



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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24-ORD-073

March 20, 2024

In re: Randy Skaggs/Knott County Judge/Executive

Summary: The Knott County Judge/Executive's Office ("the agency") violated the Open Records Act ("the Act") when it did not respond to a request to inspect records.

Open Records Decision

Randy Skaggs ("Appellant") claims that, on January 22, 2024, he mailed a request to the agency for copies of various records related to the county's animal control shelters.¹ In a box in the top left corner of the request, in large font, the Appellant asked that "All Documents Be Remitted By April 1st, 2024." However, on the second page of the request, in underlined text in the last paragraph, he asked the agency to "inform [him] by Friday, February 9th, 2024, as to whether or not you intend to honor" his request. Having received no response from the agency by February 19, 2024, the Appellant initiated this appeal.

Upon receiving a request for records under the Act, a public agency "shall determine within five (5) [business] days . . . after the receipt of any such request whether to comply with the request and shall notify in writing the person making the request, within the five (5) day period, of its decision." KRS 61.880(1). The agency carries the burden of proof in sustaining its action. KRS 61.880(2)(c). Here, despite the Office issuing notice of this appeal and inviting the agency to respond, it has put forth no argument or evidence to dispute the Appellant's claim. Accordingly, the Office finds the agency violated the Act when it failed to respond to the Appellant's request.

¹ The Appellant claims to have mailed the same request to all 120 county judge/executives. As proof, he provides a picture of a tray containing several envelopes. However, the only address that is legible in the picture is the address at which the Appellant submitted his request to the Cumberland County Judge/Executive.

A party aggrieved by this decision may appeal it by initiating an action in the appropriate circuit court under KRS 61.880(5) and KRS 61.882 within 30 days from the date of this decision. Under KRS 61.880(3), the Attorney General shall be notified of any action in circuit court, but shall not be named as a party in that action or in any subsequent proceedings. The Attorney General will accept notice of the complaint emailed to OAGAppeals@ky.gov.

Russell Coleman
Attorney General

/s/ Marc Manley
Marc Manley
Assistant Attorney General

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Distributed to:

Randy Skaggs
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