



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

August 7, 2009

Mr. Reg Hargrove
Assistant Attorney General
Public Information Coordinator
Office of the Attorney General
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, Texas 78711-2548

OR2009-11009

Dear Mr. Hargrove:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 353976 (PIR No. 09-25283).

The Office of the Attorney General (the "OAG") received a request for the investigative file concerning Nurse Shanna Riney and the death of Vern Easley. The OAG asserts the information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101, 552.108, 552.136, and 552.137 of the Government Code. We have considered the OAG's claimed exceptions to disclosure and have reviewed the submitted sample of information.¹

Section 552.108(a)(2) excepts from disclosure information concerning an investigation that concluded in a result other than conviction or deferred adjudication. Gov't Code § 552.108(a)(2). A governmental body claiming section 552.108(a)(2) must demonstrate the requested information relates to a criminal investigation that has concluded in a final result other than a conviction or deferred adjudication. The OAG explains the information pertains

¹We assume the representative sample of records submitted to this office is truly representative of the requested records as a whole. See Open Records Decision Nos. 499 (1988), 497 (1988). This open records letter does not reach, and therefore does not authorize the withholding of, any other requested records to the extent that those records contain substantially different types of information than that submitted to this office.

to a case investigated by its Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (the "MFCU") that concluded and did not result in conviction or deferred adjudication. Based on the OAG's representation, we conclude the OAG may withhold the information pursuant section 552.108(a)(2).

However, section 552.108 does not except from disclosure basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime. Gov't Code § 552.108(c). 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 basic information, the OAG may withhold the rest of the information from disclosure based on section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code.²

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at http://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/index_orl.php, or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act must be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the Office of the Attorney General at (512) 475-2497.

Sincerely,



Yen-Ha Le
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

YHL/sdk

Ref: ID# 353976

Enc: Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

²Because section 552.108 is dispositive, we do not address the OAG's other arguments for this information.