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September 3, 1996

Patrick Dinan
11200 SW Greenburg Road #37
Tigard, OR 97223

Re: Public Records Order Dated August 21, 1996

Dear Mr. Dinan:

This is in response to your letter of August 25, 1996. You asked for further clarification of the order denying your request for disclosure of documents from the Washington County District Attorney and the Department of Human Resources (DHR).

Your first question concerned the relationship between the District Attorney and the Child Support Program. You are correct, the District Attorney and DHR work closely together on child support matters. The legislature has given each of them responsibilities within the system. However, for purposes of the Public Records Law, when a request to compel disclosure is made for records in the possession of the District Attorney, the Attorney General has no jurisdiction. See ORS 192.480.

Your second question concerned your contacts with Gin Denison, the DHR Ombudsman. You believe that by requesting your records from Ms. Denison you had requested them from DHR. Ms. Denison is an employee of the Governor's office. She has an office in the DHR building for her convenience. However, she is not a member of DHR staff. You are correct in concluding that when you have questions about your child support case, or if you wish to request documents from DHR, you should contact that agency directly.

As I understand the status of this matter, we provided copies of the documents that satisfy your request with our August 25 order.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth S. Harchenko

ELIZABETH S. HARCHENKO
Special Counsel to the Attorney General

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