

BOISE, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024, AT 8:50 A.M.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

SENTRY DYNAMICS, INC.,)	
)	
Plaintiff-Respondent-Cross Appellant,)	
)	
v.)	Docket No. 50933
)	
ADA COUNTY, a political subdivision of the)	
State of Idaho; and ROBERT H. MCQUADE,)	
Assessor of Ada County,)	
)	
Defendants-Appellants-Cross)	
Respondents.)	

Appeal from the District Court of the Fourth Judicial District of the State of Idaho, Ada County. Cynthia Yee-Wallace, District Judge.

Ada County Prosecutor's Office, Boise, for Appellant-Cross Respondents.

Smith & Malek, PLLC, Boise and Stoel Rives LLP, Boise for Respondent-Cross Appellant.

This appeal concerns a public records request by Sentry Dynamics, Inc. from the Ada County Assessor's Office for property owners' names and addresses. Sentry is an Idaho company specializing in providing property data solutions to clients. From 2006 to 2018 Sentry requested and received Geographic Information Systems and Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal data from the Assessor as part of its business operations. In February of 2022, Sentry submitted a public records request to the Ada County Assessor's Office requesting owner names and addresses of Ada County property owners. The Assessor's Office denied this request, believing they were precluded from disclosing any list of persons that would be used as a mailing list or telephone number list pursuant to Idaho Code section 74-120. In response, Sentry filed a complaint in the Ada County district court seeking a writ of mandate and declaratory judgment. Ada County answered that Sentry did not follow the appropriate Public Records Act appeal procedure, and that the Assessor should be allowed to require requestors to expressly agree and acknowledge that the names and addresses provided will not be used for use as a mailing list.

Ultimately, the district court granted Sentry's request for declaratory judgment, holding that the information Sentry seeks is a public record. The district court also treated Sentry's Complaint as a petition to compel disclosure of the public records, and determined Sentry was entitled to examine and obtain a copy of the information at issue. The Assessor appeals the district court's decision and order, arguing that: (1) the district court should have granted the Assessor's Motion to Dismiss because Sentry failed to comply with the Idaho Legislature's specific Public Records Act appeal procedure, therefore depriving the district court of

jurisdiction; (2) the district court erred by prohibiting the Assessor from requiring requestors seeking property owners' names and mailing addresses to expressly acknowledge that the names and mailing addresses would not be used for a mailing list without first securing permission of those on the list; (3) the district court erred by requiring the Assessor to provide Sentry the names and mailing addresses of all Ada County property owners when Sentry agreed they would not use the names for mailing purposes but Sentry's website advertises that before Sentry's customers switched to Sentry, they experienced "25% + return rate on direct mail"; (4) the district court erred by requiring the Assessor to provide the property owners' names and addresses in an electronic format.