



KEN PAXTON  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

October 28, 2020

Ms. Jennifer Burnett  
Office of the General Counsel  
University of Texas System  
210 West Seventh Street  
Austin, Texas 78701-2903

OR2020-27010

Dear Ms. Burnett:

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# 851556 (ORR# 198385).

The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston (the "university") received a request for a specified autopsy report. The university claims the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.134 of the Government Code. We have considered the claimed exception and reviewed the submitted information. We have also considered comments submitted by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (the "department"). *See* Gov't Code § 552.304 (interested party may submit comments stating why information should or should not be released).

Section 552.134(a) of the Government Code relates to inmates of the department and provides the following:

Except as provided by Subsection (b) or by Section 552.029 [of the Government Code], information obtained or maintained by the [department] is excepted from [required public disclosure] if it is information about an inmate who is confined in a facility operated by or under a contract with the department.

Gov't Code § 552.134(a). The university states, pursuant to the Correctional Managed Health Care Committee Contract, it is responsible for coordinating autopsy services for

deceased inmates on a statewide basis and maintains the completed autopsy report at issue for the department. Based on these representations, we find the submitted information consists of information about an inmate that the university maintains on behalf of the department. Therefore, the university must withhold the submitted information under section 552.134 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,

James L. Coggeshall  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

JLC/jm

Ref: ID# 851556

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)