



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

January 29, 2020

Ms. Elizabeth Stevens  
Assistant General Counsel  
Harris County  
500 Jefferson, Suite 600  
Houston, Texas 77002

OR2020-02736

Dear Ms. Stevens:

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# 808329 (ORR# 2019.11-0011).

The Harris County District Attorney's Office (the "district attorney's office") received a request for the names of government employees on the district attorney's office's "disclosure database." The district attorney's office claims the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.108 and 552.111 of the Government Code, as well as privileged under rule 192.5 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure. We have considered the submitted arguments and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.108 of the Government Code states, in pertinent part, the following:

(a) Information held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime [is excepted from required public disclosure] if:

...

(4) it is information that:

(A) is prepared by an attorney representing the state in anticipation of or in the course of preparing for criminal litigation; or

(B) reflects the mental impressions or legal reasoning of an attorney representing the state.

...

(b) An internal record or notation of a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that is maintained for internal use in matters relating to law enforcement or prosecution is excepted from the requirements of Section 552.021 if:

...

(3) the internal record or notation:

(A) is prepared by an attorney representing the state in anticipation of or in the course of preparing for criminal litigation; or

(B) reflects the mental impressions or legal reasoning of an attorney representing the state.

Gov't Code § 552.108(a)(4), (b)(3). A governmental body must explain how and why section 552.108 is applicable to the information at issue. *See id.* §§ 552.108, .301(e)(1)(A); *see also Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706 (Tex. 1977). The district attorney's office asserts the submitted information consists of internal notations and records prepared by the district attorney's office and reflects the mental impressions or legal reasoning of attorneys representing the state. Based on the district attorney's office's representations and our review, we agree subsections 552.108(a)(4) and (b)(3) of the Government Code are applicable to the submitted information. Accordingly, the district attorney's office may withhold the submitted information under subsections 552.108(a)(4) and (b)(3) 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,



Claire V. Morris Sloan  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

Ref: ID# 808329

c: Requestor