



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
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25-ORD-398

December 11, 2025

In re: Victor Lawless/Lebanon Police Department

**Summary:** The Lebanon Police Department (“the Department”) 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 October 30, 2025, Victor Lawless (“Appellant”) submitted a request to the Department seeking body-worn camera footage, dashboard camera footage, and a citation related to specific traffic accident. The Appellant’s request did not include a statement explaining how he qualified as a resident of the Commonwealth, and in his subsequent communication regarding his request, he stated that the name under which he submitted his request is an alias. The Department then asked that the Appellant provide his actual name. Upon the Appellant’s refusal to do so, the Department denied his request. 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”). “[A]n application for records that includes a pseudonym instead of the requester’s real name fails to comply with KRS 61.872(2)(a).” 25-ORD-171; *see, e.g.*, 22-ORD-122 (finding an anonymous request did not comply with KRS 61.872(2)(a)); 21-ORD-115 (same). Here, the Appellant admits that “Victor Lawless” is not his or her real name.<sup>1</sup> Accordingly, he or she did not comply with the requirement in KRS 61.872(2)(a) that a request include the

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<sup>1</sup> *See, e.g.*, KRS 365.015(1)(a) (“The 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.”).

requester's name. Thus, the Department did not violate the Act when it denied the Appellant's request.

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/ Zachary M. Zimmerer  
Zachary M. Zimmerer  
Assistant Attorney General

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Distributed to:

Victor Lawless  
Wesley Cox, Chief Record Clerk, Lebanon Police Department