



## COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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25-ORD-171

July 7, 2025

In re: Grayson Tea/Grayson County Detention Center

**Summary:** The Grayson County Detention Center (“the Center”) did not violate the Open Records Act (“the Act”) when it denied a request that failed to contain the name of the applicant.

### *Open Records Decision*

On June 6, 2025, an individual submitted a request under the name “Grayson Tea” (“Appellant”) to the Center, seeking records related to the Center’s operations. The request did not state the manner in which the Appellant qualified as a resident of the Commonwealth. The Center denied the request because only residents of the Commonwealth shall have the right to public records. At a later date, the Appellant resubmitted his or her request, asserting that it complied with KRS 61.872(2) because it stated that the Appellant lives in Kentucky and because it included the name and signature, “Grayson Tea.” The Center then restated its denial. This appeal followed.

All applications to inspect records must contain the name and signature of the person making the request. KRS 61.872(2)(a) (authorizing the official custodian to require that an application be “signed by the applicant and with his or her name printed legibly on the application”). Moreover, the official records custodian may require a person requesting to inspect records “to provide a statement in the written application of the manner in which the applicant is a resident of the Commonwealth under KRS 61.870(10)(a) to (f).” KRS 61.872(2)(a). Here, the Appellant explains that he or she has satisfied KRS 61.872(2)(a) because he or she resides within the Commonwealth and because he or she provided the name “Grayson Tea.” However, the Appellant has explained that Grayson Tea is not his or her real name. Rather, it is the name of a Facebook account the Appellant administers.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A Facebook account is not a “resident of the Commonwealth” under KRS 61.870(10) because it is not itself an individual, a business entity, or a news-gathering organization. *See, e.g.*, KRS 14A.1-

The Appellant argues that the Act “does not require a legal name,” and thus, KRS 61.872(2)(a) was satisfied when he or she provided the name “Grayson Tea.” This is not so. The Act allows an agency’s custodian to require that an application for records include “*his or her name* printed legibly on the application.” KRS 61.872(2)(a).<sup>2</sup> Thus, an application for records that includes a pseudonym instead of the requester’s real name fails to comply with KRS 61.872(2)(a). *See, e.g.*, 22-ORD-122 (finding an anonymous request did not comply with KRS 61.872(2)(a)); 21-ORD-115 (same). There is no dispute that “Grayson Tea” is not the real name of the requester. Accordingly, although the requester provided a statement of residency, he or she did not comply with the requirement in KRS 61.872(2)(a) that a request include the requester’s name. Accordingly, the Center did not violate the Act when it denied the Appellant’s request.<sup>3</sup>

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](mailto:OAGAppeals@ky.gov).

**Russell Coleman**  
**Attorney General**

/s/ Zachary M. Zimmerer  
Zachary M. Zimmerer  
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070(7) (defining “entity”). Thus, the relevant inquiry here is whether the *owner* of the Facebook account is a “resident of the Commonwealth.”

<sup>2</sup> The Act itself does not define what it means by the word “name.” *Cf.* KRS 61.870. But elsewhere, the Kentucky Revised Statutes provide that “[t]he real name of an individual shall include his or her surname at birth, or his or her name as changed by a court of competent jurisdiction, or the surname of a married woman.” KRS 365.015(1). Though not dispositive of the issue involved in this appeal, the Office finds this definition persuasive.

<sup>3</sup> The Appellant does not and could not argue that the Facebook account “Grayson Tea” qualifies as a resident of the Commonwealth as defined by KRS 61.870(10)(a) (“An individual residing in the Commonwealth.”). Simply put, a social media account cannot be “[a]n individual residing in the Commonwealth.”). Although the Act does provide that business entities and certain news-gathering organizations can be residents of the Commonwealth, *see* KRS 61.870(10)(b), (c), (e), (f), (g), the Appellant does not argue that the Grayson Tea Facebook page qualifies under any of those definitions.

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Distributed to:

Grayson Tea

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