



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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26-ORD-016

January 15, 2026

In re: Jate Richardson/Knox Circuit Court Clerk

Summary: The Open Records Act (“the Act”) does not apply to records of the Knox Circuit Court Clerk (“the Clerk”).

Open Records Decision

On December 23, 2025, Jate Richardson (“the Appellant”) allegedly mailed a request to the Clerk for records related to a specific case. Having received no response by January 8, 2026, the Appellant initiated this appeal.

Although KRS 61.880(2) charges the Attorney General with the duty to resolve disputes regarding access to public records, the Act is not binding on the judicial branch. *Ex parte Farley*, 570 S.W.2d 617, 624 (Ky. 1978). Because the Act does not apply to court records, the Clerk, who is purportedly the custodian of the requested records, was not required to respond to the request. *See* 98-ORD-6. Accordingly, the Office dismisses the appeal.

A party aggrieved by this decision may appeal it by initiating an action in the appropriate circuit court pursuant to KRS 61.880(5) and KRS 61.882 within 30 days from the date of this decision. Pursuant to 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/ James M. Herrick
James M. Herrick
Assistant Attorney General

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Distributed to:

Jate Richardson
Greg Helton, Clerk