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November 17, 1994

Reginald Wiensz
P.O. Box 118
Rickreall, OR 97371

Re: ***Petition for Public Records Disclosure Order: Department of Human Resources Child Support Records***

Dear Mr. Wiensz:

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. Your petition, which we received on November 15, 1994, asks the Attorney General to direct the Department of Human Resources, Recovery Services Section, Child Support Unit, to make available to you information regarding the method of payment by which a William Alvin Brooks may be making child support payments. For the reasons stated below, we respectfully deny your petition.

ORS 192.502(8) exempts from disclosure:

> Public records or information the disclosure of which is prohibited or restricted or otherwise made confidential or privileged under Oregon law.

This provision incorporates into the Public Records Law the confidentiality provisions of any other state statute.

ORS 25.260 provides:

> For the protection of applicants for and recipients of support enforcement services and the protection of any other person who may be a party to a proceeding to establish, modify or enforce a support obligation or an obligation to provide medical insurance coverage, the Support Enforcement Division, the

> district attorney and the Department of Human Resources ***shall not disclose*** or use the contents of ***any*** records, files, papers or communications for purposes other than those directly connected with the establishment and enforcement of support obligations including criminal nonsupport proceedings, and ***these records, files, papers and communications are considered confidential.***
> * * * *

(Emphasis added.) Thus, ORS 25.260 specifically prohibits the Department of Human Resources and the Support Enforcement Division of the Department of Justice from disclosing the contents of any records, files, papers or communications for purposes not directly connected with the establishment and enforcement of support obligations.

Because you clearly state that the purpose for which you seek disclosure of the requested information is the collection of a private debt, ORS 25.260 prohibits disclosure to you of that information. Accordingly, that information is also exempt from disclosure under the Public Record Law. ORS 192.502(8). Your petition is denied.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth S. Harchenko

ELIZABETH S. HARCHENKO
Special Counsel to the Attorney General

ESH:jpl/JAA014EF.W51