

H77

**MAINE=
HUMAN
RIGHTS
COMMISSION**

51 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0051
www.state.me.us/mhrc

Executive Director
PATRICIA E. RYAN

Commission Counsel
JOHN E. CARNES

August 31, 2001

MEMORANDUM

TO: Staff

FROM: Patricia E Ryan, Executive Director
Maine Human Rights Commission 

SUBJECT: WHEN INVESTIGATOR'S REPORTS BECOME PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

The Maine Human Rights Act, 5 M.R.S.A. §4612(1)(B), reads in part:

"...The complaint and evidence... shall become a matter of public record at the conclusion of the investigation of the complaint prior to a determination by the Commission. An investigation is concluded upon issuance of a letter of dismissal or upon listing of the complaint on a published commission meeting agenda, whichever comes first...."

I think the word "published" is the significant descriptor of that point in the process when we should release Reports. Therefore, effective now, the Commission will not release Investigator's Reports until the Agenda on which the case is listed is released.

I know that parties sometimes release Reports they have received to the press prior to the publication of the agenda. If you receive inquiries, please cite the above, or refer calls to me.