



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

January 3, 2020

Mr. Mark Kratovil
Assistant Criminal District Attorney
Tarrant County
401 West Belknap, 9th Floor
Fort Worth, Texas 76196-0201

OR2020-00256

Dear Mr. Kratovil:

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# 804365.

The Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office (the "district attorney's office") received a request for certain information pertaining to a specified case involving two named individuals.¹ You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.142 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.142 of the Government Code is applicable to records of certain deferred adjudications. The submitted information reveals an order of nondisclosure was issued pursuant to former section 411.081(d) of the Government Code. We note the order of nondisclosure was issued prior to September 1, 2015. Although section 552.142 of the Government Code was amended in 2015 by the 84th Legislature, an order of nondisclosure issued pursuant to former section 411.081(d) prior to September 1, 2015, is subject to the former version of section 552.142, which was continued in effect for that purpose. *See Act*

¹ The district attorney's office sought and received clarification of the information requested. *See Gov't Code* § 552.222 (if request for information is unclear, governmental body may ask requestor to clarify request); *see also City of Dallas v. Abbott*, 304 S.W.2d 380, 387 (Tex. 2010) (if governmental entity, acting in good-faith, requests clarification of unclear or over-broad request, ten-day period to request attorney general ruling is measured from date request is clarified).

of May 27, 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., ch. 1279, § 32, Gen. Laws 4327, 4339. Thus, we will address the applicability of the former version of section 552.142 of the Government Code, which provides as follows:

(a) Information is excepted from [required public disclosure] if an order of nondisclosure with respect to the information has been issued under [former] Section 411.081(d).

(b) A person who is the subject of information that is excepted from [required public disclosure] under this section may deny the occurrence of the arrest and prosecution to which the information relates and the exception of the information under this section, unless the information is being used against the person in a subsequent criminal proceeding.

Act of June 1, 2003, 78th Leg., R.S., ch. 1236, § 5, 2003 Tex. Gen. Laws 3502, 3504, *amended by* Act of May 27, 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., ch. 1279, §§ 26-27, Tex. Gen. Laws 4327, 4339 (current version at Gov't Code § 552.142). Although Senate Bill 1902 amended and redesignated former subsections 411.081(d) through (i) of the Government Code, the former versions of these subsections were continued in effect for that purpose. *See* Act of May 27, 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., ch. 1279, § 32, Tex. Gen. Laws 4327, 4339. Former section 411.081(d) of the Government Code authorizes a person placed on deferred adjudication for certain offenses to petition the court for an order of nondisclosure, which prohibits criminal justice agencies from disclosing to the public criminal history record information related to the offense giving rise to the deferred adjudication. *See* Act of June 1, 2003, 78th Leg., R.S., ch. 1236, § 3, Tex. Gen. Laws 3502, 3503, *amended by* Act of May 27, 2015, 84th Leg. R.S., ch. 1279, § 4, Tex. Gen. Laws 4327, 4328 (current version at Gov't Code § 411.0725(b)-(e)). Under this provision, a criminal justice agency may only disclose criminal history record information that is the subject of the order to other criminal justice agencies, for criminal justice or regulatory purposes; non-criminal justice agencies listed in former section 411.081(i); or the person who is the subject of the order. *See* Act of June 1, 2003, 78th Leg., R.S., ch. 1236, § 3, Tex. Gen. Laws 3502, 3503 (amended 2015). Upon review, we find the information at issue is subject to former section 552.142 of the Government Code. Therefore, the district attorney's office must withhold the submitted information under former section 552.142 of the Government Code.

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 <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open-government/members-public/what-expect-after-ruling-issued> or call the OAG's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable

charges for providing public information under the Public Information Act may be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the OAG, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimbell Kesling". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Kimbell Kesling
Attorney
Open Records Division

KK/gw

Ref: ID# 804365

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)