



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

August 11, 2022

Ms. Hannah L. Bell
Assistant Criminal District Attorney
Tarrant County
401 West Belknap Street, 9th Floor
Fort Worth, Texas 76196-0201

OR2022-24011

Dear Ms. Bell:

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# 965619.

The Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office (the "district attorney's office") received a request for information related to criminal court case number 1363213. You argue, pursuant to section 552.028 of the Government Code, the district attorney's office need not comply with the request for information. We have considered the submitted argument and reviewed the submitted information. We have also received and considered comments from the requestor. *See* Gov't Code § 552.304 (permitting interested third party to submit to attorney general reasons why requested information should or should not be released).

Section 552.028 of the Government Code provides, in relevant part, as follows:

(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.

Gov't Code § 552.028(a)-(b). You state, and provide documentation supporting, the requestor is currently incarcerated in a Texas Department of Criminal Justice correctional facility. *Id.* § 552.028(c) ("correctional facility" is place for confinement of a person arrested for or charged with criminal offense). Thus, because the requestor is an inmate imprisoned or confined in a correctional facility, the district attorney's office may decline to accept or comply with this request for information pursuant to section 552.028 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,

Jesse Harvey
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JHI/jxd

Ref: ID# 965619

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)