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County Attorney Harris County, Texas

FILE # ML-41812 1.D.# 41967

January 25, 2001

The Honorable John Cornyn Attorney General of Texas Supreme Court Building P.O. Box 12548 Austin, Texas 78711-2548

RECEIVED IJAN 2 9 2001 OPINION COMMANDEE

Attention: Opinion Committee

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Re: Whether an eligibility and financial assistance policy of the Harris County Hospital District violates any state or federal laws?

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Harris County Hospital District Board of Managers is considering an eligibility policy and financial assistance program authorizing the District to provide discounted, nonemergency healthcare to persons residing within its boundaries, without regard to their immigration or legal status. Free or discounted care is provided as long as a person can establish residence in Harris County and need for financial assistance.

We respectfully are requesting an expedited opinion from your Office regarding this issue. Our memorandum brief is enclosed. If we can provide you with any additional information in order to expedite this request, please contact us.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL P. FLEMING County Attorney By Mercedes Leal

Assistant County Attorney

Encl.

Hospital District Division: 2525 Holly Hall, Suite 190, Houston, TX 77054 (713) 746-6556 Fax (713) 746-6558 Children's Protective Division: 2525 Murworth, Suite 300, Houston, TX 77054 (713) 394-4446 Fax (713) 394-4473