



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

GREG ABBOTT

January 15, 2010

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

OR2010-00825

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# 368364 (PIR No. 09-26508).

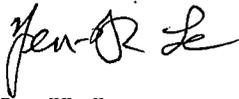
The Office of the Attorney General (the "OAG") received a request for information pertaining to a certain lawsuit and David Talbot, Jr. The OAG has released most of the information but asserts the W-4 forms are excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code. We have considered the OAG's claimed exception to disclosure and have reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Gov't Code § 552.101. This exception encompasses information other statutes make confidential. Section 6103(a) of title 26 of the United States Code provides tax return information is confidential. 26 U.S.C. § 6103(a)(2), (b)(2)(A); *see* Open Records Decision No. 600 (1992); Attorney-General Op. MW-372 (1981). Therefore, the OAG must withhold the W-4 forms.

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, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Yen-Ha Le
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

YHL/sdk

Ref: ID# 368364

Enc: Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)