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March 23, 2012

Lee van der Voo
909 N. Beech St., Suite 209B
Portland, OR 79227

RE: Petition for Public Records Disclosure Order
Multnomah County Circuit Court Records
DOJ File No. 198040-GA0024-12

Dear Ms. van der Voo:

This letter is the Attorney General's order on your petition for disclosure of records under the Oregon Public Records Law, ORS 192.410 to 192.505. We received your petition on March 19, 2012. The petition asks the Attorney General to direct the Multnomah County Circuit Court to make available any civil commitment records held by that court concerning John Shick, aka Willim Scolskan or Willim Scholskan. For the reasons that follow, we respectfully deny your petition.

The Public Records Law confers a right to inspect any public records of a public body in Oregon, subject to certain exemptions and limitations. *See* ORS 192.420. ORS 192.502(9)(a) exempts from disclosure public records or information "the disclosure of which is prohibited or restricted or otherwise made confidential or privileged under Oregon law."

Disclosure of the type of records you requested is expressly prohibited by ORS 426.160(1). That statute prohibits a court having jurisdiction of any civil commitment proceeding from disclosing "any part of the record of the proceeding to any person," except in one of five limited circumstances. The only one of those circumstances that could apply to your request is "pursuant to court order." ORS 426.160(1)(e).

In other words, the Attorney General has no authority under the Public Records Law to order the Multnomah County Circuit Court to disclose any records of civil commitment proceedings within that court's jurisdiction. Disclosure of the records you requested, if there are any, would require an order of the court authorizing their disclosure. Accordingly, we respectfully deny your petition.

Sincerely,

MARY H. WILLIAMS
Deputy Attorney General

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c: Nori Cross, OJD