



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

January 10, 2020

Ms. Julie A. Masek
Assistant General Counsel
The Texas A&M University System
301 Tarrow Street, 6th Floor
College Station, Texas 77840-7896

OR2020-01080

Dear Ms. Masek:

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# 813667 (ORR# C002648).

The Texas A&M University (the "university") received a request for medical records and blood test results associated a specified incident. The university claims the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, we note the submitted information consists of the Laboratory Submission Form and Laboratory Report related to an individual's blood alcohol content. Full information concerning the analysis of the specimen must be made available upon the request of the person who has given the specimen at the request of a peace officer. *See* Transp. Code § 724.018. Here, the requestor is the individual who submitted the specimen at issue. You seek to withhold this information under sections 552.103 and 552.108 of the Government Code. However, we note a statutory right of access generally prevails over the exceptions to public disclosure under the Act. *See, e.g.*, Open Records Decision Nos. 613 at 4 (1993) (exceptions in Act cannot impinge on statutory right of access to information), 451 (1986) (specific statutory right of access provisions overcome general exception to disclosure under the Act). Thus, the university must release the submitted information to this requestor pursuant to section 724.018 of the Transportation Code.¹

¹As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address your arguments against disclosure of this 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 <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 "Jesse Harvey", written over a white background.

Jesse Harvey
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JHI/mo

Ref: ID# 813667

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)