



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

February 5, 2019

Mr. Sharbel Sfeir
Assistant General Counsel
Texas Department of Criminal Justice
P.O. Box 4004
Huntsville, Texas 77342-4004

OR2019-03350

Dear Mr. Sfeir:

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# 749118 (ORR# zt0185).

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (the "department") received a request for specified information pertaining to the parole board action for a named offender. The department claims the requested information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.134 of the Government Code. We have considered the claimed exceptions and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, we note the department informs us some of the submitted information is not responsive to the request for information. This ruling does not address the public availability of any information that is not responsive to the request, and the department is not required to release this information in response to this request.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." *Id.* § 552.101. Section 552.101 encompasses section 508.313(a) of the Government Code, which provides the following:

- (a) All information obtained and maintained, including a victim protest letter or other correspondence, a victim impact statement, a list of inmates eligible for release on parole, and an arrest record of an inmate, is confidential and privileged if the information relates to:

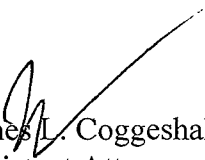
- (1) an inmate of the institutional division [of the department] subject to release on parole, release to mandatory supervision, or executive clemency;
- (2) a releasee; or
- (3) a person directly identified in any proposed plan of release for an inmate.

Id. § 508.313(a); *see id.* § 508.001(9) (“releasee” means a person released on parole or to mandatory supervision). The department states the information it has marked under section 552.101 consists of records of a releasee that are subject to section 508.313 of the Government Code. We understand the requestor is not authorized to obtain this information under section 508.313(c). *See id.* § 508.313(c). Further, there is no indication this information is made public under chapter 62 of the Code of Criminal Procedure or section 552.029 of the Government Code. *See id.* § 508.313(e), (f). Accordingly, the department must withhold the information it has marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 508.313 of the Government Code.¹

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,


James L. Coggeshall
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JLC/eb

¹As our ruling is dispositive, we do not address the other argument of the department to withhold this information.

Ref: ID# 749118

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)