RENDERED: NOVEMBER 13, 2026; 10:00 A.M.
NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

Commonwealth of Kentucky

Court of Appeals

NO. 2025-CA-1202-MR

CHRISTOPHER LAUPP — APPELLANT

v.

APPEAL FROM OLDHAM CIRCUIT COURT
HONORABLE JERRY D. CROSBY, II, JUDGE
ACTION NO. 24-CI-00602

VAUGHN ASHBY; MATTHEW TILLER; AND REGINA HOLDER — APPELLEES

OPINION
AFFIRMING

** ** ** ** **

BEFORE: ECKERLE, MOYNAHAN, AND TAYLOR, JUDGES.

TAYLOR, JUDGE: Christopher Laupp, *pro se*, brings this appeal from an August 26, 2025, order of the Oldham Circuit Court dismissing his complaint. We affirm.

Laupp was an inmate at Luther Luckett Correctional Complex. On October 11, 2024, Laupp, *pro se*, filed a complaint in the Oldham Cicuit Court. In the complaint, Laupp asserted that Vaughn Ashby, Matthew Tiller, and Regina Holder violated the Kentucky Open Records Act. In particular, Laupp claimed that

he filed a request on June 27, 2024, for "Ct results regarding diagnostic testing that was performed on me." Complaint at 2. Laupp then asserted that the request was denied by Regina Holder on July 17, 2024. According to Laupp, Holder stated that "there were no results in my file." Complaint at 2. Thereafter, on July 22, 2024, Laupp alleged that he filed another request for "my Ct results," and Holder responded by letter "ask[ing] me if I want the requested records." Complaint at 2. Laupp stated that he then sent "another request for my Ct results" and was sent the requested medical records. However, Laupp claimed that the Kentucky Open Records Act was violated as the medical records were not sent after the initial request and sought $25 per day as penalty for every day the records were withheld and filing fees.

Holder, Ashby, and Tiller (collectively referred to as appellees) filed an answer and thereafter filed a motion to dismiss. The circuit court granted the motion and dismissed the action by order entered August 26, 2025. This *pro se* appeal follows.

Laupp contends that the circuit court improperly dismissed his action against appellees for violation of the Kentucky Open Records Act. We disagree.

Kentucky Revised Statues (KRS) 197.025 provides, in relevant part:

> (3) KRS 61.870 to 61.884 to the contrary notwithstanding, all persons confined in a penal facility shall challenge any denial of an open record with the Attorney General by mailing or otherwise sending the

> appropriate documents to the Attorney General within twenty (20) days of the denial pursuant to the procedures set out in KRS 61.880(2) before an appeal can be filed in a Circuit Court.

Under KRS 197.025(3), an inmate is clearly required to seek review of a denial of an open records request with the attorney general before filing an action in circuit court.[1] In his brief, Laupp has acknowledged that he did not seek review with the attorney general but instead filed the underlying action in circuit court. Accordingly, we conclude that Laupp failed to exhaust his administrative remedies per KRS 197.025(3) and was barred from filing the instant action in the circuit court. *See Jefferson County Board of Education v. Edwards*, 434 S.W.3d 472, 476, 478 (Ky. 2014); *Miracle v. Duncan*, 568 S.W.3d 358, 364 (Ky. App. 2018). We thus, affirm the circuit court's dismissal of Laupp's action for violation of the Open Records Act.

For the foregoing reasons, the order of the Oldham Circuit Court is affirmed.

ALL CONCUR.

[1] Kentucky Revised Statues 61.870 to 61.884 comprises the Kentucky Open Records Act.

BRIEFS FOR APPELLANT:

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BRIEF FOR APPELLEES:

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