



pennsylvania
OFFICE OF OPEN RECORDS

FINAL DETERMINATION

IN THE MATTER OF	:	
	:	
ROBERT MACCONNELL,	:	
Requester	:	
	:	
v.	:	Docket No.: AP 2026-1238
	:	
BUCKS COUNTY DISTRICT	:	
ATTORNEY’S OFFICE,	:	
Respondent	:	

The Office of Open Records (“OOR”) received the above-captioned appeal under the Right-to-Know Law (“RTKL”), 65 P.S. §§ 67.101 *et seq.* For the following reasons, the appeal is **dismissed** because the OOR lacks jurisdiction.

On February 6, 2026, Robert MacConnell (“Requester”) submitted a request (“Request”) to the the Southampton Township Police Department (“Department”) pursuant to the RTKL, seeking incident reports, logs, and dispatch records. On that same date, the Department denied the Request. On February 9, 2026, Requester subsequently appealed to the Bucks County District Attorney’s Office (“DAO”) and the DAO denied the appeal on March 11, 2026.¹

On March 28, 2026, Requester filed an appeal of the DAO’s denial of appeal to the OOR. To the extent that the Requester is challenging a decision of the DAO’s Appeals Officer, the OOR is not the proper venue. Such appeals may be filed in the Court of Common Pleas. 65 P.S. §

¹ See DAO submission, dated April 9, 2026.

67.1302. To the extent that Requester is challenging the decision of the Department, the appeal is untimely and should have been brought against the Department rather than the DAO.²

For this reason, the DAO is not required to take any further action. Within thirty days of the mailing date of this Final Determination, either party may appeal to the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas. 65 P.S. § 67.1302(a). All parties must be served with notice of the appeal. The OOR also shall be served notice and have an opportunity to respond according to court rules as per 65 P.S. § 67.1303, but as the quasi-judicial tribunal adjudicating this matter, the OOR is not a proper party to any appeal and should not be named as a party.³ All documents or communications following the issuance of this Final Determination shall be sent to oor-postfd@pa.gov. This Final Determination shall be placed on the OOR website at: <http://openrecords.pa.gov>.

FINAL DETERMINATION ISSUED AND MAILED: April 22, 2026

/s/ Julie Sodl

APPEALS OFFICER
JULIE SODL

Sent via E-File Portal to: Robert MacConnell
Timothy W. Lutes, Esq., AORO

² If a RTK Request is denied, the requester has 15 business days of the mailing date of the agency's response to file an appeal. 65 P.S. § 67.1101(a).

³ See *Padgett v. Pa. State Police*, 73 A.3d 644, 648 n.5 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2013).