



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

January 22, 2020

Ms. Deanne Lin
Assistant General Counsel
Harris County Attorney's Office
1019 Congress, 15th Floor
Houston, Texas 77002

OR2020-02017

Dear Ms. Lin:

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# 807345 (ORR# 20PIA).

The Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences (the "institute") received a request for a specified autopsy report. The institute does not take a position as to whether the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under the Act. However, in correspondence to this office, the Waller County District Attorney's Office (the "district attorney's office") objects to the release of the information at issue. *See* Gov't Code § 552.304 (interested third party may submit comments stating why information should or should not be released). We have considered the submitted arguments and reviewed the submitted information.

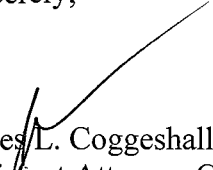
The submitted information was the subject of a previous request for information, in response to which this office issued Open Records Letter No. 2019-19503 (2019). We have no indication the law, facts, or circumstances on which the prior ruling was based have changed. Accordingly, the institute may rely on Open Records Letter No. 2019-19503 as a previous determination and withhold the submitted information in accordance with that ruling.¹

¹ *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).

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,



James L. Coggeshall
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JLC/gw

Ref: ID# 807345

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

c: Third Party
(w/o enclosures)