



FINAL DETERMINATION

DATE ISSUED AND MAILED: September 17, 2026

IN RE: *Mary Anne Whitonis v. Rice Township*, OOR Dkt. AP 2026-3898

Upon review of the appeal filed with the Office of Open Records (“OOR”) to the above-referenced docket number, it is determined that the appeal is **DISMISSED** because:

The appeal is premature. The Request was submitted to Rice Township (“Township”) on September 8, 2026.¹ The Township has five (5) business days upon receipt of the Request to respond. 65 P.S. § 67.901. As a result, the Township had until 11:59:59 p.m. on September 15, 2026 to respond to the Request. The appeal was submitted to the OOR on September 15, 2026; thus, the Requester did not allow sufficient time before filing the appeal. The Requester is not prohibited from filing a new appeal to the OOR of any denial or deemed denial stemming from the Request, pursuant to the requirements of 65 P.S. § 67.1101(a)(1).

For this reason, the Township is not required to take any further action. Within thirty days of the mailing date of this Final Determination, you may appeal or petition for review with the Luzerne 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. However, 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.² 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 website at: <http://openrecords.pa.gov>.

Issued by:

/s/ *Joshua T. Young*

Senior Deputy Chief Counsel
Joshua T. Young, Esq.

Sent to: Requester; Agency Open Records Officer, Rice Township

¹ The Request was emailed to the Township on September 6, 2026, a Sunday. Because September 7, 2026 was the Labor Day Holiday, the Request is being treated as received by the Township on or after September 8, 2026.

² *Padgett v. Pa. State Police*, 73 A.3d 644, 648 n.5 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2013).