



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

January 7, 2022

Mr. Brian Sears
Assistant General Counsel
Texas Department of Public Safety
P.O. Box 4087
Austin, Texas 78773-0001

OR2022-00673

Dear Mr. Sears:

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# 925083 (PIR 21-3267).

The Texas Department of Public Safety (the "department") received a request for information pertaining to a specified missing persons investigation. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Gov't Code § 552.101. Section 552.101 encompasses information protected by other statutes, such as section 63.017 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, a confidentiality provision for certain information related to the missing children and missing persons information clearinghouse (the "clearinghouse"). *See* Crim. Proc. Code art 63.017. The clearinghouse is established within the department and is a central repository of information on missing children and missing persons that is used by all law enforcement agencies of the state. *Id.* arts. 63.002, .003. Section 63.017 reads as follows:

Clearinghouse records that relate to the investigation by a law enforcement agency of a missing child, a missing person, or an unidentified body and records or notations that the clearinghouse maintains for internal use in matters relating to missing children, missing persons, or unidentified bodies are confidential.

Id. art. 63.017. Based on your representation that the submitted information is from the Missing Persons Clearinghouse, we conclude the information at issue is confidential under article 63.017 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and therefore must be withheld from disclosure under section 552.101 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,

Amy Shipp
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

ALS/ba

Ref: ID# 925083

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)