



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

November 7, 2014

Ms. Robin Whitney
Assistant General Counsel
TDCJ - Office of the General Counsel
P.O. Box 4004
Huntsville, Texas 77342-4004

OR2014-20353

Dear Ms. Whitney:

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# 543798.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (the "department") received a request for all records related to a specified inmate from the date of incarceration to the date of the request, including records of recent disciplinary actions, letters the inmate has written, and records related to any programs in which the inmate has participated. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.134 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.134 of the Government Code relates to inmates of the department and provides:

Except as provided by Subsection (b) or by Section 552.029 [of the Government Code], information obtained or maintained by the [department] is excepted from [required public disclosure] if it is information about an inmate who is confined in a facility operated by or under a contract with the department.

Gov't Code § 552.134(a). Section 552.134 is explicitly made subject to section 552.029, which provides, in relevant part:

[n]otwithstanding [s]ection . . . 552.134, the following information about an inmate who is confined in a facility operated by or under a contract with the [department] is subject to required disclosure under Section 552.021:

...

(8) basic information regarding the death of an inmate in custody, an incident involving the use of force, or an alleged crime involving the inmate.

Id. § 552.029(8). Upon review, we agree the submitted information consists of records pertaining to an individual confined as an inmate in a facility operated by the department and is, therefore, subject to section 552.134. We note, however, some of the submitted information pertains to alleged crimes involving the inmate. Therefore, the department must release basic information about the incidents pursuant to section 552.029(8). *See id.* For purposes of section 552.029(8), basic information includes the time and place of the incident, the names of inmates and department employees who were involved, a brief narrative of the incident, a brief description of any injuries sustained by anyone involved, and information regarding any criminal charges or disciplinary actions that were filed as a result of the incident. As the department does not raise further exceptions to disclosure of the basic information, those types of information must be released pursuant to section 552.029(8). The department must withhold the remaining information pursuant to section 552.134 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, 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,



Rustam Abedinzadeh
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

RA/dls

Ref: ID# 543798

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)