



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

May 28, 2014

Ms. Crystal Koonce  
Open Records  
Williamson County Sheriff's Office  
508 South Rock Street  
Georgetown, Texas 78626

OR2014-09118

Dear Ms. Koonce:

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# 529077.

The Williamson County Sheriff's Office (the "sheriff's office") received a request for information pertaining to a specified case number. You claim the requested information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101, 552.108, 552.130, 552.136, and 552.147 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Gov't Code § 552.101. Section 552.101 encompasses section 560.003 of the Government Code. Section 560.003 provides that "[a] biometric identifier in the possession of a governmental body is exempt from disclosure under [the Act]." *Id.* § 560.003; *see also id.* §§ 560.001(1) (defining "biometric identifier" to include fingerprints), .002(1)(A) (governmental body may not sell, lease, or otherwise disclose individual's biometric identifier to another person unless individual consents to disclosure), .003 (biometric identifiers in possession of governmental body exempt from disclosure under the Act). You have marked the submitted fingerprints. You do not inform us, and the submitted information does not indicate, section 560.002 permits the disclosure of the marked fingerprint information in this instance. Therefore, the

sheriff's office must withhold the information you have marked under section 552.101 in conjunction with section 560.003 of the Government Code.

Section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code excepts from disclosure information concerning an investigation that concluded in a result other than conviction or deferred adjudication. Gov't Code § 552.108(a)(2). A governmental body claiming section 552.108(a)(2) must demonstrate the requested information relates to a criminal investigation that has concluded in a final result other than a conviction or deferred adjudication. *See id.* § 552.301(e) (governmental body must provide comments explaining why exceptions raised should apply to information requested). You state the information you have marked relates to a concluded case that did not result in a conviction or deferred adjudication. Based on your representations, we conclude section 552.108(a)(2) is applicable to the information you have marked.

Section 552.108 does not except from disclosure basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime. *Id.* § 552.108(c). Basic information refers to the information held to be public in *Houston Chronicle Publishing Co. v. City of Houston*, 531 S.W.2d 177 (Tex. Civ. App.—Houston [14th Dist.] 1975), *writ ref'd n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976). *See* Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976) (summarizing types of information made public by *Houston Chronicle*). Thus, with the exception of basic information, the sheriff's office may withhold the information it has marked pursuant to section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code.

Section 552.130 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure information that relates to a motor vehicle operator's license or driver's license or a motor vehicle title or registration issued by a Texas agency, or an agency of another state or country. *See* Gov't Code § 552.130(a)(1)-(2). Upon review, we find the sheriff's office must withhold the motor vehicle record information you have marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

Section 552.136 of the Government Code states “[n]otwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a credit card, debit card, charge card, or access device number that is collected, assembled, or maintained by or for a governmental body is confidential.” Gov't Code § 552.136. Accordingly, we find the sheriff's office must withhold the account numbers you have marked under section 552.136 of the Government Code.

Next, you seek to withhold portions of the remaining information under section 552.147 of the Government Code. This section provides that “[t]he social security number of a living person is excepted from” required public disclosure under the Act.<sup>1</sup> *Id.* § 552.147(a).

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<sup>1</sup>We note section 552.147(b) of the Government Code authorizes a governmental body to redact a living person's social security number from public release without the necessity of requesting a decision from this office under the Act. Gov't Code § 552.147(b).

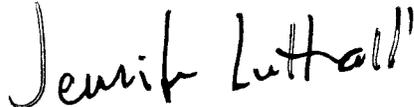
Accordingly, the sheriff's office may withhold the social security numbers you have marked under section 552.147 of the Government Code.

In summary, the sheriff's office must withhold the information you have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 560.003 of the Government Code. With the exception of basic information, the sheriff's office may withhold the information it has marked pursuant to section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code. The sheriff's office must withhold the information you have marked under sections 552.130 and 552.136 of the Government Code. The sheriff's office may withhold the social security numbers you have marked under section 552.147 of the Government Code.

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,



Jennifer Luttrall  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

JL/akg

Ref: ID# 529077

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)