

From:
Rudolf Scott-Douglas Owens, MA, MPH
1208 SE Nehalem St.
Portland, OR 97202
503-232-3170

To:
Department of Health and Human Services
Attn: FOIA Coordinator
201 Townsend
Lansing, MI 48913

June 3, 2016

-Freedom of Information Act Records Request, for Public Records Held by the Department of Health and Human Services (Every Agency, Branch, and Office there within), per MCL 15.243 (Freedom of Information Act)
-Petitioner: Rudolf Scott-Douglas Owens (Rudy Owens), aka Martin Rudolf Brueggemann (former legal name)

Dear FOIA Coordinator:

Pursuant to the state [open records act](#) for public records, as records are defined by MCL 15.233, I request access to and copies of all communications—written or electronic, including but not limited to electronic mail—concerning requests by the petitioner, Rudolf Scott-Douglas Owens, also known as Rudy Owens, to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and any of its agencies and offices under its purview, including but not limited to the Central Adoption Registry and Vital Statistics. Records requested would include any and every reference to the petitioner.

Pursuant to the state open records act, I also request access to and copies of all communications—written or electronic, including but not limited to electronic mail—concerning requests by the petitioner, Rudolf Scott-Douglas Owens (Rudy Owens), who also may be referred to by state employees through his former legal name, Martin Rudolf Brueggemann (Martin Brueggemann), to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and any of its agencies and offices under its purview, including but not limited to the Central Adoption Registry and Vital Statistics. Records requested would include any and every reference to the petitioner.

The petitioner is further requesting a fee waiver and/or reduction of the fee because the request concerns the matter of birth records management for adoptees, which is a substantive matter of public policy debated widely in Michigan and all 50 states by elected bodies and public entities.

Adoptees number in the millions in the U.S. population, and debates over the management of sealed and original birth records remains a major political topic that is in the public spotlight and is of substantial local, state, and national interest. As a matter of public policy, records issues have been in the public interest and debated by public bodies now since the

1930s. Therefore, it is in the public interest to waive these fees because furnishing copies of the public record how state bodies deliberate on a public policy issue can be considered as primarily benefiting the general public. Ultimately, records management of critical and essential birth records is one of the most important functions of government at the state and national level, and how public bodies manage those records is therefore beneficial information that will only serve the public good and the people of the state of Michigan.

Should a fee be charged and not waived, it is the petitioner's expectation that the fee structure and method of notification will be in accordance with guidelines published by the department online at:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/DHHS_FOIA_summary_7-1-15_492889_7.pdf.

According to the State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, upon legal date of receipt of a FOIA request, the department has five business days to respond. If needed, however, the department may also send a written notice extending the time to respond by an additional 10 business days.

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Rudolf Scott-Douglas Owens/Rudy Owens
Certified Mail
CC: FOIA Legal Records
Signed copy of original sent by email, June 3, 2016