



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

October 29, 2014

Mr. Wesley N. Hinch
Liberty County Attorney
P.O. Box 9127
Liberty, Texas 77575

OR2014-19531

Dear Mr. Hinch:

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# 541038.

The Liberty County Sheriff's Office (the "sheriff's office") received a request for the identification badge photographs of a named deputy and a named sergeant. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.119 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.139(b)(3) of the Government Code provides, "a photocopy or other copy of an identification badge issued to an official or employee of a governmental body" is confidential.¹ Gov't Code § 552.139(b)(3). We understand the submitted photographs were created specifically for use on an identification badge. Therefore, the sheriff's office must withhold the submitted information under section 552.139(b)(3) of the Government Code.²

¹The Office of the Attorney General will raise a mandatory exception on behalf of a governmental body but ordinarily will not raise other exceptions. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 481 (1987), 480 (1987), 470 (1987).

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

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 that reads "Britni Fabian". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Britni Fabian
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

BF/bhf

Ref: ID# 541038

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)