Pennsylvania
Office of Open Records

Pennsylvania Office of Open Records
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FINAL DETERMINATION

DATE ISSUED AND MAILED: November 13, 2026

IN RE: *Justyna Sadowski v. Pa. State Police*, OOR Dkt. AP 2026-5052

Upon review of the appeal filed with the Office of Open Records ("OOR") to the above-referenced docket number, the appeal is **DENIED** because:

The records are exempt from disclosure. The Request submitted to the Pennsylvania State Police ("PSP") seeks a police/incident report regarding an identified individual. Section 708(b)(16) of the Right-to-Know Law ("RTKL") exempts from disclosure a record of an agency relating to a criminal investigation, including … [i]nvestigative materials, notes, correspondence, videos and *reports*….". 65 P.S. § 67.708(b)(16)(ii) (emphasis added). Along with its final response partially denying the Request under Section 708(b)(16) of the RTKL, the PSP submitted a verification, made subject to the penalty of perjury, from Elizabeth Snyder ("Snyder Verification"), the PSP's Deputy Open Records Officer, who identified PSP General Offense Report PA 2026-1032647 as the responsive record and attests that the report relates to an investigation conducted by Troopers into alleged criminal wrongdoing. Snyder Verification, ¶¶ 1-2. Based upon this evidence, as well as the undisputed statements regarding the nature of the investigation contained in the Requester's appeal statement, the PSP has met its burden of proving that the records are exempt from disclosure.[1] 65 P.S. § 67.708(a)(1); *Pa. Game Comm'n v. Fennell*, 148 A.3d 101 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2016) (holding that the OOR must consider uncontradicted statements contained in the appeal as evidence); *see also Taylor v. Pa. State Police*, 2020 Pa. Commw. Unpub. LEXIS 39 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2020) (concluding that a PSP General Offense Report was exempt under Section 708(b)(16)).

For this reason, the PSP is not required to take any further action. Within thirty days of the mailing date of this Final Determination, either party may appeal or petition for review with the Commonwealth Court. 65 P.S. § 67.1301(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. 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

JOSHUA T. YOUNG, ESQ.
SENIOR DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL

Sent via OOR e-file portal to: Justyna Sadowski; William Rozier, AORO

[1] Notably, the Requester does not dispute the presence of an investigation, and her appeal statement acknowledges that she is the next-of-kin of a victim in the related criminal matter. In addition, the Public Information Release Report confirms the existence of an investigation by the PSP's Stroudsburg Crime Unit into an "undetermined" death. Insofar as the Requester is entitled to information pursuant to another statute, the information must be pursued thereunder.