



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

August 26, 1996

Mr. John Steiner
Division Chief
City of Austin
Law Department
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767-1088

OR96-1534

Dear Mr. Steiner:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 101264.

The City of Austin received a request for a copy of a police report regarding the death of the requestor's daughter. You claim this information is excepted from required public disclosure pursuant to section 552.108 of the Government Code.

Section 552.108 excepts from disclosure "[i]nformation held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime," and "[a]n internal record or notation of a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that is maintained for internal use in matters relating to law enforcement or prosecution." Gov't Code § 552.108; see *Holmes v. Morales*, 39 Tex. Sup. Ct. J. 781, 1996 WL 325601 (June 14, 1996). We note, however, that information normally found on the front page of an offense report is generally considered public.¹ *Houston Chronicle Publishing Co. v. City of Houston*, 531 S.W.2d 177 (Tex. Civ. App.--Houston [14th Dist.] 1975), writ ref'd n.r.e. per curiam, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976); Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976). We conclude that, except for front page offense report information, section 552.108 of the Government Code excepts the requested records from required public disclosure. Of course, you may choose to release all or part of the information that is not otherwise confidential by law. Gov't Code § 552.007.

¹The content of the information determines whether it must be released in compliance with *Houston Chronicle*, not its literal location on the first page of an offense report. Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976) contains a summary of the types of information deemed public by *Houston Chronicle*.

We are resolving this matter with this 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 may 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Reese". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Todd Reese
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

RTR/rho

Ref.: ID# 101264

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Ms. Janie Acosta
2414 East 9th Street
Austin, Texas 78702
(w/o enclosures)