



KEN PAXTON  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

April 6, 2020

Mr. Martin J. Collins & Ms. Michelle R. Casillas  
Staff Attorneys  
Bexar County Probate Court No. 1  
100 Dolorosa, Suite 127  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

OR2020-10362

Dear Mr. Collins and Ms. Casillas:

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# 820899.

The Bexar County Probate Court No. 1 (the "court") received a request for any contracts pertaining to online legal research. Although the court takes no position as to whether the submitted information is excepted under the Act, the court states release of the submitted information may implicate the proprietary interests of Thomson Reuters. Accordingly, the court states, and provides documentation showing, it notified Thomson Reuters of the request for information and of the right to submit arguments to this office as to why the submitted information should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d); *see also* Open Records Decision No. 542 (1990) (statutory predecessor to section 552.305 permits governmental body to rely on interested third party to raise and explain applicability of exception in the Act in certain circumstances). We have reviewed the submitted information.

The Act is applicable to information "written, produced, collected, assembled, or maintained under a law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business" by a governmental body. Gov't Code § 552.002(a)(1). However, the Act's definition of "governmental body" does not include the judiciary. *Id.* § 552.003(1)(B). Information "collected, assembled, or maintained by or for the judiciary" is not subject to the Act but is instead "governed by rules adopted by the Supreme Court of Texas or by other applicable laws and rules." *Id.* § 552.0035(a); *cf.* Open Records Decision No. 131 (1976) (applying statutory predecessor to judiciary exclusion under Gov't Code § 552.003(1)(B) prior to enactment of Gov't Code § 552.0035). Therefore, the Act neither

authorizes information held by the judiciary to be withheld, nor does it require such information be disclosed. *See* Open Records Decision No. 25 (1974). The request for information was received by the court. Thus, the request is for information maintained by the court. Accordingly, we conclude the requested information is not subject to the Act and the court is not required to release it in response to this request for 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,

Katie Stallcup  
Attorney  
Open Records Division

AKS/jxd

Ref: ID# 820899

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

Third Party  
(w/o enclosures)