



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

April 22, 2014

Ms. Savannah Gonzalez
Assistant District Attorney
Hidalgo County
100 North Closner Boulevard, Room 303
Edinburg, Texas 78539

OR2014-06458

Dear Ms. Gonzalez:

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# 520230.

The Hidalgo County Clerk's Office (the "clerk's office") received a request for bulk data case index information for specified courts. You argue the submitted information is not subject to the Act. We have considered your argument and reviewed the submitted information.

The Act is applicable to information that is "written, produced, collected, assembled, or maintained under a law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business" by a governmental body. Gov't Code § 552.002(a)(1). However, the Act's definition of "governmental body" "does not include the judiciary." *Id.* § 552.003(1)(B). Information "collected, assembled, or maintained by or for the judiciary" is not subject to the Act but is instead "governed by rules adopted by the Supreme Court of Texas or by other applicable laws and rules." *Id.* § 552.0035(a); *cf.* Open Records Decision No. 131 (1976) (applying statutory predecessor to judiciary exclusion under Gov't Code § 552.003(1)(B) prior to enactment of Gov't Code § 552.0035) You inform us the requested information is maintained by the clerk's office solely as an agent of the judiciary. Accordingly, we conclude the requested information is not subject to the Act and need not be released in response to this request for information.

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, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rashandra C. Hayes", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rashandra C. Hayes
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

RCH/dls

Ref: ID# 520230

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)