

1981 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. 38 (S.C.A.G.), 1981 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 81-20, 1981 WL 96546

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

Opinion No. 81-20

March 13, 1981

**\*1 SUBJECT: Public Records—Freedom of Information—Requirement to Extract and List Information from Public Records.**

The Freedom of Information Act, § 30–4–10, et seq., does not require a public body to prepare and furnish a list that reflects information extracted from public records.

TO: Honorable Irene K. Rudnick  
Member  
House of Representatives  
District No. 85—Aiken County

QUESTION:

The Aiken County Administrator has been requested under the Freedom of Information Act to furnish a list of the names of delinquent taxpayers and, additionally, of the executions returned uncollectable during the 1979–80 fiscal year with the reason for such return. According to the request, the information is possessed by the tax collector's office, however, that office does not maintain the information in the form requested. The question, therefore, is whether the county is required to prepare and deliver the list.

APPLICABLE LAW:

[§ 30–4–30 of the 1976 South Carolina Code of Laws.](#)

DISCUSSION:

We find no statutory requirement that the list be prepared. [Section 30–4–30](#) provides in part that:

‘(a) Any person has a right to inspect or copy any public record of a public body, except as otherwise provided by § 30–4–40, in accordance with reasonable rules concerning time and place of access.

(b) The public body may establish and collect fees not to exceed the actual cost of searching for or making copies of records.

\* \* \*.’

As understood, the records regarding delinquent taxpayers and executions in the tax collector's office are available for inspection and copying. It is not a copy of these public records that is here requested. The request is that Aiken County extract and furnish certain information in listed form from such records. The extraction and listing of such information is not required of the county by the Freedom of Information Act.

CONCLUSION:

The Freedom of Information Act, § 30-4-10, et seq., does not require a public body to prepare and furnish a list that reflects information extracted from public records.

Joe L. Allen, Jr.  
Deputy Attorney General

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