



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

March 6, 2014

Ms. Cheryl Elliot Thornton  
Assistant County Attorney  
County of Harris  
1019 Congress, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002

OR2014-03766

Dear Ms. Thornton:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 518304 (C.A. File No. 14PIA0013).

The Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences (the "institute") received a request for a specified autopsy report. You claim the requested information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

We note the submitted information was the subject of a previous request for information, in response to which this office issued Open Records Letter No. 2012-16427(2012). In that decision, we ruled that the requested information was excepted from disclosure under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code. As we have no indication that the law, facts, or circumstances on which the prior ruling was based have changed, the institute may continue to rely on that ruling as a previous determination and continue to withhold the submitted information in accordance with that decision. *See* Open Records Decision No. 673 (2001) (governmental body may rely on previous determination when records or information at issue are precisely same records or information that were previously submitted to this office pursuant to section 552.301(e)(1)(D); governmental body which received request for records or information is same governmental body that previously requested and received ruling from attorney general; prior ruling concluded that precise records or information are or are not excepted from disclosure under Act; and law, facts, and

circumstances on which prior ruling was based have not changed since issuance of ruling). As we are able to make this determination, we do not address the submitted argument.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at [http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl\\_ruling\\_info.shtml](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtml), or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Tamara H. Holland  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

THH/som

Ref: ID# 518304

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)