



STATE OF KANSAS

Office of the Attorney General

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Curt T. Schneider
Attorney General

April 15, 1977

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION NO. 77- 126

Mr. Ron Todd
Assistant Commissioner
Kansas Insurance Department
1st Floor - State Office Building
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Re: Public Records--Access--Persons Entitled

Synopsis: Any citizen, whether a resident of this state or of another state, is entitled to access to documents which are public records under K.S.A. 45-201.

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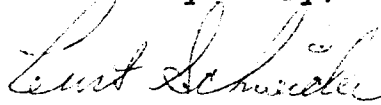
Dear Mr. Todd:

You advise that recently, your department has received requests from persons who are not residents of this state to be furnished copies of documents which are required to be kept and maintained, pursuant to K.S.A. 45-201. That provision requires that such documents be available for "inspection by any citizen." You request my opinion whether the term "citizen" applies only to Kansas residents, or to any citizen of the United States. The use of the phrase "any citizen" suggests no legislative intention to restrict access to public records to Kansas residents only, in my judgment. The phrase is not ambiguous, and in my judgment, access must be afforded pursuant to the clear mandate of the act, to "any citizen" of the United States, whether a resident of this state or of any other state. Whether restriction of access on the basis of national citizenship alone could constitutionally be applied to bar access if demanded by a resident alien is not

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raised here, and it is sufficient to respond only that any person, whether a resident of this state or any other, is entitled to access to public records under this provision.

Yours very truly,



CURT T. SCHNEIDER
Attorney General

CTS:JRM:kj