

Before the Presiding Judges of the Administrative Judicial Regions

Per Curiam Rule 12 Decision

APPEAL NO.: 25-017

RESPONDENT: Lubbock Municipal Court

DATE: November 3, 2025

SPECIAL COMMITTEE: Judge David L. Evans, Chairman; Judge Alfonso Charles; Judge Susan Brown; Judge Ray Wheless; Judge Dib Waldrip

Petitioner sent to the City of Lubbock’s Open Records Center portal a request for “screenshots” of the computer file “properties box” for the original digital files embedded in various arrest affidavit, warrant, and complaint records. Specifically, Petitioner sought the following information or metadata contained in the properties boxes: the “general information” in the properties box, including the “created date,” “modified date,” and “accessed date.” Although the City of Lubbock replied to Petitioner, stating it had found and was disclosing records responsive to the request, the City simultaneously forwarded the request to the Respondent. In a letter to Petitioner, Respondent stated that the requested records were exempt from disclosure under Rule 12.2, Rule 12.3, and Rule 12.4, because the records were not by definition “judicial records.” Despite this, the Respondent stated it would allow inspection of open court files. Petitioner was instructed to contact the court clerk to plan for file inspection. In its petition for review, Petitioner conceded that it had received responsive documents from the City of Lubbock, but it contested the withholding of the requested records from the Respondent. The Respondent did not offer a reply to the petition.

The threshold issue in a Rule 12 appeal is whether the requested records are “judicial records,” which are defined by Rule 12.2(d) as “a record made or maintained by or for a court or judicial agency in its regular course of business but not pertaining to its adjudicative function, regardless of whether that function relates to a specific case.” Affidavits, warrants, and complaint records are unquestionably related to a court’s adjudicative function and thus are not judicial records subject to Rule 12. Because the information at issue does not relate to judicial records, we can neither grant the petition in whole or in part nor sustain denial of access to the requested records, and the appeal is dismissed.