



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DANIEL CAMERON  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

CAPITOL BUILDING, SUITE 118  
700 CAPITAL AVENUE  
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601  
(502) 696-5300  
FAX: (502) 564-2894

**22-ORD-067**

April 22, 2022

In re: Chad Heath/Hardin Circuit Court Clerk

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

***Open Records Decision***

On March 8, 2022, Chad Heath (“Appellant”) submitted four separate requests to the Clerk for a copy of a document in a criminal case in which he was the defendant. After receiving no response, 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 the custodian of the requested court records, was not required to respond to the request. *See* 98-ORD-6 (copy attached). Accordingly, this Office dismisses the appeal.

A party aggrieved by this decision may appeal it by initiating 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 e-mailed to OAGAppeals@ky.gov.

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**Daniel Cameron**  
**Attorney General**

*/s/ James M. Herrick*

James M. Herrick  
Assistant Attorney General

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Enclosure

Distributed to:

Mr. Chad Heath  
Loretta Crady, Clerk