



Keith L. Jackson
Secretary

Andy Beshear
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KENTUCKY STATE POLICE
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Col. Phillip Burnett, Jr.
Commissioner

September 9, 2026

Rozanne Powell
CrimeDocket Media LLC
2172 E Buder Ave,
Burton, MI, 48529
foia@crimedocket.com

Re: Open Records Request: 26-10748

Dear Rozanne Powell:

This letter responds to your August 31, 2026, request, which the Kentucky State Police ("KSP") received via NextRequest on the next business day, September 1, 2026. In your August 31 request, you sought the following:

Records from the investigation of the July 2015 disappearance and homicide of Crystal Rogers of Bardstown, for which Brooks Houck was convicted of murder and tampering with physical evidence in July 2025 and sentenced to life imprisonment in September 2025, and for which co-defendants Joseph Lawson and Steve Lawson were likewise convicted in 2025:

- (a) Audio and video recordings of all interviews of Brooks Houck conducted by the Kentucky State Police, the Bardstown Police Department, or cooperating agencies, including the 2015 interviews, in complete and unedited form;
- (b) Audio and video recordings of interviews of Joseph Lawson and Steve Lawson;
- (c) 911/dispatch audio and CAD records relating to the initial missing-person report and the discovery of the victim's vehicle on the Bluegrass Parkway;
- (d) Scene, search, and aerial/drone video from searches of the Houck family farm and related properties;
- (e) The complete investigative case report and supplemental reports;
- (f) The evidence/property log and any index or inventory of audio-visual materials in the case file.

KSP is denying your August 31 request under KRS 61.878(1)(h), which exempts from disclosure "[r]ecords of law enforcement agencies or agencies involved in administrative adjudication that were

compiled in the process of detecting and investigating statutory or regulatory violations if the disclosure of the information could harm the agency by revealing the identity of informants or witnesses not otherwise known or by premature release of information to be used in a prospective law enforcement action or administrative adjudication.” Here, KSP, a law enforcement agency, compiled these records in the process of detecting and investigating statutory violations and ongoing investigation of the incidents surrounding the Crystal Rogers case.

The premature disclosure of KSP’s investigative records could be detrimental to the investigation because the case is still under investigation, and authorities believe others were involved that will eventually be charged. The premature release of the investigative records could alert those who may be charged of the direction of the investigation and their status as persons of interest. Additionally, the records contain factual details surrounding the event being investigated, which if released could make it impossible to determine the veracity of statements of witnesses yet to be interviewed and those that may testify at any resulting trial. Finally, the premature release of the investigative records could also pose a significant risk of causing jurors at a potential trial to develop preconceived opinions regarding this incident prior to being presented with all of the relevant evidence in its entirety. At such an “early stage in the criminal process, when no evidence has yet been presented,” the Attorney General has acknowledged “that the unpredictable effect of the public release of [the investigative records] upon the fairness of the trial constitutes more than a speculative risk of harm.” 14-ORD-139, p. 8; 14-ORD-223 (holding that “current status of a criminal prosecution could be a factor affecting the threshold for a showing of harm to the agency under KRS 61.878(1)(h) as interpreted in [*City of Ft. Thomas v. Cincinnati Enquirer*, 506 S.W.3d 842 (Ky. 2013)]”).

If you wish to appeal this decision, you may do so by filing a complaint with the Office of the Attorney General, Open Records/Open Meetings Division, 1024 Capital Center Drive, Suite 200, Frankfort, KY 40601, pursuant to KRS 61.880(2), or by filing an original action in Franklin Circuit Court under KRS 61.882. If you first appeal to the Attorney General but are dissatisfied with the Attorney General’s decision, you may further appeal to Circuit Court pursuant to KRS 61.880(5).

Sincerely,



Lydia C. Kendrick, CKP
Official Custodian of Records
Public Records Branch