

FILE

Subject

Records

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State Boards

Alcoholism



STATE OF KANSAS

Office of the Attorney General

State Capitol Bldg. (913) 296-2215 Topeka, Kansas 66612

VERN MILLER
Attorney General

May 2, 1974

Opinion No. 74- 133

Mr. Allan Hancock
Assistant Director
Governor's Commission on Alcoholism
State Office Building
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Mr. Hancock:

You advise that as part of a project by the Kansas Commission on Alcoholism, in conjunction with the federal government, your agency will be engaged in contacting district and deputy coroners throughout the state, to assemble statistical information regarding the number of alcohol-related automobile accident deaths. You inquire whether these officers are free to disclose such information, which will not involve disclosure of the identity of any deceased person, but only pertain to numbers thereof in alcohol-related accidents.

K.S.A. 19-1033 and -1034 make clear the records of the coroner are to be deemed public records. Presumably, the information which you seek will involve no data beyond that prepared and kept by the coroner in the maintenance of the official records of his office. Thus, in our opinion, and based upon the foregoing, district and deputy coroners in this state are free to disclose the desired information relating to numbers of deaths in alcohol-related automobile accidents, such information being germane to and of the kind which may be kept in the ordinary course of the performance of the duties of the office.

Yours very truly,

Handwritten signature of Vern Miller in cursive script.

VERN MILLER
Attorney General

VM:JRM:jsm