



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**RUSSELL COLEMAN**  
**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**1024 CAPITAL CENTER DRIVE**  
**SUITE 200**  
**FRANKFORT, KY 40601**  
**(502) 696-5300**

**25-ORD-422**

December 23, 2025

In re: William Bolt/Harlan County Detention Center

**Summary:** The Harlan County Detention Center (“the Center”) did not violate the Open Records Act (“the Act”), when it denied a request for records that, if released, could pose a security threat to the safety of a correctional facility.

***Open Records Decision***

William Bolt (“Appellant”) submitted a request to the Center for eight categories of records related to the Center’s treatment of him on October 16 and 17, 2025. One portion of the request sought certain surveillance footage taken from the Center. The Center denied the request for surveillance video, citing 17-ORD-064, KRS 197.025(1), and KRS 61.878(1) as authority. This appeal followed.

Under KRS 197.025(1), “no person shall have access to any records if the disclosure is deemed by the commissioner of the department or his designee to constitute a threat to the security of the inmate, any other inmate, correctional staff, the institution, or any other person.” The Office has historically deferred to the judgment of correctional facilities in determining whether the release of certain records would constitute a security threat under KRS 197.025(1). Specifically, the Office has found that the denial of surveillance footage under KRS 197.025(1) because the footage would reveal “methods or practices used to obtain the video, the areas of observation and blind spots for the cameras.” *See, e.g.,* 22-ORD-038; 17-ORD-211; 15-ORD-121; 13-ORD-022. Here, the Center maintains that release of the requested surveillance footage would pose a threat to the security of its staff and inmates. As a result, the Complex did not violate the Act when it denied a request for copies of its surveillance footage.

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/ Matthew Ray  
Matthew Ray  
Assistant Attorney General

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Distributed to:

William Bolt  
Fred Busroe, Jr.  
BJ Burkhart