



March 12, 2025

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# Correspondence From County Clerks

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Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website ([ctas.tennessee.edu](http://ctas.tennessee.edu)). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

The University of Tennessee  
County Technical Assistance Service  
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[www.ctas.tennessee.edu](http://www.ctas.tennessee.edu)

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# Correspondence From County Clerks

Reference Number: CTAS-1408

Correspondence from a county clerk or register of deeds may be opened pursuant to a prison's regular mail policy without violating the First Amendment rights of a prisoner when there is no specific indication that the envelope contains confidential, personal, or privileged material; that it was sent from an attorney; that it relates to a currently pending legal matter in which the inmate is involved; or that it is to be opened only in the presence of the prisoner. As a general matter mail from a county clerk or register of deeds does not implicate constitutionally protected legal mail rights. *Sallier*, 343 F.3d at 876.

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**Source URL:** <https://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/eli/correspondence-county-clerks>