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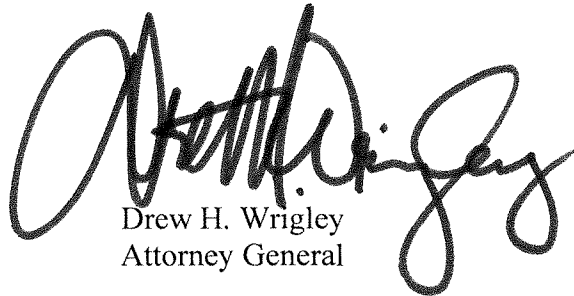
OPEN RECORDS AND MEETINGS SUMMARY OPINION
2026-O-19

DATE ISSUED: August 31, 2026

ISSUED TO: North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services

SUMMARY OPINION¹

Richard W. Vengels III requested an opinion from this office under N.D.C.C. § 44-04-21.1 asking whether the Child Support Section of the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) violated N.D.C.C. § 44-04-18 by withholding records responsive to his open records request. The requester alleges that DHHS did not provide him with records in its possession responsive to his request. DHHS states that it does not have any records responsive to the request and did not withhold any responsive records. This office is required to base an opinion on an alleged open records law violation on the facts given by the public entity.² Based on the facts provided by DHHS, it is my opinion that DHHS did not violate the open records law because it did not have any responsive records in its possession.³



Drew H. Wrigley
Attorney General

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cc: Richard W. Vengels III

¹ This Summary Opinion is issued pursuant to the authority granted to this office in N.D.C.C. § 44-04-21.1(1).

² N.D.C.C. § 44-04-21.1(1).

³ See N.D.A.G. 2024-O-08 (“Public entities are only responsible for providing records that exist and that they have in their possession.”).