



Office of the Attorney General  
State of Texas

DAN MORALES  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 24, 1998

Mr. Miles K. Risley  
Senior Assistant City Attorney  
Legal Department  
City of Victoria  
P.O. Box 1758  
Victoria, Texas 77902

OR98-2859

Dear Mr. Risley:

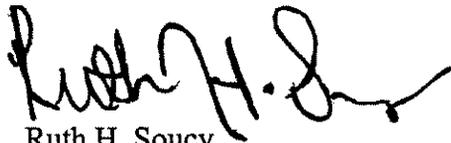
You have asked whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Open Records Act, chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 121787.

You assert that the requested information is excepted from disclosure based on section 552.108 of the Government Code. Section 552.108 of the Government Code states that information held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime is excepted from required public disclosure "if release of the information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime." Gov't Code § 552.108(a)(1). You inform us that the requested information pertains to a pending case. We therefore believe that the release of the information "would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime."

However section 552.108 is inapplicable to basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime. Gov't Code § 552.108(c). We believe such basic information refers to the information held to be public in *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). Also, information filed with a court is generally public. *Star Telegram, Inc. v. Walker*, 834 S.W.2d 54 (Tex. 1992). Thus, with the exception of the basic front page offense and arrest information and other information which may otherwise be public, the department may withhold the requested information from disclosure based on section 552.108(a)(1).

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, appearing to read "Ruth H. Soucy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ruth H. Soucy  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

RHS/mjc

Ref.: ID# 121787

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Ms. Nancy Quinn  
401 Oak Terrace  
Edna, Texas 77957  
(w/o enclosures)