



STATE OF INDIANA

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May 17, 2026

Re: Complaint 25-FC-161
Jameson A. Warren (Complainant) v.
Abington Civil Township (Respondent)

This advisory opinion is issued in response to the above-referenced complaint filed on July 30, 2025.

A Notice of Complaint, along with a copy of the complaint, was sent to the Respondent on October 23, 2025, requesting a formal response by November 21, 2025. A formal response, submitted by Steve Kaiser, Township Trustee on behalf of Respondent, was received by this office on February 25, 2026.

The complaint alleges that Respondent has violated the Open Door Law (ODL) by failing to livestream its public meetings.

ANALYSIS

The Open Door Law (ODL) requires public agencies to conduct and take official actions openly, unless otherwise expressly provided by statute, so the people may be fully informed. Indiana Code (IC) 5-14-1.5-1. As a result, ODL requires all meetings of the governing bodies of public agencies to be open at all times to allow members of the public to observe and record the proceedings. IC 5-14-1.5-3(a).

ODL requires a governing body to provide on a publicly accessible platform of the public agency's choosing the following:

- 1) Live transmission of the public agency's meetings.
- 2) Archived copies of the live transmissions described above, each archived copy providing links to the meeting's:
 - a. agenda, if any
 - b. minutes, if any; and
 - c. memoranda.

IC 5-14-1.5-2.9(c).

Complainant alleges that Respondent has failed to live stream any of its meetings since the law became effective on July 1, 2025.

Respondent acknowledges that the Township has not had reliable internet service and has taken steps to provide for live streaming. Those steps included seeking assistance from the Indiana Office of Technology and hiring consulting services to set up the necessary equipment and create a website. Respondent predicted that the livestreaming issue would be resolved the Respondent would be in compliance by March 2026. According to supplemental information submitted by Complainant, Respondent has not met its obligation for live streaming in April of 2026.

ODL provides that if a governing body does not have internet capability for live transmission of meetings the governing body shall record the meeting and retain the recording as provided below:

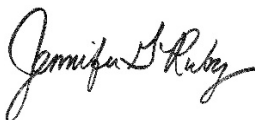
- 1) the public agency shall make a copy of the transmission or recording available for public inspection and copying or downloading for at least ninety (90) days after the date of the meeting. The public agency shall, at the public agency's discretion, permit a person to inspect and copy or download the transmission or recording.
- 2) More than ninety days after the date of the meeting, the public agency may destroy the transmission or recording.

IC 5-14-1.5-2.9(f).

Neither Complainant nor Respondent have acknowledged that an alternate recording, in lieu of live streaming, was made of the meeting and that Respondent made such recording available to the public. Had the Respondent made a recording, under section 9(f) above and held it for public inspection, then the Respondent would have been in compliance with ODL even though Respondent was unable to live stream the meetings.

CONCLUSION

This office finds that Respondent violated ODL by failing to live stream or record its public meetings and make those recordings available to the public for 90 days.



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