

Is there any written order, confidentiality agreement, or agency policy specific to my administrative appeal recording that restricts my use or disclosure of it beyond the general statutory reference provided?

I am copying Mr. Schleck, Oepga, and Ombudsman solely for transparency and documentation of this inquiry.

Thank you for your time,  
Ryan Michaels

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**DHHS Admin Hearings** <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Mon, Feb 9, 2026 at 10:44 AM

To: rtgmich <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Good morning Mr. Michaels,

As I stated, the statute was provided to you. If you would like further clarification/guidance you may seek an attorney.

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**Ryan michaels** <rtgmich@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb 9, 2026 at 11:00 AM

Reply-To: rtgmich@gmail.com

To: DHHS Admin Hearings <DHHSAdminHearings@maine.gov>

Cc: "Schleck, Peter" <Peter.Schleck@legislature.maine.gov>, "Legislature: Program Evaluation & Government Accountability" <oepga@legislature.maine.gov>, Christine Alberi <ombudsman@cwombudsman.org>

Thank you for your response.

I understand the Department is allowing they are unable to provide clarification or guidance beyond the statutory reference already provided. I will note for my records that I requested clarification in good faith multiple times and that no additional explanation was offered.

Ryan Michaels

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