



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

April 5, 2012

Ms. Jordan Hale
Assistant Attorney General
Assistant Public Information Coordinator
General Counsel Division
Office of the Attorney General
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, Texas 78711-2548

OR2012-04971

Dear Ms. Hale:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 450690 (PIR No. 12-32646).

The Office of the Attorney General (the "OAG") received a request for information pertaining to the Crime Victims' Compensation claim of a named victim. The OAG argues the responsive information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101, 552.130, and 552.132 of the Government Code. We have considered the OAG's claimed exceptions to disclosure and have reviewed the sample information.¹

Section 552.132 of the Government Code provides in pertinent part as follows:

(a) . . . , in this section, "crime victim or claimant" means a victim or claimant under Subchapter B, Chapter 56, Code of Criminal Procedure,² who has filed an application for compensation under that subchapter.

¹We assume the sample 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.

²Vernon's Ann. C.C.P. art 56.31 *et seq.*

(b) The following information held by the crime victim's compensation division of the [OAG] is confidential:

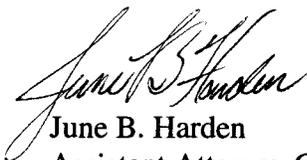
- (1) the name, social security number, address, or telephone number of a crime victim or claimant; or
- (2) any other information the disclosure of which would identify or tend to identify the crime victim or claimant.

Gov't Code § 552.132(a), (b). Thus, section 552.132 protects the identifying information of a crime victim or claimant. Generally the OAG would only be allowed to withhold the victim's identifying information from public disclosure. In this instance, however, because the requestor knows the victim's identity, withholding only the identifying information would not effectuate the purpose of the statute. Thus, all of the information is confidential pursuant to section 552.132, and the OAG must withhold all of the information.³

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,



June B. Harden
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JBH/sdk

³Because section 552.132 is dispositive, we need not address your additional arguments against disclosure.

Ref: ID# 452188

Enc: Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)