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October 22, 2026

VIA E-MAIL ONLY: bluefootedpig@gmail.com

Jonathan Steven
bluefootedpig@gmail.com

Re: Petition for Public Records Disclosure Order
Department of Human Services
DOJ File No.: 100101-GA0197-26

Dear Mr. Steven:

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 records you requested from the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) several months ago. For the reasons discussed below, we respectfully grant your petition.

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).

Your petition states that you submitted three records requests to ODHS this summer.[1] You explain that "ODHS has repeatedly extended its estimated completion dates without producing the requested records." We contacted Mallory Kenney, ODHS Public Records Unit Manager, about your requests. She explained that the extensions on your request were necessary due to limited agency resources. She said that the ODHS Public Records Unit works records requests in order of receipt. Ms. Kenney stated that the total number of active requests in the queue is 4,145 with a backlog of 3,645

[1] You submitted two requests on July 24, 2026, and another on August 4, 2026.

Given the number of requests ODHS is concurrently processing, we do not find it unreasonable that ODHS extended its response beyond fifteen business days, but your request shave now been pending for approximately four months. Under these circumstances, we grant your petition, and we order ODHS to complete its response by November 16, 2026. If ODHS elects not to comply with this order, it has seven days to announce its intention to seek judicial review. *See* ORS 192.407(3) and 192.411(2).

Sincerely,

BENJAMIN GUTMAN
Deputy Attorney General

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