



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

July 17, 2020

Mr. Davis Woudwyk  
Assistant Criminal District Attorney  
Smith County  
100 North Broadway Avenue, Suite # 400  
Tyler, Texas 75702

OR2020-17821

Dear Mr. Woudwyk:

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# 837872.

The Smith County Sheriff's Office (the "sheriff's office") received a request for information pertaining to Case No. 19-29131. You claim pursuant to section 552.028 of the Government Code, the sheriff's office need not comply with the request for information. Alternatively, you claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.103 and 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the submitted arguments and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.028 of the Government Code provides in part the following:

(a) A governmental body is not required to accept or comply with a request for information from:

(1) an individual who is imprisoned or confined in a correctional facility; or

(2) an agent of that individual, other than that individual's attorney when the attorney is requesting information that is subject to disclosure under [the Act].

(b) This section does not prohibit a governmental body from disclosing to an individual described by Subsection (a)(1), or that individual's agent, information held by the governmental body pertaining to that individual.

(c) In this section, “correctional facility” means:

- (1) a secure correctional facility, as defined by Section 1.07, Penal Code;
- (2) a secure correctional facility and a secure detention facility, as defined by Section 51.02, Family Code; and
- (3) a place designated by the law of this state, another state, or the federal government for the confinement of a person arrested for, charged with, or convicted of a criminal offense.

Gov’t Code § 552.028(a)-(c). You inform us the requestor is acting on behalf of an incarcerated individual. Based on our review of the submitted documents, we agree pursuant to section 552.028 of the Government Code, the sheriff’s office need comply with the request for information.<sup>1</sup>

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,

Cindy Nettles  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

CN/jxd

Ref: ID# 837872

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

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<sup>1</sup> As we are able to make this determination, we need not address the remaining arguments against disclosure of this information.