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October 10, 2025

VIA E-MAIL ONLY: frank@mikearnold.com

Frank Segarra
Law Office of Mike Arnold
401 E 10th Ave, Suite 470
Eugene, OR 97401

Re: Petition for Public Records Disclosure Order
Department of Human Services
DOJ File No.: 100101-GA0130-25

Dear Mr. Segarra:

This letter is the Attorney General's response to your petition for disclosure under the Oregon Public Records Law, ORS 192.311 to 192.478. Your petition asks the Attorney General to order the Department of Human Services (DHS) to disclose child welfare records related to your adult client. For the following reasons, we respectfully dismiss your petition as moot.

The Public Records Law confers the right to inspect public records in Oregon, unless such records are exempt under ORS 192.338, 192.345, or 192.355. ORS 192.314(1). The law is a disclosure law and exemptions from disclosure must be express. Any person denied the right to inspect or to receive a copy of a public record of a state agency may petition the Attorney General to review the record and determine if it may be withheld. ORS 192.411(1). The agency carries the burden to sustain its actions. ORS 192.411(1).

Your petition stems from a request made to DHS on behalf of a client for records regarding a specific child protective services matter that resulted in a founded disposition of abuse. Your petition indicates that you need these records to prepare an administrative appeal of the founded disposition.

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We contacted Caroline Burnell, Public Records Unit Administrator for DHS, regarding your petition. She explained that after reviewing your petition DHS has reconsidered its position and has elected to disclose to you records related to the finding against your client. For this reason, we respectfully dismiss your petition as moot. You are free, of course, to file a new petition with this office if you wish to contest DHS's subsequent handling of your records request.

Sincerely,

BENJAMIN GUTMAN
Interim Deputy Attorney General

DEP:pjn
c via e-mail only: Caroline Burnell (DHS)