

AL RECORDS
DISTRICT PA

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FILED

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PHILADELPHIA COUNTY
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA
TRIAL DIVISION – CIVIL

PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE, :
Appellant :
:
CAITLIN THOMPSON, :
Appellee :

Case No. 241202797

ORDER

AND NOW, this 29th day of September, 2026, after oral argument and *in camera review*, it is ORDERED and DECREED that the appeal of the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office (DAO) of the Final Determination of the Office of Open Records dated December 2, 2024, is **GRANTED in Part** and **DENIED in Part**.

This appeal arises from a Right to Know Law (RTKL) request made by Caitlin Thompson to the DAO for records sent daily from Philadelphia Family Court Juvenile Probation to various justice stakeholders, including the DAO, called the “Combined Daily Report” or “CDR.” Thompson’s request under the RTKL was “deemed denied” by the DAO when five business days passed without a response, prompting her to appeal to the OOR. See 65 P.S. §67.901.

After the DAO had an opportunity to respond, the OOR issued its Final Determination by which granted in part and denied in part Thompson’s appeal. The OOR required the DAO to provide the following CDR attachments for the relevant time period: Population Summary JJSC.pdf, State.pdf, Private.pdf, Releasable from JJSC to CUA or DHS.pdf and Residents Over 60 days.pdf. The OOR permitted the DAO to redact the names, home addresses or dates of birth of a child 17 years of age or younger pursuant to RTKL §708(b)(30).

ORDER-In Re: Appeal Of Phila. District Attorney’S Office [MJR]



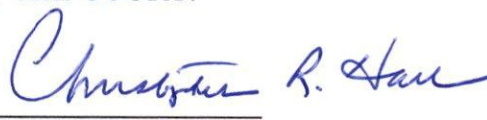
The OOR appears to have issued its final determination without reviewing the documents *in camera*, which this court has now done. Review of the documents makes clear the Population Summary JJSC.pdf does not contain law enforcement records and files concerning a child either protected under Juvenile Act §6308(a) or exempt from production under RTKL §708(b)(30). The pdf, moreover, contains aggregated data that takes it out of the class of documents exempted from disclosure. RTKL §708(d). That aspect of the OOR's Final Determination is AFFIRMED.

The same cannot, however, be said for the next three attachments on which the OOR ruled: State.pdf, Private.pdf, Releasable from JJSC to CUA or DHS.pdf. These three attachments contain law enforcement records concerning a child and identify children by name and in some cases date of birth. None of the data in these records is aggregated. Finally, the information about individual children is replete. Redaction – even if required – would render the attachments an empty vessel. The portion of the OOR Final Determination that required the DAO to provide these documents is OVERRULED.

The final attachment on which the OOR ruled – Residents Over 60 days.pdf – does not appear to have been included in the records provided under seal. The DAO is hereby ORDERED to produce a representative attachment within 10 days of the entry of this Order.

The court will hold a Rule to Show Cause Hearing on October 13, 2026, at 10am in courtroom 275 of City Hall to address whether the court should impose fees and costs pursuant to 65 P.S. §67.1304 and/or a civil penalty pursuant to 65 P.S. §67.1305 for the DAO's failure to produce the Population Summary JJSC.pdf.

BY THE COURT:


J.