

# Before the Presiding Judges of the Administrative Judicial Regions

## Per Curiam Rule 12 Decision

**APPEAL NO.:** 17-013

**RESPONDENT:** Travis County District Courts

**DATE:** September 22, 2017

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE:** Judge Stephen B. Ables, Chairman; Judge Missy Medary; Judge Dean Rucker; Judge David L. Evans; Judge Kelly G. Moore

Petitioner requested from Respondent “all Travis County District Court communications that were sent to, and/or received from” a specific email address. Sixteen days after Petitioner submitted his request, he filed a petition for review alleging that Respondent had failed to comply with his request within the 14 days required by Rule 12.6(b) of the Rules of Judicial Administration. In their response to this appeal, Respondents have included an email they sent to Petitioner 11 days after receiving his request asking Petitioner to clarify and narrow his request as allowed by Rule 12.6(g).

Respondents also noted that the additional information Petitioner provided in his appeal enabled Respondents to identify and provide to Petitioner 354 pages of documents responsive to his request. Respondents withheld certain records and made redactions to others asserting that they were not “judicial records” under Rule 12 or were exempt from disclosure under Rules 12.5(b), (c), (d), (f), and (i). However, the withholding of this information is not the basis for Petitioner’s appeal. Petitioner appealed Respondent’s failure to comply with his request. Respondents have demonstrated that they did in fact respond to Petitioner’s request within the time required under Rule 12 and, after obtaining additional information from the petition for review, they have also provided Petitioner with documents that are responsive to his request. Accordingly, the issue in this appeal is moot and the petition is denied. If Respondent wishes to appeal the denial of access to the withheld information, Respondent must inform this committee by October 9, 2017.