

Charles Storrow 4/14/2020

Dear Senator White,

This is to follow up on our phone conversation earlier this morning.

As we discussed, ACCD recently revised its guidance regarding accessing municipal offices, including land records. The guidance, with the new language shown in red, is as follow:

Other business-related activities that are not providing services or functions deemed critical public health and safety or economic and national security are directed to suspend in-person operations under the Governor's Executive Order unless specifically exempted. Services such as land records and title searches; marriage license applications (**see separate guidance on marriages**); birth or death certificate searches; library lending are not considered critical to public health and safety or economic and national security. **In most cases, land records research and title searches are similarly non-essential services and functions; however, in the most extenuating circumstances where irreparable adverse economic or personal impact would result or the activity is in support of a COVID-19 response effort, the Town may consider a limited provision of the necessary service, such as scheduling a rare in person appointment for access to records. This exemption specifically applies to town clerks assisting business owners accessing disaster lending products that may require access to town offices. The Vermont Secretary of State's Office has provided guidance to local officials and municipal staff regarding elections and Vermont's open meeting law, which can be found on the Secretary of State's website.**

This guidance is under "municipalities" in ACCD's sector by sector guidance.

See: <https://accd.vermont.gov/content/stay-home-stay-safe-sector-specific-guidance>

I look forward to further discussing this matter with you and your committee.

Thank you—Chuck Storrow

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