



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

June 27, 2016

Mr. Ed C. Jones
County Attorney
Office of the County Attorney
Angelina County
P.O. Box 1845
Lufkin, Texas 75902-1845

OR2016-14515

Dear Mr. Jones:

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# 616238.

The Angelina County Attorney's Office and the Angelina County Clerk's Office (collectively, the "county") received a request for all information contained in specified databases. You claim the submitted information is not subject to the Act. We have considered your arguments and reviewed the submitted representative sample of information.¹

You argue the submitted information consists of judicial records not subject to the Act. The Act applies only to information "written, produced, collected, assembled, or maintained under a law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business" by a governmental body. Gov't Code § 552.002. However, the Act's definition of "governmental body" does not include the judiciary. *Id.* § 552.003(1)(B). Information "collected,

¹This letter ruling assumes that the submitted representative sample of information is truly representative of the requested information as a whole. This ruling does not reach, and therefore does not authorize, the withholding of any other requested information to the extent that the other information is substantially different than that submitted to this office. *See* Gov't Code §§ 552.301(e)(1)(D), .302; Open Records Decision Nos. 499 at 6 (1988), 497 at 4 (1988).

assembled, or maintained by or for the judiciary” is not subject to the Act but instead is “governed by rules adopted by the Supreme Court of Texas or by other applicable laws and rules.” *Id.* § 552.0035(a); *cf.* Open Records Decision No. 131 (1976) (applying statutory predecessor to judiciary exclusion under Gov’t Code § 552.003(1)(B) prior to enactment of Gov’t Code § 552.003(5)). You state the submitted information is maintained by the staff of the county’s municipal court and district court solely for and on behalf of the courts. Therefore, we conclude the submitted information is not subject to the Act and need not be released under the Act.

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,



Katelyn Blackburn-Rader
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

KB-R/bw

Ref: ID# 616238

Enc. Submitted documents

cc: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)