

**Fwd: EMAIL TO NEWS MEDIA FROM KSP**

1 message

David Thompson &lt;dthompson@kypress.com&gt;

Tue, Mar 6, 2018 at 10:30 AM

To: Jay Nolan &lt;jnolan@jfrank.com&gt;, Charles Myrick &lt;cmyrick@mountainadvocate.com&gt;

sent.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** David Thompson <dthompson@kypress.com>  
**Subject:** EMAIL TO NEWS MEDIA FROM KSP  
**Date:** March 6, 2018 at 10:29:25 AM EST  
**To:** ksppubaff@ky.gov, Joshua.Lawson@ky.gov  
**Cc:** Jon Fleischaker <jfleischaker@kplouisville.com>

Please forward to Commissioner Sanders and Lieutenant Webb:

Dear Commissioner Sanders and Lieutenant Webb,

Over the last few years, I believe the relationship between the Kentucky State Police and the news media, and I can only speak for newspapers, has improved. Years ago, there were times of concern on both sides and we had a couple of meetings that led to those improved relations.

This past week, I received an email from one of our members that came from the KSP spokesman, one named Shane, who is responsible for an area in Southern Kentucky.

We have a great concern with an order that this KSP representative put on this newspaper and perhaps other media that serves his post.

It is not acceptable that anyone, a member of the public, a public agency, and including the Kentucky State Police, to tell the media it is not to publish (or perhaps, air) any information until or after a release is sent from KSP. This is nothing less than an unconstitutional and illegal attempt to restrict access to KSP information because a media outlet has published information that has displeases the state police.

He then makes the threat that his supervisors have given him the authority that if they do not abide by this restriction, to take them "off our media distribution list."

A state police officer simply has no authority to order the news media not to publish. To do so raises serious First Amendment and other legal issues and the officer's threat is not acceptable.

If the working relationship with KSP as a whole and the news media has deteriorated over the last few years, it is news to me. And we would welcome a chance to return to the table and discuss that relationship for both sides.

I appreciate your time and hopefully you have an understanding that the officer's threat is not acceptable.

Respectfully,

David T. Thompson  
 Executive Director  
 Kentucky Press Association

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 2006 Inductee, Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame

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 Marriott East - Louisville

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