



STATE OF INDIANA

MIKE BRAUN, Governor

PUBLIC ACCESS COUNSELOR
BRITTNEY A. LONG

Statehouse Room 105
200 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2745
Telephone: (317) 234-0906
Fax: (317) 233-3091
Toll Free: 1-800-228-6013
Email: pac@opac.in.gov
Website: www.IN.gov/pac

October 15, 2026

Re: Complaint 26-FC-159
Travis LeMaster (Complainant) v.
Grant County Clerk's Office (Respondent)

This advisory opinion is issued in response to the above-referenced complaint filed on March 23, 2026.

A Notice of Complaint, along with a copy of the complaint, was sent to the Respondent on October 6, 2026, requesting a formal response by November 5, 2026. A response was submitted by Pamela Harris, Grant County Clerk of Courts, on October 6, 2026. The Notice of Complaint and a copy of the complaint was also sent to the Grant County Commissioner's Office on October 6, 2026. A response was submitted by the Grant County Commissioners (Ron Stewart, President; Chuck Poling, Member; and Chris Olivier, Member) on October 6, 2026.

The complaint alleges that Respondent violated the Access to Public Records Act (APRA) when it failed to respond to Complainant's request made on March 15, 2026.

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." 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(s). 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 APRA request on March 15, 2026, by email, requesting:

1. All documentation regarding any Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) signed by the Grant County Commissioners.

APRA states that if a person makes a request by phone or in person, the public entity needs to acknowledge the request within 24 hours. If a person submits the request by email, fax or postal mail, the public entity has seven (7) days to acknowledge the request. If the request is not acknowledged within these timeframes, it is considered a constructive denial. IC 5 14-3-4.4(c)(1) & (2).

Complainant made his initial request on March 15, 2026, and did not receive a response until March 30, 2026. Accordingly, this office finds that Respondent violated APRA in failing to respond to, or comply with, Complainant's APRA request within 7 days.

This office notes that Respondent's March 30, 2026, response stated that any requests concerning the Grant County Commissioners would need to be made with the County Administrator. Though not parties to this dispute, this office notes that neither the Grant County Commissioner's Office nor the County Administrator received Complainant's APRA request concerning the NDAs. This office encourages Complainant to make his request with the appropriate agency, should he still wish to review the requested documents.

CONCLUSION

This office finds that Respondent violated APRA as alleged in the complaint, when it failed to respond to Complainant's APRA request within 7 days.



Brittney A. Long
Public Access Counselor