PENNSYLVANIA STATE TAX COLLECTOR'S ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. BOX 100 TELFORD, PENNSYLVANIA, 18969 (215)723-5640

January 16, 2009

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OFFICE OF OPEN RECORDS

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office of Open Records Attn: Lucinda Glinn, Attorney 400 North Street, Plaza Level Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225

RE: Advisory Opinion

Dear Attorney Glinn,

Could you please advise the elected Tax Collectors as to what procedures to follow concerning tax information from records in their possession?

1. Are our tax duplicates public information?

2. If we have an ordinance/resolution is it ok to charge for tax certification information that is required by title companies for settlements?

3. Are we an "Agency?"

4. What procedures should the taxing district give to the Tax Collector? Should this come from the county, school and municipality individually?

5. May a company request free info from the collector concerning individual taxpayers where the municipality has set a fee for this information?

6. What information should be made available to a taxpayer when they contact the collector for information that is not their concern?

This information could impact on possibly 2500 tax collectors in the state of Pennsylvania.

I would appreciate your response so that this info may be passed on to our association.

Thank you very kindly for your opinion on this matter.

Sincerely,

Emiline I. Weiss, President
PA State Tax Collector's Assoc. Inc





Urgent

Phone: 717-232-5445 • Fax: 717-232-5905 Email: mckillopassoc@comcast.net 213 State Street Suite 200 Harrisburg, PA 17101-1135

O Reply

O Comment

Date: 1-20-09 FAX TRANSMITTAL MS LUCIDA GUNN Fax #: 425-5343	
From: HEO MCKILLOP # of pages (Including	g cover EEVE
Re: REQUEST FOR ANADUSORY OPINION	JAN 2 1 2009 OFFICE OF OPEN RECO
SEE ATTACHED LETTER	
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION	
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For Review



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA OFFICE OF OPEN RECORDS

February 17, 2009

Ms. Emiline I. Weiss President PA State Tax Collector's Assoc. Inc. P.O. Box 100 Telford, Pennsylvania 18969

Re: Advisory Opinion Request: Applicability to Tax Collectors and Records in their Possession

Dear Ms. Weiss:

Thank you for writing to the Office of Open Records with your January 16, 2009 request for an Advisory Opinion pursuant to the Right-to-Know Law, 65 P.S. §§67.101, et seq., ("RTKL").

You asked the OOR interpret the application of the RTKL to Tax Collectors in the Commonwealth and the records that they possess. You outlined six inquiries in your letter and each one was discussed in detail during the January 29, 2009 teleconference held between representatives of Pennsylvania Tax Collectors' Association, including yourself, and the OOR, represented by Terry Mutchler, Barry Fox and myself. During that teleconference, the OOR advised that a written response to each of your six inquiries would be forthcoming.

Please be advised that the OOR has decided not to grant this request for an Advisory Opinion at this time. We are declining to accept this request because the request seeks responses to general questions rather than to a factual scenario capable of repetition, necessitating an application of law to specific circumstances. However, as we advised in the teleconference, we will be providing a written response to each of your questions in the near future so that you may circulate the guidance among your members and post it on the Association website. We will also reflect the responses on the OOR website within the Frequently Asked Questions page.

Thank you again for publicizing the application of the RTKL to your members.

Respectfully,

Lucinda Glinn