

Before the Presiding Judges of the Administrative Judicial Regions
Per Curiam Rule 12 Decision

APPEAL NO.: 26-010

RESPONDENT: 480th District Court, Williamson County

DATE: June 11, 2026

SPECIAL COMMITTEE: Judge David Evans, Chair; Judge Ray Wheless; Judge Sid Harle;
Judge Missy Medary; Judge Ben Woodward

Petitioner requested from Respondent all emails and attachments received from a certain email address from January 1, 2023, through March 22, 2026. Respondent informed Petitioner it had located 103 responsive messages to the request, of which 9 messages were disclosed. The remaining 94 messages, Respondent explained, were not judicial records subject to disclosure under Rule 12 because they were “records created, produced, or filed in connection with any matter that is or has been before a court.” Respondent further noted that most had a cause number in the subject line. Respondent then noted that, even if they were to be considered “judicial records” under Rule 12, the records would be exempt from disclosure under Rule 12.5(d), 12.5(f), 12.5(h), or 12.5(j). Petitioner timely filed a petition for review contesting the withholding. Respondent did not reply to the petition.

A record created, produced, or filed in connection with any matter that is or has been before a court is not a judicial record. *See* Rule 12.2(d). Such records are case records. *See* Rule 12 Dec. No. 00-001. Respondent indicated in its denial of access letter to Petitioner that the remaining non-disclosed records were not “judicial records” under Rule 12.2(d). Because Respondent has not submitted a reply to the petition, we direct the Respondent to confirm in writing to the special committee and the Petitioner whether the Respondent has any remaining responsive *judicial records* to the request. If the Respondent confirms it does not have responsive judicial records, the appeal is dismissed. If Respondent confirms it has responsive judicial records that remain unreleased, Respondent should release them without delay or, alternatively, provide to the special committee, within 10 working days of the date of this opinion, a basis for withholding the records along with a sample for review.