



THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
OF TEXAS

JIM MATTOX
ATTORNEY GENERAL

May 8, 1990

Honorable Val Beard
Brewster County Attorney
P.O. Box 668
Alpine, Texas 79831

OR90-175

Dear Ms. Beard:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, article 6252-17a, V.T.C.S. Your request was assigned ID# 9252.

Brewster County received a request for the detailed billing records received by the county for legal services provided to the county by two law firms. You indicate that the requestor was given access to the bills from one law firm and that you do not seek now to withhold those records from the requestor, but that you do claim that bills from another law firm, which the requestor has not seen, are excepted from disclosure under the attorney-client privilege as incorporated into section 3(a)(1) of the open records act. Additionally, you indicate that you are not attempting to withhold the amount of payments made by the county to either law firm. You also claim that the information is protected from required public disclosure under sections 3(a)(3) and 3(a)(7) of the act.

We have considered the exceptions you claimed and have reviewed the documents at issue. A previous determination of this office, Open Records Decision No. 399 (1983), a copy of which is enclosed, resolves your request. For this reason, you may withhold the requested information under section 3(a)(1) of the act. As we conclude that the information is protected from disclosure under section 3(a)(1), we do not address the applicability of the other sections you cite.

Because case law and prior published open records decisions resolve your request, we are resolving this matter with this informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. If you have questions about this ruling, please refer to OR90-175.

Yours very truly,



David A. Newton
Assistant Attorney General
Opinion Committee

DAN/le

Ref.: ID# 9252

Enclosure: Open Records Decision No. 399

cc: Dr. Fred B. Vogt
705 North Second St.
Alpine, Texas 79830