



April 19, 1999

Ms. Regina Atwell  
City Attorney  
City of Cleburne  
P.O. Box 677  
Cleburne, Texas 76053-0677

OR99-1046

Dear Ms. Atwell:

You have asked whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Records Act, chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 124526.

You assert that the requested information is excepted from disclosure based on section 552.108 of the Government Code.<sup>1</sup> Section 552.108(a)(2) excepts from disclosure information concerning an investigation that concluded in a result other than conviction or deferred adjudication. Based on the information you provided, we understand you to assert that the requested information pertains to a case that concluded in a result other than conviction or deferred adjudication. Therefore, we agree that section 552.108(a)(2) is generally applicable.

---

<sup>1</sup>You asked about access to the accident report. Although the Seventy-fourth Legislature repealed and codified article 6701d as part of the Transportation Code, the legislature did not intend a substantive change of the law but merely a recodification of existing law. Act of May 1, 1995, 74th Leg., R.S., ch. 165, §§ 24, 25 1995 Tex. Gen. Laws 1025, 1870-71. Furthermore, the Seventy-fourth Legislature, without reference to the repeal and codification of V.T.C.S. article 6701d, amended section 47 of article 6701d, V.T.C.S., relating to the disclosure of accident reports. Act of May 27, 1995, 74th Leg., R.S., ch. 894, § 1, 1995 Tex. Gen. Laws 4413, 4414. Because the repeal of a statute by a code does not affect an amendment of the statute by the same legislature which enacted the code, the amendment is preserved and given effect as part of the code provision. Gov't Code § 311.031(c). Thus, the amendment of section 47 of article 6701d, V.T.C.S. is the existing law regarding the availability of accident report information, and may be found following section 550.065 of the Transportation Code. *See also* Act of May 27, 1995, 74th Leg., R.S., ch. 894, § 1, 1995 Tex. Gen. Laws 4413, 4414. We agree that the accident report may not be released to the requestor, who has not provided you with two of the three required items of information to be provided to receive the accident report.

conviction or deferred adjudication. Therefore, we agree that section 552.108(a)(2) is generally applicable.

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). Thus, with the exception of the basic front page offense and arrest information, you may withhold the requested information from disclosure based on section 552.108(a)(2). We note that you have the discretion to release all or part of the remaining information that is not otherwise confidential by law. Gov't Code § 552.007.

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.

Sincerely,



Ruth H. Soucy  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

RHS/nc

Ref.: ID# 124526

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Mr. John Brookman, Esq.  
1300 East Berry, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Fort Worth, Texas 76133-3003  
(w/o enclosures)