



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

March 3, 2022

Mr. Matthew Entsminger
Assistant County Attorney
Travis County
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767

OR2022-06391

Dear Mr. Entsminger:

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# 934382 (ORR# 1001602-1).

The Travis County Medical Examiner's Office (the "medical examiner's office") received a request for records related to the death of a named individual. The medical examiner's office claims the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception the medical examiner's office claims and reviewed the submitted representative sample of information.¹

The medical examiner's office informs us the submitted information was the subject of a previous request for information, as a result of which this office issued Open Records Letter No. 2021-33766 (2021). In that ruling, we held the medical examiner's office may withhold the information under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code. The medical examiner's office states there has been no change in the law, facts, or circumstances on which the previous ruling was based. Accordingly, the medical examiner's office may rely on Open Records Letter No. 2021-33766 as a previous determination and withhold the information in accordance with that ruling. *See* Open Records Decision No. 673 (2001) (so long as law, facts, and circumstances on which prior ruling was based have not changed, first type of previous determination exists where requested information is precisely same information as was addressed in prior attorney general ruling, ruling is addressed to same

¹ We assume the "representative sample" of records submitted to this office is truly representative of the requested records as a whole. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 499 (1988), 497 (1988). This open records letter does not reach, and therefore does not authorize the withholding of, any other requested records to the extent those records contain substantially different types of information than that submitted to this office.

governmental body, and ruling concludes that information is or is not excepted from disclosure).

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,

Claire V. Morris Sloan
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

CVMS/jm

Ref: ID# 934382

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)