



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

May 14, 2015

Ms. Yahitza Nunez
Assistant Criminal District Attorney
Civil Division
County of Hays
712 South Stagecoach Trail, Suite 2057
San Marcos, Texas 78666

OR2015-09395

Dear Ms. Nunez:

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# 563679 (Hays County Ref. No. 15-0069).

The Hays County District Attorney's Office (the "district attorney's office") received a request for information pertaining to a specified incident. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted representative sample of information.¹

Section 552.108 of the Government Code provides in part:

- (a) Information held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime is excepted from the requirements of Section 552.021 if:

¹We assume that the "representative sample" of records submitted to this office is truly representative of the requested records as a whole. See Open Records Decision Nos. 499 (1988), 497 (1988). This open records letter does not reach, and therefore does not authorize the withholding of, any other requested records to the extent that those records contain substantially different types of information than that submitted to this office.

(1) release of the information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime;

(2) it is information that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime only in relation to an investigation that did not result in conviction or deferred adjudication[.]

...

(b) An internal record or notation of a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that is maintained for internal use in matters relating to law enforcement or prosecution is excepted from the requirements of Section 552.021 if:

...

(2) the internal record or notation relates to law enforcement only in relation to an investigation that did not result in conviction or deferred adjudication[.]

Gov't Code § 552.108(a)(1)-(2), (b)(2). A governmental body claiming section 552.108(a)(1) must reasonably explain how and why the release of the information at issue would interfere with law enforcement. *See id.* §§ 552.108(a)(1), .301(e)(1)(A); *see also Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706, 710 (Tex. 1977). A governmental body claiming sections 552.108(a)(2) and 552.108(b)(2) must demonstrate the information at issue relates to a criminal investigation that concluded in a final result other than conviction or deferred adjudication. In this instance, the district attorney's office states it seeks to withhold the submitted information pursuant to section 552.108(a)(2) and section 552.108(b)(2). However, the district attorney's office also asserts this information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 because it pertains to a pending prosecution. Based on the conflicting representations, we find the district attorney's office has failed to demonstrate the applicability of sections 552.108(a)(2) and 552.108(b)(2) of the Government Code to the information at issue; therefore, the district attorney's office may not withhold the submitted information on those bases.

Section 552.130 of the Government Code provides information relating to a motor vehicle operator's license, driver's license, motor vehicle title or registration, or personal identification document issued by an agency of this state or another state or country is excepted from public release.² Gov't Code § 552.130(a). Upon review, the district

²The Office of the Attorney General will raise mandatory exceptions on behalf of a governmental body, but ordinarily will not raise other exceptions. *See Open Records Decision Nos. 481 (1987), 480 (1987), 470 (1987).*

attorney's office must withhold the motor vehicle record information we have marked and indicated under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

In summary, the district attorney's office must withhold the motor vehicle record information we have marked and indicated under section 552.130 of the Government Code. The district attorney's office must release the remaining information.³

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,

Lee Seidlits
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

CLS/som

Ref: ID# 563679

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

³We note the information being released contains a social security number. 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. *See* Gov't Code § 552.147(b).