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Description of document: The state of Tennessee list of prohibited or banned personalized license plates, procedures for screening personalized license plate applications, and where available, administrative appeals of withdrawn personalized plates, 2012

Requested date: 27-November-2012

Released date: 05-December-2012

Posted date: 28-January-2013

Source of document: State of Tennessee
Department of Revenue
Legal Office
500 Deaderick Street
6th Floor Andrew Jackson Building
Nashville, TN 37242

Note: Not all requested items were available from all respondents
This material from state Motor Vehicle Departments contains references to language and material that some people may find offensive and may not be suitable for all ages.

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STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
LEGAL OFFICE
500 DEADERICK STREET
6TH FLOOR ANDREW JACKSON BUILDING
NASHVILLE, TN 37242
(615) 741-2348

December 5, 2012

VIA US Mail

Re: Public Records Request

I am writing in response to your request, submitted to the Tennessee Department of Revenue (the "Department") via letter dated November 27, 2012, in which you ask to be provided with: "[a] copy of the list of prohibited personalized license plates"; "[a] copy of the internal instructions to DMV employees on procedures for screening personalized license plate applications for offensive or objectionable words or phrases or messages"; and "[a] copy of each administrative appeal letter from A) applicants whose personalized license plate was rejected, and/or from B) motorists whose personalized license plates were reclaimed by the DMV following a complaint from a member of the public."

The Department is unable to comply with your request. The Tennessee Public Records Act requires that state, county and municipal records be open for personal inspection "by any *citizen* of Tennessee" unless otherwise prohibited under state law. TENN. CODE ANN. § 10-7-503(a)(2)(A) (2012) (emphasis added). The Office of the Attorney General for the State of Tennessee has determined that the state may deny access to public records to persons who are not citizens of the state. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 01-132 (August 22, 2001). Based on information in your letter request, including your mailing address, it appears that you are not a citizen of Tennessee.

The Department therefore respectfully declines to fulfill your request. If you have questions, please contact me at (615) 741-2348.

Sincerely,

Garrett E. Guillory
Tax Counsel

GEG:KEH