

A Big Win for Wisconsin Prisoners (+ Their Families) Seeking Records About Staff Mistreating Them.

Support Freedom of Information!

If you want to know what is really going on in Wisconsin prisons, please contact Judge Everett D Mitchell by May 31, 2025, reference case 24-CV-1066 Lindell vs Rees et al, and respectfully let him know how and why it is important to allow the public, investigative reporters, faith leaders, and loved ones, to have access to officers body camera footage under Wisconsin's Open Records laws.

Honorable Everett Mitchell
Dane County Courthouse
Room 6109
215 S Hamilton St.
Madison, WI 53703
Phone: (608) 266-4351
Fax: (608) 266-4062

Attend the hearing online and see his decision on
June 2, 2025, 2:00PM Central

<https://wicourts.zoom.us/j/6849199324>
No password needed

Learn more about this case at <https://tinyurl.com/JustMasonArticle> and
<https://tinyurl.com/LyingDOC>
Learn more about Nate Lindell's other work at
<https://www.facebook.com/PrometheusWrites> and
<https://tinyurl.com/NateLindellFiles>

To stay involved with this ongoing effort or to donate to our legal fund
contact Kansas City IWOC at 816-617-2336 or natester75@gmail.com
This announcement brought to you by Prometheus Writes' Executive Editor

Original artwork by Nate Lindell, sourced from betweenthebars.org

B8 | SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2025

by Nate A. Lindell
Created 1 July 2025

The ad to the left
appeared in three
issues of the
Wisconsin State
Journal & cost me
\$2,200. Whether or
not they had an
impact, I don't
know.

But, I know
that at the 6 June
2025 hearing,

Judge Mitchell ended the WI DOC's blanket ban on
releasing body-cam footage under WI's Public Records
law. (Wis. Stats §19.31 - §19.37). Now, prisoners &
those who care about them, can request & have hope
to obtain footage from body-cams worn by all
guards working in max-security Sec/RTU areas
& all supervisors in max-security prisons.

That is huge, but we now must fight to require
that all staff in all prisons in our state wear
body-cams.

At present, I'm in a medium-security

prison, where no staff wear body-cams, but where staff are still staff, still human, still in need of public scrutiny to keep them as honest as possible which is the stated purpose of Wisconsin's Public Records laws. See Wis. Stats. § 19.31.

While my case ended the blanket ban Call journalist investigating issues in WI prisons (F-ing owe me!), the judge applied the wrong standard ("an abundance of caution") to justify redacting portions of the footage. He also blindly accepted the WDOC's claim there was no additional footage to turn over (despite evidence that there was additional footage). So, for those & other reasons, I am appealing. However, along with obtaining the body-cam footage, I am entitled to my litigation costs and may, if the judge agrees, be awarded both statutory damages and punitive damages.

My appeal likely won't be decided for over a year. When it is decided, the decision ~~will~~ will be viewable by other prisoners & the public, will clarify Public Records law for WI prisoners. Until then, you may follow the case on wicourts.gov, looking up Case No. 24-CV-1066, Dane County Circuit Court.

Attached is the order that ended the blanket ban.

Support my efforts (I have 14 other suits pending) at (PayPal) [prometheuswritesmedis@gmail](mailto:prometheuswritesmedis@gmail.com) & [\\$Prometheus Publishing](https://www.cash.app/) (Cash App). I spent 4,000+ on this one case.

BY THE COURT:

DATE SIGNED: June 3, 2025

Electronically signed by Judge Everett D. Mitchell
Circuit Court Judge

STATE OF WISCONSIN

CIRCUIT COURT
BRANCH 4

DANE COUNTY

STATE OF WISCONSIN ex rel.
NATE A. LINDELL,

Petitioner,

v.

Case No. 2024-CV-1066

TERRI REES, et al.,

Respondents.

MANDAMUS ORDER, IN PART

In this public records case, Nate Lindell seeks recordings of body-worn cameras related to his detention for an alleged sexual assault on August 11, 2023. On June 2, 2025, the Court heard oral arguments and then ordered the Respondents to produce redacted versions of the body-worn camera recordings. The purpose of this order is to reduce, in part, the Court's order to writing to facilitate the Respondents' redaction.

Bates Number 56 – the body-worn camera of Laturi.

From 9:16:00 p.m. until 9:18:55 p.m., the camera shows corrections officers restraining and escorting a prisoner in a private area of the prison. Out of an abundance of caution, this section

should be redacted to ensure prisoners do not learn about the specific and perhaps secret methods the prison uses to transport prisoners. Everything after 9:41:10 should be redacted for the same reasons. The interview from 9:18:55 p.m. until 9:41:10 p.m., during which the subject is seated, is conducted in a prison common area which is surely well-known to the prisoners. This portion must be released to the requester.

Bates Number 57 – the body-worn camera of Lange

Same redactions. Only the interview from 9:18:55 p.m. until 9:41:10 p.m. should be released; the remainder should be redacted.

Bates Number 58 – the body-worn camera of Zenk

This footage is from later in the evening. The parts from 10:20:26 p.m. until 10:31:49 p.m. depict an interview with Lindell, who is seated in his cell. Everything after 10:31:49 p.m. should be redacted because, once again, these parts of the video depict after-hours prisoner transportation, knowledge of which might impair institutional safety.

IT IS ORDERED that the, consistent with this order and for the reasons stated on the record at the June 2, 2025, hearing, the Respondents shall redact the body-worn camera recordings and produce the remaining part to the requester.

This is NOT a final order for purpose of appeal.