



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

October 28, 2022

Ms. Meagan Scott
Assistant General Counsel
Harris County District Attorney's Office
1201 Franklin, Suite 600
Houston, Texas 77002

OR2022-33434

Dear Ms. Scott:

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# 977605 (Tracking No. 2022.08-0025).

The Harris County District Attorney's Office (the "district attorney's office") received a request for (1) Brady information pertaining to a specified officer and (2) certain communications during a defined period of time. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101, 552.108, and 552.111 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted representative sample of information.¹

Section 552.108 of the Government Code states, in relevant part, as follows:

(a) Information held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime is excepted from [required public disclosure] if:

...

(4) it is information that:

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 that those records contain substantially different types of information than that submitted to this office.

(A) is prepared by an attorney representing the state in anticipation of litigation of or in the course of preparing for criminal litigation; or

(B) reflects the mental impressions or legal reasoning of an attorney representing the state.

Gov't Code § 552.108(a)(4). A governmental body claiming an exception to disclosure under section 552.108 must explain how and why this exception is applicable to the information the governmental body seeks to withhold. *See id.* §§ 552.108, .301(e)(1)(A); *see also* Open Records Decision No. 434 at 2-3 (1986). You state the submitted information consists of internal records and notations concerning the mental impressions or legal reasoning of attorneys representing the state. Based upon your representations, we find section 552.108(a)(4) is applicable to the information at issue. Therefore, the district attorney's office may withhold the submitted information under section 552.108(a)(4) of the Government Code.²

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,

Kimbell Kesling
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

KK/mo

Ref: ID# 977605

c: Requestor

² As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address the remaining arguments against disclosure of the submitted information.