ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

October 23, 2014

Ms. June Harden
Assistant Attorney General
Assistant Public Information Coordinator
General Counsel Division
Office of the Attorney General
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, Texas 78711-2548

OR2014-19165

Dear Ms. Harden:

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# 543794 (OAG PIR No. 14-39831).

The Office of the Attorney General (the "OAG") received a request for a specified crime victim's compensation file pertaining to a named victim. You state the OAG will release some of the requested information. You claim the remaining requested information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.132 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted representative sample of information.[1]

Section 552.132 of the Government Code provides in pertinent part as follows:

> (a) . . . , in this section, "crime victim or claimant" means a victim or claimant under Subchapter B, Chapter 56, Code of Criminal Procedure, who has filed an application for compensation under that subchapter.

[1]This letter ruling assumes the submitted representative sample of information is truly representative of the requested information as a whole. This ruling does not reach, and therefore does not authorize, the withholding of any other requested information to the extent the other information is substantially different than that submitted to this office. *See* Gov't Code §§ 552.301(e)(1)(D), .302; Open Records Decision Nos. 499 at 6 (1988), 497 at 4 (1988).

> (b) The following information held by the crime victim's compensation division of the attorney general's office is confidential:
>
> > (1) the name, social security number, address, or telephone number of a crime victim or claimant; or
> >
> > (2) any other information the disclosure of which would identify or tend to identify the crime victim or claimant.

Gov't Code § 552.132(a), (b). Thus, section 552.132 protects a crime victim's or claimant's identifying information. When a crime victim or claimant is awarded compensation, section 552.132(c) requires release of the crime victim's or claimant's name and the amount of compensation awarded. *Id.* § 552.132(c). You state the OAG will release the information subject to section 552.132(c). As for the remaining information, generally, the OAG would only be allowed to withhold the victim's identifying information from public disclosure. In this instance, however, because the requestor knows the victim's identity, withholding only the identifying information would not effectuate the purpose of the statute. Thus, all of the information is confidential pursuant to section 552.132, and the OAG must withhold all of the submitted information on that basis.[2]

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,

Lindsay E. Hale
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

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[2]As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address your remaining argument against disclosure.

Ref: ID# 543794

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)