



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

May 29, 2019

Mr. Sharbel Sfeir
Assistant General Counsel
Texas Department of Criminal Justice
P O Box 13084
Austin, Texas 78711-3084

OR2019-14096

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# 771292 (ORR# ZT0221).

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (the "department") received a request for a potential pardon of a named individual. The department claims the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.134 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions the department claims and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.134 of the Government Code provides, in relevant part:

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) or by Section 552.029, information obtained or maintained by the [department] is excepted from the requirements of Section 552.021 if it is information about an inmate who is confined in a facility operated by or under a contract with the department.

Gov't Code § 552.134(a). The department states the submitted information concerns an inmate confined in a facility operated by the department. The department states section 552.029 of the Government Code does not apply to the information at issue. Thus, we agree the information at issue is subject to section 552.134 of the Government Code. Therefore,

the department must withhold the submitted information under section 552.134 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,



Jesse Harvey
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JH/be

Ref: ID# 771292

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

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