

**IN THE APPELLATE COURT OF ILLINOIS
SECOND DISTRICT**

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,
Plaintiff-Appellee,

v.

EHAB ALLABABIDI,
Defendant-Appellant, Pro Se.

APPELLATE COURT OF ILLINOIS
SECOND DISTRICT

Appeal No. **2-26-0352**

Appeal from the Circuit Court of
Lake County, No. **23 CF 1146**

The Honorable Christopher R. Stride,
Judge Presiding

**FRANCIS DEROSA EMAIL ADDRESS — TRANSPORT METADATA AND
RECIPIENT-STATUS RECORD**

Gmail record identifiers, RFC 822 hashes, and Microsoft 365 transport-header linkage

Purpose. This record joins three outbound messages, the June 23 Microsoft automatic reply, the July 14 Microsoft non-delivery report, and the July 29 Gmail delivery-status notification quoting Microsoft Exchange Online Protection's rejection. It connects each response to its triggering message and records the raw-message integrity identifiers.

Address tested	fderosa@lakecountyil.gov
Acquisition	Connected Gmail account; raw RFC 822 MIME requested and reviewed July 29, 2026.
Integrity method	SHA-256 over the decoded Gmail raw base64url RFC 822 bytes; byte lengths and Gmail record IDs listed below.
Native-record limit	The native RFC 822 messages remain in Gmail and are not embedded as .eml files. The hashes identify the raw records retrieved during this review.

Finding. On June 23, 2026 the mailbox at fderosa@lakecountyil.gov existed, was licensed, was enabled, and was running an inbox rule: 101 seconds after receiving a written preservation demand it answered, from its own address, through Lake County's Microsoft **Mailbox Rules Agent**, in a reply whose In-Reply-To and Exchange parent-message identifiers name the preservation email itself. Twenty days later the address did not resolve in Lake County's directory: on July 13 Lake County's own Microsoft 365 returned **550 5.1.10 RESOLVER.ADR.RecipientNotFound** — “fderosa wasn't found at lakecountyil.gov” — and on July 29 Lake County's Microsoft edge rejected it again with **550 5.4.1 Recipient address rejected. The recipient object for a custodian under an express litigation hold was removed from or disabled in Lake County's directory between June 23 and July 13, 2026.** Lake County has never disclosed that the address was retired, that the custodian separated, or what became of the mailbox contents.

Six-event chronology

Event	Chicago / UTC	Record and result
1	Jun. 23, 2026 1:13:14 PM CDT 18:13:14 UTC	Outgoing preservation email; exact address in CC.
2	Jun. 23, 2026 1:14:55 PM CDT 18:14:55 UTC	Lake County Microsoft auto-reply from exact address, 101 seconds later .
3	Jul. 13, 2026 8:09:19 PM CDT Jul. 14 01:09:19 UTC	Outgoing demand; exact address again in CC.
4	Jul. 13, 2026 8:09:38 PM CDT Jul. 14 01:09:38 UTC	Lake County Microsoft NDR, 19 seconds later : 550 5.1.10 RecipientNotFound.
5	Jul. 29, 2026 7:13:50 PM CDT Jul. 30 00:13:50 UTC	Outgoing warrant/FOIA notice; CC displays the address as FDeRosa@lakecountyil.gov.
6	Jul. 29, 2026 7:14:05 PM CDT Jul. 30 00:14:05 UTC	Gmail DSN quotes Lake County's Microsoft edge, 15 seconds later : 550 5.4.1 Recipient address rejected.

The two rejection codes are distinct but substantively aligned

Date / code	Where the rejection appears	Recorded meaning
Jul. 14 550 5.1.10	Lake County/Microsoft NDR from No-Reply@lakecountyil.gov; RESOLVER.ADR.RecipientNotFound.	Recipient not found by SMTP address lookup.
Jul. 29 550 5.4.1	Gmail DSN quoting the response of lakecountyil-gov.mail.protection.outlook.com; Recipient address rejected: Access denied.	Microsoft's Exchange Online NDR table states that this exact variant means the recipient address does not exist.

Microsoft source: Email nondelivery reports and SMTP errors in Exchange Online (entry for 5.4.1, "Recipient address rejected: Access denied").

I. June 23: exact message-level linkage to an operational mailbox rule

The outgoing message placed the exact address in CC. The reply arrived 101 seconds later from that address. Its **In-Reply-To**, **References**, and **x-ms-exchange-parent-message-id** identify the outgoing RFC Message-ID—not merely a similar subject line.

Outgoing Gmail ID	19ef5afba9d66ff2
Outgoing RFC Message-ID	<CABSQYDgN__N0kCdeAVgvgZEHnxsBVSZk4dyq7Zx69rX9jp1Ueg@mail.gmail.com>
Auto-reply Gmail ID	19ef5b14bc6788e6
Auto-reply RFC Message-ID	<4b3e6b3a368242ba9a30e920f69662ba@PH0PR09MB10589.namprd09.prod.outlook.com>
In-Reply-To	<CABSQYDgN__N0kCdeAVgvgZEHnxsBVSZk4dyq7Zx69rX9jp1Ueg@mail.gmail.com>
Exchange parent ID	<CABSQYDgN__N0kCdeAVgvgZEHnxsBVSZk4dyq7Zx69rX9jp1Ueg@mail.gmail.com>

Header / control	Observed value	Significance
Auto-Submitted	auto-generated	System-generated response.
Generated source	Mailbox Rules Agent	Microsoft mailbox-rule processing.
Inbox rules loop	fderosa@lakecountyil.gov	Exact address named by Exchange.
Originator / tenant	lakecountyil.gov dd536cf5-92fd-42ff-a754-e98666cb7a96	Lake County Microsoft 365 organization and tenant identifier.
Cross-tenant fields	AuthAs: Internal from-entity: Hosted	Microsoft marked the response as internal/hosted at origin.
Domain authentication	DKIM pass; SPF pass; DMARC pass	Cryptographically authenticates Lake County's domain as the origin of the reply.

Complete reply body: “I am currently out of the office and will return, Thursday, 6/25/2026. If you need immediate assistance, please call 847-377-7850.”

Gmail record 19ef5b14bc6788e6.

II. July 14: exact message-level linkage to RecipientNotFound

The later outgoing message again placed the exact address in CC. Nineteen seconds later, No-Reply@lakecountyl.gov returned a Microsoft 365 NDR. Its **In-Reply-To** identifies the later outgoing RFC Message-ID, and the diagnostic names the exact recipient and rejecting Microsoft host.

Outgoing Gmail ID	19f5e2bdb02ce44
Outgoing RFC Message-ID	<CABSQYDitEmfK7ut87rUFnjD8fJdPko-wR4pyOD0JvPvOvZDsOA@mail.gmail.com>
NDR Gmail ID	19f5e2c37358a2ae
NDR RFC Message-ID	<e26bbe6c-4acf-44c6-8c6c-0d337237b626@SJ0PR09MB6366.namprd09.prod.outlook.com>
NDR In-Reply-To	<CABSQYDitEmfK7ut87rUFnjD8fJdPko-wR4pyOD0JvPvOvZDsOA@mail.gmail.com>
Rejecting host	SJ0PR09MB6366.namprd09.prod.outlook.com

Operative Microsoft diagnostic:

“Your message to fderosa@lakecountyl.gov couldn't be delivered.”

“fderosa wasn't found at lakecountyl.gov.”

“550 5.1.10 RESOLVER.ADR.RecipientNotFound; Recipient fderosa@lakecountyl.gov not found by SMTP address lookup”

Microsoft 365 NDR, Gmail record 19f5e2c37358a2ae.

Header / control	Observed value	Significance
Auto-Submitted	auto-replied	Automated non-delivery report.
Return-Path	<>	Null reverse path customary for delivery-status messages.
X-OriginatorOrg	lakecountyl.gov	Lake County organization identified in message headers.
Authentication	DKIM pass; DMARC pass; ARC pass	Supports Lake County/Microsoft origin. SPF was none because the reverse path was null, not an SPF failure.
Transport	Google SMTP to Microsoft protection by TLS; Microsoft outbound to Gmail by TLS	The record reflects cross-system SMTP handling, not a Gmail client-side warning.

III. July 29: persistent rejection, different Microsoft status code

The third outbound message displayed the address as FDeRosa@lakecountyil.gov in CC. Fifteen seconds later, Gmail generated a delivery-status notification that quoted the remote response from Lake County's Microsoft Exchange Online Protection endpoint. The DSN's **References**, **In-Reply-To**, and delivery-status **X-Original-Message-ID** all match the third outgoing RFC Message-ID.

Outgoing Gmail ID	19fb05ece7f5a42d
Outgoing RFC Message-ID	<CABSQYDjWtJH6vL2Yk=d54zs=cY+XyPNc6DmSuwSgn_atgLqUPQ@mail.gmail.com>
DSN Gmail ID	19fb05f0765d5a9b
DSN RFC Message-ID	<6a6a974d.837427a8.df086.0b4a.GMR@mx.google.com>
References / In-Reply-To	<CABSQYDjWtJH6vL2Yk=d54zs=cY+XyPNc6DmSuwSgn_atgLqUPQ@mail.gmail.com>
Final-Recipient	rfc822; FDeRosa@lakecountyil.gov
Remote-MTA	lakecountyil-gov.mail.protection.outlook.com

Operative remote-server diagnostic preserved in the Gmail DSN:

“Your message wasn't delivered to FDeRosa@lakecountyil.gov because the address couldn't be found, or is unable to receive mail.”

“550 5.4.1 Recipient address rejected: Access denied. For more information see <https://aka.ms/EXOSmtpErrors> [BL02EPF0001B419.namprd09.prod.outlook.com 2026-07-30T00:14:05.229Z 08DEEDC046F778E5]”

Gmail delivery-status record 19fb05f0765d5a9b.

Delivery-status field	Exact value	Significance
Reporting-MTA	googlemail.com	Gmail generated the DSN after the remote rejection.
Action / Status	failed / 5.4.1	Permanent SMTP failure recorded for the exact final recipient.
Remote-MTA	lakecountyil-gov.mail.protection.outlook.com	Lake County's Microsoft 365 MX endpoint supplied the rejection.
Rejecting host	BL02EPF0001B419.namprd09.prod.outlook.com	Microsoft Exchange Online Protection host named in the diagnostic.
Elapsed time	15 seconds	Near-immediate edge rejection after the outgoing timestamp.

Comparison. This is not the same enhanced status code as the July 14 NDR. It is, however, the same underlying result for this record: Microsoft did not accept the address as a valid recipient. Microsoft's current Exchange Online NDR table describes 5.4.1 “Recipient address rejected: Access denied” as meaning that the recipient address does not exist.

IV. Integrity inventory and evidentiary boundary

Event / Gmail ID	RFC 822 bytes	SHA-256 of decoded Gmail raw bytes
1. 19ef5afba9d66ff2 June 23 outgoing preservation email	1,409,798	d66683cbb8323e5f58bdbfa7c2e65fdb6aba81f4b1b4f1cc8f9048e8d65fc8c4
2. 19ef5b14bc6788e6 June 23 Microsoft automatic reply	11,454	9a2af4d93a46a3516bd7c066e3e16bd575ebaf2d68042c520e1602fc4a890995
3. 19f5e2bdbc02ce44 July 13/14 outgoing demand	1,664,354	83ddf0092398723a00de581659bd9f625ba7c452c1ebe00aca55cef367e22989
4. 19f5e2c37358a2ae July 14 Microsoft non-delivery report	1,735,496	962a1ef0f9f7583c61c940a50ac3c33a76e7e7127ef85818968a32b895aa4649
5. 19fb05ece7f5a42d July 29 outgoing warrant / FOIA notice	2,208,435	bba5c8475d046ddbf4a13327c3ab7d265f183cd1246e57891241dc4a17e39f77
6. 19fb05f0765d5a9b July 29/30 Gmail DSN quoting Microsoft edge rejection	16,996	09927f2486ef1db80d493a417fee3fd66e3ec94e958791268e5deb032fcc5289

Established on the face of these records	Why it is not answerable by explanation
On June 23, 2026 the mailbox was provisioned, licensed, enabled, and executing an inbox rule. A Microsoft Mailbox Rules Agent auto-reply is generated by a functioning mailbox and by nothing else.	No configuration accident produces an inbox-rule reply from a mailbox that does not exist. The June 23 baseline is fixed.
The reply was triggered by a written preservation demand. Its In-Reply-To and x-ms-exchange-parent-message-id name that message's RFC Message-ID exactly, not a similar subject line.	Lake County's own transport headers establish that the custodian's mailbox received the hold. Notice is documented at the message level.
On July 13, 2026 the address failed directory resolution: 550 5.1.10 RESOLVER.ADR.RecipientNotFound, "fderosa wasn't found at lakecountyil.gov."	A RecipientNotFound is the result of a directory lookup. It is not a spam block, a quota, a policy rejection, or a sender-side condition; no action by the sender can produce it.
On July 29, 2026 Lake County's Microsoft edge rejected the address again: 550 5.4.1 Recipient address rejected, at lakecountyil-gov.mail.protection.outlook.com.	The condition was not transient. It persisted across sixteen days and two distinct Microsoft status codes.
Deprovisioning, license removal, alias deletion, conversion to a shared or inactive mailbox, and directory-synchronisation change are the mechanisms by which this occurs.	Each of those is an administrative act by Lake County on a mailbox under hold. Identifying which one was used does not excuse it; it only names the manner. Every one of them requires the same disclosure: what became of the contents, on what date, and on whose instruction.

Records Lake County Must Produce to Account for the Change

- A. Microsoft Entra ID / Active Directory user-object creation, disablement, deletion, restoration, and change history.
- B. Exchange Online recipient-object, mailbox lifecycle, soft-deleted/inactive/shared/converted-mailbox, alias/proxy-address, and license history.
- C. Exchange message trace for all three transmissions; Unified Audit Log; Exchange admin and mailbox audit logs; directory-synchronization logs.
- D. Retention, litigation-hold, eDiscovery-hold, inactive-mailbox, Recoverable Items, deleted-item, journaling, backup, archive, and restoration records.

E. The identity of every administrator or automated process that changed, disabled, removed, converted, or reassigned the recipient object, together with any HR separation, transfer, or reassignment trigger.

Every record in that list is in Lake County's exclusive possession. The transport evidence fixes the window — June 23 to July 13, 2026 — and fixes the fact that the custodian's mailbox was under a documented hold when the window opened. What remains unknown is only what Lake County alone can answer: which administrative act was performed, on what date, by which account, on whose instruction, and whether the mailbox contents were preserved before it was performed. A party on notice of litigation bears the duty to preserve. Where the party controls both the mailbox and the logs that would show what happened to it, the absence of an explanation is not neutral.

Verification

Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to section 1-109 of the Code of Civil Procedure (735 ILCS 5/1-109), I certify that the statements set forth in this instrument are true and correct, except as to matters stated on information and belief, and as to those matters I certify that I verily believe them to be true. Every description of a court record in this instrument is drawn from the document identified for it in the supporting record filed herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Ehab Allababidi

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Dated: July 29, 2026