



**pennsylvania**

OFFICE OF OPEN RECORDS

Erik Arneson, Executive Director

## **OOR Annual Training**

*October 26, 2016*

<http://openrecords.pa.gov>

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# Office of Open Records

## Created by RTKL: Independent & quasi-judicial

- Decide appeals filed by people denied access to records by government agencies
- **18 total staff**
  - Executive Director & Deputy Director
  - 12 Attorneys
  - Chief of Training & Outreach
  - 3 Administrative

# OOOR Initiatives in 2016

## Making more information public more quickly

- Email subscriptions – sign up at website
  - 2 Lists: daily digest of FDs & general updates

These final determinations were issued by the Office of Open Records on Thursday, Oct 20, 2016

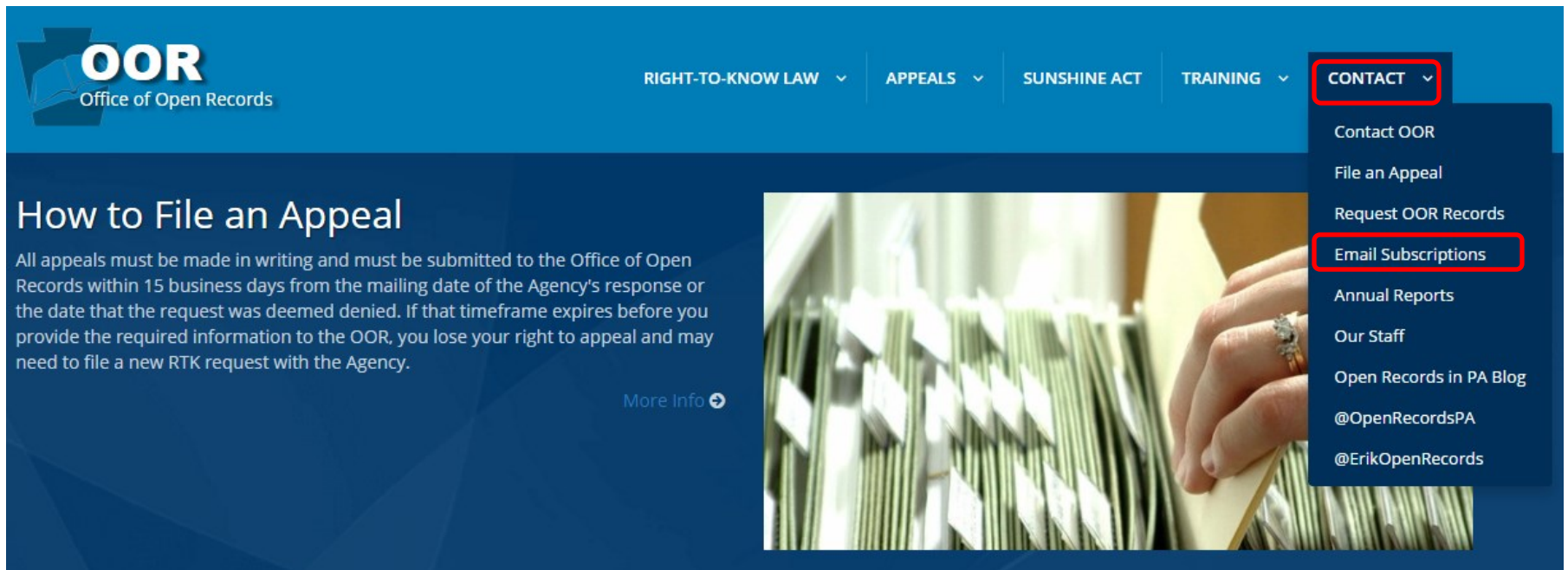
To search the database of all Final Determinations, visit <http://www.openrecords.pa.gov/Appeals/FinalDeterminations.cfm>

Docket #	Title / Description	County	Status
2016-1390	<a href="#">Berney v. Philadelphia City School District</a> Request sought attorney invoices in several identified cases. Agency provided the missing records on appeal, subject to redactions. Agency proved that the redacted information are protected by the attorney-client privilege, are internal, predecisional and deliberative, contain exempt personal information and would reveal the identity of a minor. Denied in part and dismissed as moot in part.	Philadelphia	Denied: Moot
2016-1395	<a href="#">Taranto v. Greater Johnstown School District</a> Request for criminal record background checks for District contractors. The records are confidential under the Public School Code of 1949 and related regulations. Denied.	Cambria	Denied

# OOOR Initiatives in 2016

## Where to sign up for email updates

- “Contact” tab at OOR website



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Office of Open Records (OOR) website. The navigation menu includes links for 'RIGHT-TO-KNOW LAW', 'APPEALS', 'SUNSHINE ACT', 'TRAINING', and 'CONTACT'. The 'CONTACT' link is highlighted with a red box. A dropdown menu is open under 'CONTACT', listing several options: 'Contact OOR', 'File an Appeal', 'Request OOR Records', 'Email Subscriptions', 'Annual Reports', 'Our Staff', 'Open Records in PA Blog', '@OpenRecordsPA', and '@ErikOpenRecords'. The 'Email Subscriptions' option is also highlighted with a red box. Below the navigation bar, there is a section titled 'How to File an Appeal' with a 'More Info' link and an image of a hand holding a folder in a filing cabinet.

**OOOR**  
Office of Open Records


RIGHT-TO-KNOW LAW ▾ APPEALS ▾ SUNSHINE ACT TRAINING ▾ **CONTACT ▾**

- Contact OOR
- File an Appeal
- Request OOR Records
- Email Subscriptions**
- Annual Reports
- Our Staff
- Open Records in PA Blog
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### How to File an Appeal

All appeals must be made in writing and must be submitted to the Office of Open Records within 15 business days from the mailing date of the Agency's response or the date that the request was deemed denied. If that timeframe expires before you provide the required information to the OOR, you lose your right to appeal and may need to file a new RTK request with the Agency.

[More Info](#) ↗



# OOR Initiatives in 2016

## Making more information public more quickly

- @OpenRecordsPA – Twitter
  - New FDs and court updates – automatic tweets



Open Records in PA

@OpenRecordsPA



Following

#OORFD issued: Riches v. Donald Trump -  
Dismissed: Other: [tinyurl.com/jkuz6uw](http://tinyurl.com/jkuz6uw)

11:00 AM - 14 Oct 2016



# OOR Initiatives in 2016

## Making more information public more quickly

- Fee structure review used email & Twitter
- YouTube Channel – Office of Open Records



How to File an Appeal Under PA's Right-to-Know-Law



Office of Open Records



77 views

+ Add to   ➦ Share   ... More

👍 0   👎 0

# RTKL-Related Legislation

## Bills & recent laws w/ RTK issues:

- Medical Marijuana Law
- RTKL Amendments
- Police Videos
- Uber / Lyft
- Police Shootings (when names are released)
- Coroner Records (manner & cause of death)
- Names of Lottery Winners

# Office of Open Records

**One of my goals is to simplify the RTK process for agencies & requesters.**

- <http://openrecords.pa.gov>
- Constantly updating content
  - Citizens' Guide to the RTKL
  - AORO Guidebook for agencies
  - Sample affidavits for agencies



# OOR Regulations

## RTKL allows OOR to ...

- “... promulgate regulations relating to appeals involving a Commonwealth agency or local agency.”
- Actively working on draft regulations.
- Sign up for the “General Update” email on OOR website to keep up to date.

# OOR Mediation

## Goal: Resolve more cases informally

- **> 50 cases** referred to mediation in 2016.
- Both sides agree to confidentiality.
- OOR provides trained mediator.
- If mediation successful, appeal is withdrawn.
- There's no harm in agreeing to mediation
  - Worst-case scenario: FD is slightly delayed

# OOR Training

## Training on the RTKL & Sunshine Act

- OOR website filled with information
  - [www.openrecords.pa.gov](http://www.openrecords.pa.gov)
- YouTube videos & podcast
- On-site training: basics, recent cases & more
  - Details on OOR website
  - Or call George Spiess, 717-346-9903



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## THANK YOU

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