



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

March 5, 2019

Ms. Myrna S. Reingold  
Attorney  
Galveston County  
722 Moody Avenue, 5th Floor  
Galveston, Texas 77550

OR2019-06130

Dear Ms. Reingold:

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# 753666.

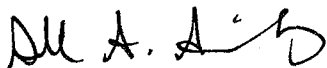
The Galveston County Medical Examiner's Office (the "medical examiner's office") received two requests from different requestors for specified autopsy reports. The medical examiner's office claims the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101, 552.103, and 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions the medical examiner's office claims and reviewed the submitted information.

We note the submitted information was the subject of a previous request for information, as a result of which this office issued Open Records Letter No. 2018-22624 (2018). In that ruling, we determined the medical examiner's office may withhold the submitted information under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code on behalf of the Galveston County Criminal District Attorney's Office. We have no indication there has been any change in the law, facts, or circumstances on which the previous ruling was based. Accordingly, we conclude the medical examiner's office may rely on Open Records Letter No. 2018-22624 as a previous determination and withhold the submitted information in accordance with that ruling. *See* Open Records Decision No. 673 (2001) (so long as law, facts, and circumstances on which prior ruling was based have not 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). As we are able to make this determination, we need not address the medical examiner's arguments against disclosure of the submitted information.

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,



Gerald A. Arismendez  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

GAA/eb

Ref: ID# 753666

Enc. Submitted documents

c: 2 Requestors  
(w/o enclosures)