



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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26-ORD-310

July 15, 2026

In re: Hassan Crawford/Covington Police Department

Summary: The Covington Police Department (“the Department”) did not violate the Open Records Act (“the Act”) when it denied the Appellant’s request on the basis of residency.

Open Records Decision

On June 16, 2026, Hassan Crawford (“the Appellant”) submitted a request to the Department seeking law enforcement records related to “seat belt citations” and records related to the Appellant’s vehicle. In response, the Department asked the Appellant how he qualified as a resident of the Commonwealth as defined in KRS 61.870(10). The Appellant stated he was a “domestic business entity with a location in the Commonwealth” and further stated that he is a “Managing Member of business entities registered and operating within the Commonwealth of Kentucky.” The Department then asked the Appellant to identify the business. In response to that inquiry, the Appellant stated that his “request is filed strictly in [his] individual, private capacity” and “is not submitted on behalf of, nor sponsored by, any specific business or commercial entity in Kentucky.”

The Department then restated that it would only fulfill his request upon receipt of a statement of residency from the Appellant. The Appellant maintained that he is a “domestic business entity with a location in the Commonwealth.” The Department then denied the request because the Appellant had not explained how he qualifies as a resident of the Commonwealth. This appeal followed.

Under KRS 61.872(2)(a), “[a]ny resident of the Commonwealth shall have the right to inspect public records.” A public agency “may require the applicant 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).” *Id.* Included in the definition of a “resident of the Commonwealth” is a “domestic business entity with a location in the Commonwealth.” KRS 61.870(10)(b).

“[A] public agency is not required to simply accept a statement of residency that it knows to be false.” 25-ORD-156. The Appellant claims to be a “domestic business entity with a location in the Commonwealth.” KRS 61.870(10)(b). However, he also stated that his “request is filed strictly in [his] individual, private capacity” and “is not submitted on behalf of, nor sponsored by, any specific business or commercial entity in Kentucky.” This personal statement cannot be reconciled with his statement of residency, for an individual person is not a “business entity.” If the Appellant was acting in his personal capacity and not acting on behalf of a business in Kentucky, he cannot qualify as a resident of the Commonwealth, as the term is defined in KRS 61.870(10)(b).

On appeal, the Appellant explains for the first time that he submitted the request in his capacity as “Managing Member of ReelEdge Entertainment LLC.”¹ Although that statement might be sufficient to qualify him as a resident of the Commonwealth under KRS 61.870(10)(b), the Appellant did not include a statement of that nature in his request to the Department. As the Office has previously noted, KRS 61.876(4)(e)2. “allows a public agency to require a statement, *at the time of the request*, as to ‘the manner in which the requester is a resident of the Commonwealth under KRS 61.870(1)(a) to (f).’” 26-ORD-032. Thus, the Department’s response to the Appellant’s request must be evaluated based on the information presented to the Department at that time. Here, because the Appellant originally submitted conflicting statements regarding whether he was acting on behalf of a “domestic business entity with a location in the Commonwealth,” the Department did not violate the Act when it denied the request on the basis of residency.

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.

¹ See <https://perma.cc/QGT4-LYYT> (last visited July 9, 2026).

Russell Coleman
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/s/ Zachary M. Zimmerer
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Distributed to:

Hassan Crawford, Appellant
Col. Justin Wietholter, Chief of Police, City of Covington
Frank Schultz, City Solicitor, City of Covington