



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

March 18, 2015

Mr. William Schultz  
Assistant District Attorney  
County of Denton  
Denton County Criminal District Attorney's Office  
Civil Division  
1450 East McKinney Street, Suite 3100  
Denton, Texas 76209

OR2015-05229

Dear Mr. Schultz:

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# 556897.

The Denton County Criminal District Attorney's Office (the "district attorney's office") received a request for all records pertaining to a named individual. You claim the requested information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101, 552.103, 552.108, 552.130, and 552.147 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim.

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. This section encompasses the doctrine of common-law privacy, which protects information that is (1) highly intimate or embarrassing, the publication of which would be highly objectionable to a reasonable person, and (2) not of legitimate concern to the public. *Indus. Found. v. Tex. Indus. Accident Bd.*, 540 S.W.2d 668, 685 (Tex. 1976). To demonstrate the applicability of common-law privacy, both prongs of this test must be satisfied. *Id.* at 681-82. A compilation of an individual's criminal history is highly embarrassing information, the publication of which would be highly objectionable to a reasonable person. *Cf. U.S. Dep't of Justice v. Reporters Comm. for Freedom of the Press*, 489 U.S. 749, 764 (1989) (finding significant privacy interest in compilation of individual's criminal history by recognizing distinction between public records found in

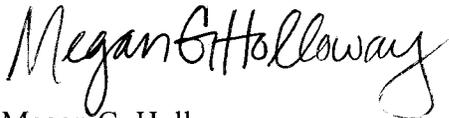
courthouse files and local police stations and compiled summary of criminal history information). Furthermore, we find a compilation of a private citizen's criminal history is generally not of legitimate concern to the public.

The present request seeks unspecified law enforcement records pertaining to a named individual. This request requires the district attorney's office to compile the named individual's criminal history and implicates the privacy of the named individual. Therefore, to the extent the district attorney's office maintains law enforcement records listing the named individual as a suspect, arrestee, or criminal defendant, the district attorney's office must withhold such information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy.<sup>1</sup>

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,



Megan G. Holloway  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

MGH/cbz

Ref: ID# 556897

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

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<sup>1</sup>As we are able to make this determination, we need not address your remaining arguments against disclosure.