



The Attorney General of Texas

October 14, 1980

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an Equal Opportunity/
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Ms. Joan Beach
Mitchell County Clerk
P. O. Box 1166
Colorado City, Texas 79512

Open Records Decision No. 254

Re: Whether applications for marriage licenses filed with the county clerk are required to be released under the Texas Open Records Act

Dear Ms. Beach:

You have been requested under the Open Records Act to disclose information on applications for marriage licenses. An application contains the applicant's full name, address, social security number, if any, date and place of birth. The application also indicates whether the individual is currently married, has been divorced within the past 30 days or is related to the other applicant within the prohibited degree.

The only specific information you have questioned involves social security numbers. Such information was expressly determined to be public in Open Records Decision No. 169 (1977). See also Industrial Foundation of the South v. Texas Industrial Accident Board, 540 S.W. 2d 668, 672 (Tex. 1976); Attorney General Opinion H-242 (1974).

We know of no exception which would apply to except from disclosure any of the other information contained in a marriage license application. In fact, such information is specifically required by other statutes to be made available for public inspection. Section L08 of the Family Code requires the county clerk to record all licenses issued by him and to record or summarize all documents submitted with applications for licenses. Article 1945, V.T.C.S., states that all papers filed in the office of the county clerk "shall at all reasonable times be open to the inspection and examination of any citizen, who shall have the right to make copies of the same." Accordingly, we believe it is clear that any application for a marriage license filed with the county clerk is available for public inspection.

Very truly yours,

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