



STATE OF INDIANA

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July 13, 2026

Re: Complaint 25-FC-297
Carlie Dunn (Complainant) v.
LaPorte County Sheriff's Office (Respondent)

This advisory opinion is issued in response to the above-referenced complaint filed October 16, 2025.

A Notice of Complaint, along with a copy of the complaint, was sent to the Respondent on October 21, 2025, requesting a formal response by November 19, 2025. A formal response, submitted by Guy DiMartino of Guy S. DiMartino PC on behalf of Respondent, was received by this office on November 21, 2025.

The complaint alleges that Respondent violated the Access to Public Records Act (APRA) by failing to provide copies of the requested records.

ANALYSIS

The public policy of APRA states that “[p]roviding persons with information is an essential function of a representative government and an integral part of the routine duties of public officials and employees, whose duty it is to provide the information.” Indiana Code (IC) 5-14-3-1. Respondent is a public agency for purposes of APRA; and therefore, subject to the requirements. IC 5-14-3-2(q). As a result, unless an exception applies, any person has the right to inspect and copy Respondent’s public records during regular business hours. IC 5-14-3-3(a).

Complainant filed an Access to Public Records (APRA) request on July 29, 2025, seeking a copy of:

- 1) *All internal and external complaints of misconduct, excessive force, harassment, dishonesty, abuse of power, or violation of departmental policies or law – regardless of outcome, substantiation, or disciplinary status.*

- 2) *Any record of investigation or review triggered by a complaint or internal concern, including IA files, summaries, or command staff memos.*
- 3) *All records of disciplinary actions taken against the officer, including written reprimands, suspensions, demotions, terminations, or any corrective measures – regardless of whether the complaint was initiated internally or externally.*
- 4) *The dates, nature of the allegations, and outcomes for each incident listed above.*

If these records are stored within personnel files, I am requesting only the disclosable portions as defined by IC 5-14-3-4(b)(8), specifically subsections (B) and (C), which require disclosure of factual information related to discipline and misconduct.

Respondent acknowledged the request on August 1, 2025, and produced responsive records on September 23, 2025. More specifically as stated in the formal response, Respondent provided disciplinary information on four (4) deputies.

Complainant then filed a formal complaint with this office alleging that the responsive records were incomplete and that there was a known incident with a specific Captain that was not included with the records she received.

A public agency may not deny or interfere with the exercise of the right stated above. If the public agency does not deny the request, within a reasonable time after the request is received by the agency the public agency shall either:

- (1) Provide the requested copies to the person making the request; or*
- (2) Allow the person to make copies:*
 - (A) on the agency's equipment; or*
 - (B) on the person's own equipment.*

IC 5-14-3-3(b).

APRA further provides that the following records shall be excepted from disclosure at the discretion of the public agency:

- (8) Personnel files of public employees and files of applicants for public employment, except for:*
 - (A) the name, compensation, job title, business address, business telephone number, job description, education and training*

background, previous work experience, or dates of first and last employment of present or former officers or employees of the agency;

(B) information relating to the status of any formal charges against the employee; and

(C) the factual basis for a disciplinary action in which final action has been taken and that resulted in the employee being suspended, demoted, or discharged.

However, all personnel file information shall be made available to the affected employee or the employee's representative. This subdivision does not apply to disclosure of personnel information generally on all employees or for groups of employees without the request being particularized by employee name. IC 5-14-3-4(b)(8).

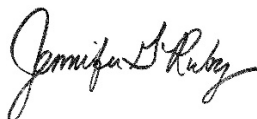
This is the correct code cite language as Complainant misquoted it in her complaint.

Respondent stated that they searched all current employee personnel files and produced all records responsive to the records request. Respondent went on to state that the incident concerning the specific Captain was investigated by the Indiana State Police (ISP) and that no records of that investigation are held by Respondent. Records in the control of ISP would be the subject of a separate request directly to that agency.

The APRA request did not request general information from the personnel files, as such it does not appear that any was provided to Complainant. The information requested by Complainant dealt solely with alleged complaints and disciplinary issues, many of which fall outside of the exceptions listed at IC 5-14-3-4(b)(8). Respondent reviewed its records and provided four (4) record sets that met Complainant's request requirements as well as the result of her closed complaint against one of their officers.

CONCLUSION

This office finds that the Respondent did not violate APRA as alleged in the complaint.



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