

Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal State of Louisiana

No. 26-KH-508

STATE OF LOUISIANA, EX REL. TRAVIS DENNIS

versus

TRAVIS DAY, WARDEN

IN RE STATE OF LOUISIANA, EX REL. TRAVIS DENNIS
APPLYING FOR SUPERVISORY WRIT FROM THE TWENTY-FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
COURT, PARISH OF JEFFERSON, STATE OF LOUISIANA, DIRECTED TO THE HONORABLE
ELLEN SHIRER KOVACH, DIVISION "K", No. 10-1386

TRUE COPY

October 27, 2026



LINDA TRAN
DEPUTY CLERK

Panel composed of Judges Susan M. Chehardy,
Fredericka Homberg Wicker, and Scott U. Schlegel

WRIT DENIED

Relator, Travis Dennis, seeks review of the district court's August 11, 2026 Order denying relator's motion to compel. For the reasons explained below, we deny relator's writ application.

On August 24, 2011, relator was convicted of second degree murder in violation of La. R.S. 14:30.1. On September 15, 2011, the court sentenced him to life imprisonment at hard labor. In 2013, this Court affirmed relator's conviction and sentence. *State v. Dennis*, 12-818 (La. App. 5 Cir. 5/16/13), 118 So.3d 1166, writ denied, 13-1384 (La. 12/6/13), 129 So.3d 530.

In his writ application, relator contends that he filed a motion to compel the district attorney to produce additional records regarding his criminal prosecution

and the district court denied the motion as repetitive and successive. Contrary to the requirements of Uniform Rules – Courts of Appeal, Rule 4-5, relator did not provide this Court with a copy of his motion to compel. However, it is apparent from the district court’s ruling that relator is seeking to obtain records under the Public Records Law, La. R.S. 44:1, *et seq.*, by means of a motion to compel filed in his criminal case.

The district court explains in its August 11, 2026 Order that it previously informed relator that if the district attorney denied his request for public records, relator should “institute civil proceedings for a writ of mandamus at the trial court level,” pursuant to La. R.S. 44:35(A). A motion to compel filed in a criminal proceeding is not the proper procedural vehicle to establish a right to records under the Public Records Law. *See State ex rel. McKnight v. State*, 98-2258 (La. App. 1 Cir. 12/3/98), 742 So.2d 894, 895. If relator believes that the district attorney did not produce all of the records he is entitled to receive, relator’s recourse is to institute separate civil proceedings at the trial court level for a writ of mandamus against the district attorney’s office. *See* La. R.S. 44:35(A); *McKnight, supra*. Relief under the Public Records Law is a separate cause of action, which relator cannot pursue by means of post-conviction motions in his criminal case.

Accordingly, the district court did not err by denying relator’s motion to compel. This writ application is denied.

Gretna, Louisiana, this 27th day of October, 2026.

SUS
SMC
FWW

SUSAN M. CHEHARDY
CHIEF JUDGE

FREDERICKA H. WICKER
JUDE G. GRAVOIS
MARC E. JOHNSON
STEPHEN J. WINDHORST
JOHN J. MOLAISSON, JR.
SCOTT U. SCHLEGEL
TIMOTHY S. MARCEL

JUDGES



FIFTH CIRCUIT
101 DERBIGNY STREET (70053)
POST OFFICE BOX 489
GRETNA, LOUISIANA 70054
www.fifthcircuit.org

CURTIS B. PURSELL
CLERK OF COURT

SUSAN S. BUCHHOLZ
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

LINDA M. TRAN
FIRST DEPUTY CLERK

MELISSA C. LEDET
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL STAFF

(504) 376-1400
(504) 376-1498 FAX

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION CERTIFICATE OF DELIVERY

I CERTIFY THAT A COPY OF THE DISPOSITION IN THE FOREGOING MATTER HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH **UNIFORM RULES - COURT OF APPEAL, RULE 4-6** THIS DAY **10/27/2026** TO THE TRIAL JUDGE, THE TRIAL COURT CLERK OF COURT, AND AT LEAST ONE OF THE COUNSEL OF RECORD FOR EACH PARTY, AND TO EACH PARTY NOT REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL, AS LISTED BELOW:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Curtis B. Pursell".

CURTIS B. PURSELL
CLERK OF COURT

26-KH-508

E-NOTIFIED

24th Judicial District Court (Clerk)
Honorable Ellen Shirer Kovach (DISTRICT JUDGE)
Matthew R. Clauss (Respondent)

MAILED

Travis Dennis #588476 (Relator)
6925 Highway 74
St. Gabriel, LA 70776