



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

September 27, 2011

Mr. Cory S. Hartsfield
For Tarrant County Hospital District
Adams, Lynch & Loftin, P.C.
3950 Highway 360
Grapevine, Texas 76051-6741

OR2011-14004

Dear Mr. Hartsfield:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 431524 (Tarrant County Hospital District ID #11316).

The Tarrant County Hospital District (the "district"), which you represent, received two requests from the same requestor for information about a specified incident, and for the requestor's entire human resources file. You state you have released the requestor's human resources file and a photograph pertaining to the incident to the requestor. You also state that no additional responsive information exists.¹ You claim that the remainder of the request requires the district to answer questions. We have considered your arguments.

The Act does not require a governmental body to answer general questions, perform legal research, or create information that did not exist when the request was received. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 605 at 2, 563 at 8, 555 at 1-2. However, a governmental body must make a good-faith effort to relate a request to any responsive information that is within its possession or control. Open Records Decision No. 561 at 8-9 (1990). Upon review, we agree the remainder of the request requires the district to answer questions, which is not a proper request under the Act and the district need not respond.

¹We note that the Act does not require a governmental body to release information that did not exist when it received a request or create responsive information. *See Econ. Opportunities Dev. Corp. v. Bustamante*, 562 S.W.2d 266 (Tex. Civ. App.—San Antonio 1978, writ dismissed); Open Records Decision Nos. 605 at 2 (1992), 555 at 1 (1990), 452 at 3 (1986), 362 at 2 (1983).

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,



Cynthia G. Tynan
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

CGT/em

Ref: ID# 431524

c: Requestor