



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

April 4, 2016

Ms. Erin Vincent
Assistant County Attorney
Harris County
1019 Congress Street, 15th Floor
Houston, Texas 77002

OR2016-07379

Dear Ms. Vincent:

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# 610850 (C.A. File No. 16PIA0123).

The Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences (the "institute") received a request for a specified autopsy. 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 information.

We note the requested information was the subject of a previous request for information, in response to which this office issued Open Records Letter No. 2013-16016 (2013). In that ruling, we ruled the institute may withhold the submitted information under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code on behalf of the Harris County Sheriff's Office (the "sheriff's office"). Because you inform us the sheriff's office still seeks to withhold the information, we conclude there has been no change in the law, facts, or circumstances on which the previous ruling was based. Accordingly, the institute may rely on Open Records Letter No. 2013-16016 as a previous determination and withhold the requested information in accordance with that ruling.¹ See Open Records Decision No. 673 (2001) (so long as law, facts, and circumstances on which prior ruling was based have not

¹As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address your remaining argument against disclosure of this information.

changed, first type of previous determination exists where requested information is precisely same information as was addressed in prior attorney general ruling, ruling is addressed to same governmental body, and ruling concludes that information is or is not excepted from 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 cursive script that reads "Paige Thompson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Paige Thompson
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

PT/dls

Ref: ID# 610850

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)