



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

February 25, 2020

Mr. Juan A. Roque
Assistant District Attorney
Bexar County
101 West Nueva Street, 7th Floor
San Antonio, Texas 78205

OR2020-06032

Dear Mr. Roque:

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# 813322 (File No. 8070 – R002337).

The Bexar County Criminal District Attorney's Office (the "district attorney's office") received a request for specified information pertaining to a particular cause number.¹ We understand you will release a portion of the requested information upon payment of costs. You claim 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.

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:

¹ We note the district attorney's office sought and received clarification of the information requested. See Gov't Code § 552.222 (providing if request for information is unclear, governmental body may ask requestor to clarify request); see also *City of Dallas v. Abbott*, 304 S.W.3d 380, 387 (Tex. 2010) (holding when governmental entity, acting in good faith, requests clarification of unclear or overbroad request for public information, ten-business-day period to request attorney general opinion is measured from date request is clarified or narrowed).

...

(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 [required public disclosure] 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.

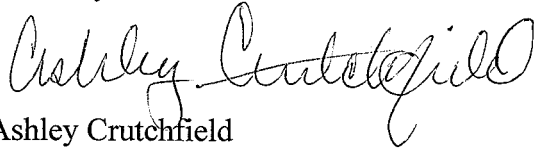
Gov't Code § 552.108(a)(4), (b)(3). A governmental body claiming an exception to disclosure under section 552.108 must explain how and why this exception is applicable to the information the governmental body seeks to withhold. *See id.* §§ 552.108, .301(e)(1)(A); *see also* Open Records Decision No. 434 at 2-3 (1986). The district attorney's office represents the information at issue reflects the mental impressions and legal reasoning of the district attorney's office. Based upon these representations, we conclude the district attorney's office may withhold the submitted information under subsections 552.108(a)(4) and 552.108(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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ashley Crutchfield".

Ashley Crutchfield
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

AC/rm

Ref: ID# 813322

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)