DAN RAYFIELD
ATTORNEY GENERAL

BENJAMIN GUTMAN
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Justice Building
1162 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301-4096
Telephone: (503) 378-6002

July 28, 2026

VIA E-MAIL ONLY: alexandria@sherlagdemuniz.com

Alexandria Hanna
alexandria@sherlagdemuniz.com

Re: Petition for Public Records Disclosure Order
Department of Human Services
DOJ File No.: 100101-GA0139-26

Dear Ms. Hanna:

This letter is the Attorney General's response to your petition under the Oregon Public Records Law, ORS 192.311 to 192.431. Your petition seeks assistance from the Attorney General in obtaining child welfare records you and your client requested from the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS). For the reasons that follow, we respectfully deny your petition.

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). Upon receipt of a written public records request by an individual identified in an agency's published procedures for submitting requests, the agency is obligated to respond to the request "as soon as practicable and without unreasonable delay." ORS 192.329(1). An agency that is unable to complete its response within fifteen business days of receiving a written request is required to provide the requester with a reasonable estimated completion date. ORS 192.329(5). A requester may petition the Attorney General if they believe an agency has failed to comply with the processing timelines contained in ORS 192.329. ORS 192.407(1). The agency carries the burden of sustaining its actions. ORS 192.411(1).

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We reviewed the correspondence concerning the records request at issue. You and your client sent a series of related requests to ODHS beginning in April 2026. ODHS acknowledged the requests and then sent several emails extending the estimated completion date. You submitted your petition on July 21, 2028, indicating that you had not yet received any records. After receiving your petition, ODHS made two records productions. ODHS indicates that it has now produced all responsive assessments and screening reports and completed its response to the requests submitted by your firm. ODHS continues to work on the request sent by your client for "all records containing my name" and anticipates making an additional production on August 12, 2026.

The ODHS Public Records Unit works records requests in order of receipt. ODHS indicates that the total number of active requests in the queue is 3,560 with a backlog of 3,027. Because of this request volume, ODHS was unable to complete its response within 15 business days. By sending its letters to you and your client, ODHS complied with its obligation to provide you with a written statement of its new estimated completion date. ORS 192.329(5)(b). ODHS has not actually denied any requests, and the delays appear to be due to the significant volume of record requests ODHS is currently processing. Under these circumstances, we cannot conclude that ODHS has unreasonably delayed processing your request. We therefore respectfully deny your petition.

Sincerely,

BENJAMIN GUTMAN
Deputy Attorney General

DEP:pjn
c via e-mail only: Mallory Kenney (ODHS)