



MARK MUSELLA
Bergen County Prosecutor

Office of the County Prosecutor

County of Bergen

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October 16, 2025

Via email opra+request-79441-4d53e647@requests.opramachine.com

Re. Request for Public Records 10-15-25

Dear Concerned Citizen:

This is in preliminary response to your request for public records dated 10-15-25 in which you sought the following:

I am writing to request an internal review of Bergen County Prosecutor's Office's handling of my OPRA request 'Benjamin Praught Ritter'.

I have reviewed your email of yesterday concerning a criminal matter involving "Benjamin Praught Ritter" which you have represented was the subject of a prior OPRA request via the OPRA machine dated August 12, 2025.

We have internally reviewed our electronic records and have no record of receipt of your electronic August 12, 2025, OPRA request. At this time, I cannot identify the basis for any failure in electronic delivery. But under the circumstances, I suggest to you the most practical solution, now that we are in receipt of your request, is to process your request for a reply in accordance with the time period provided under OPRA which is seven business days from the actual date of our receipt, which in this case is yesterday, October 15, 2025.

Since you have represented to me that you sought a reply to your records request some time ago, I will, of course, endeavor to supply you with a formal reply as soon as able but no later than October 27, 2025.



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You of course will maintain your right of appeal in event you are dissatisfied with our formal reply. I trust you will agree with me this is reasonable approach.

The Bergen County Prosecutor's Office also reserves the right to raise any other ground for denial not raised in this response. The failure of the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office to assert an exception or privilege does not act as a waiver of any ground for denial. Whether you may request records from the State Police is an issue which you may wish to explore.

You have a right to appeal the decision that the document or documents are not public records or are otherwise exempt from disclosure. At your option, you may either institute a proceeding in the Superior Court of New Jersey or file a complaint with the Government Records Council ("GRC") by completing the Denial of Access Complaint Form. You may contact the GRC by toll-free telephone at 866-850-0511, by mail at PO Box 819, Trenton, NJ, 08625, by e-mail at grc@dca.state.nj.us, or at their web site at www.state.nj.us/grc. The Council can also answer other questions about the law. All questions regarding complaints filed in Superior Court should be directed to the Court Clerk in your county.

Very truly yours,

MARK MUSELLA
Bergen County Prosecutor

Maria Fagliarone/s/
Maria Fagliarone
Assistant Records Custodian