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March 20, 2018

Kendra Beebe
3800 SW Cedar Hills Blvd, Ste 230
Beaverton OR 97005

Re: Petition for Public Records Disclosure Order
Oregon Department of Human Services
DOJ File No. 100103-GA0015-18

Dear Ms. Beebe:

This letter is the Attorney General's order responding to your petition for disclosure under the Oregon Public Records Law, ORS 192.311 to 192.478.[1] Your petition, which we received on March 5, 2018, asks the Attorney General to order the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) to produce records relating to administrative action taken against a third person who received benefits under various public assistance programs.

ORS 192.314(1) provides you the right to inspect public records in Oregon, unless such records are expressly exempt under ORS 192.338, 192.345, or 192.355. ORS 192.355(9)[2] expressly exempts records the disclosure of which is prohibited or otherwise made confidential under Oregon law. In this case, the records you seek fall within the broad definition of public assistance records. *See* ORS 411.010(2). To protect applicants and recipients of public assistance, state and federal law treats public assistance records as confidential and prohibits the disclosure of "any public assistance records, files, papers or communications *for purposes other than those directly connected with the administration of the public assistance programs*...." ORS 411.320(1) (emphasis added); *also see* 7 USC 2020(e)(8) and 7 CFR 272.1(e).

The records you have requested concern a specific recipient of public assistance and are in DHS custody pursuant to its responsibility to administer public assistance programs. Because the records you seek are confidential under ORS 411.320(1) and their disclosure to you is "for

[1] Thank you for granting an extension on the deadline to issue this order.
[2] Previously found at ORS 192.502 but recently renumbered as ORS 192.355.

purposes other than those directly connected with the administration of the public assistance programs," we conclude they are expressly exempt from public disclosure under ORS 192.355(9). Therefore, we respectfully deny your petition.

Sincerely,

Frederick M. Boss
Deputy Attorney General

FMB:pjn/DM8826170
c via email only: Nicky Jeffreys, DHS