



Office of the Attorney General  
State of Texas

DAN MORALES  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

January 9, 1992

Ms. Ann Diamond  
Tarrant County Assistant District Attorney  
Justice Center  
401 Belknap  
Fort Worth, Texas 76196-0201

OR92-14

Dear Ms. Diamond:

We have received your letter of November 22, 1991, concerning a request for information under the Texas Open Records Act, article 6252-17a, V.T.C.S. Your letter was assigned ID# 14308.

The requestor asks for "[a]ll computer tapes and/or storage media which contain data relating to criminal court cases filed in Tarrant County, Texas." In addition, he asks for other information relating to the maintenance of this information on computer tapes. Your letter states that this dispute is "not so much about whether information should be released, but whether it must be released in one format (computer tape tailored to fit the desires of a requestor) when it is readily available in another format (paper)."

The requestor has sued Tarrant County, seeking a writ of mandamus compelling the production of the information subject to this request, and the lawsuit is currently pending. It is styled *Star Telegram, Inc. v. Tarrant County*, No. 96-138444-91 (Dist Ct. of Tarrant County, 96th Judicial Dist. of Texas). The issues raised before the court involve not merely a determination as to the application of exceptions to particular records, but the construction of Open Records Act provisions relevant to the form in which information is provided. Accordingly, we will not address the availability of the requested information. We have, however, enclosed copies of rulings that are relevant to issues raised by your letter.

Because we have decided not to address the availability of the requested information, we are responding with this informal letter ruling rather than with a

published open records decision. If you have questions about this ruling, please refer to OR92-14.

Yours very truly,



Susan Garrison  
Assistant Attorney General  
Opinion Committee

SG/mc

Ref.: ID# 14308

Enclosures: Attorney General Opinions DM-41, 30 (1991); Open Records Decision No. 581 (1990);

cc: Mr. Michael Whitely  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram  
P. O. Box 1870  
Fort Worth, Texas 76101  
(w/o enclosures)

Mr. Thomas J. Williams  
Bishop, Payne, Williams & Werley  
500 West Seventh Street, Suite 1800  
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-4782  
(with enclosures)