



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

March 26, 1996

Ms. Jacquelyn Middlebrooks
Assistant City Attorney
Criminal Law and Police Division
City of Dallas
City Hall
Dallas, Texas 75201

OR96-0419

Dear Ms. Middlebrooks:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 37444.

The City of Dallas received an open records request for certain records held by the Dallas Municipal Court. You inquire whether these records must be released to the requestor pursuant to the Open Records Act.

Section 552.003 of the Government Code defines the entities that constitute "governmental bodies" under the act. Subsection 552.003(b) specifically provides that "[i]n this chapter, 'governmental body' does not include the judiciary." Consequently, records of the judiciary do not fall within the ambit of the Open Records Act. *See, e.g.,* Open Records Decision Nos. 274 (1981); 25 (1974) (records of judiciary not subject to the Open Records Act, but are subject to common law and statutory rights of inspection).

Although the requested records may be subject to statutory rights of inspection, we conclude that the requested records are not subject to the Open Records Act because they appear to be records of the judiciary. Because the authority of this office to render open records decisions is limited to determinations as to whether requested information held by "governmental bodies" falls within the act's exceptions from disclosure, we are not authorized by the act to instruct the court as to the rights of access to its records. Consequently, we cannot further assist you in this matter.

We are resolving this matter with an informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue

under the facts presented to us in this request and should not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,



Janet I. Monteros
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JIM/RWP/cbh

Ref.: ID# 37444

cc: Mr. Leon Perkins
Managing Director
Accident Reporting Services
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