

To Whom it May Concern,

It has always been my impression that town and city clerks were employed by the public to serve the public. Their job being to afford access to a wide range of public documents during regularly scheduled business hours and not at their own convenience. Genealogists are taxpayers as well and help to pay the salaries of those who would deny timely access to them.

This law is discriminatory and far too open ended. Some of those who fall into the category of genealogists are professionals and must meet professional commitments and deadlines. Denying access on a whim, for an indefinite future "appointment" could well cause a loss of income for those individuals. Income that could not then be taxed by the State of Connecticut.

The Department of Public Health testimony on your website cites sensitive issues that cannot be discussed in front of genealogists (is it OK to discuss in front of other patrons ?) Perhaps it would make sense to have a private room where discussions of this nature can take place without impeding the normal flow of business in the clerk's office. Are these discussions occurring in the vault which is where many of the records are kept and where most genealogists would be? I doubt it.

I ask that this bill be rejected and that genealogists retain the same rights as all other citizens to access public records during normal business hours.

Respectfully
Sandra A. Slifka

24 Whisconier Vlg
Brookfield, CT 06804