



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

April 30, 2012

Ms. Susan Fillion
Assistant County Attorney
Harris County
1019 Congress, 15th Floor
Houston, Texas 77002

OR2012-06218

Dear Ms. Fillion:

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# 456595 (C.A. File No. 12PIA0180).

The Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences (the "institute") received a request for the autopsy report and other information related to a named decedent. You claim the requested information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the information you submitted.

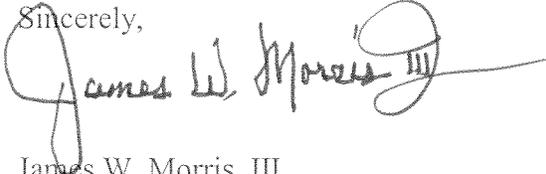
We note the submitted information was the subject of a previous request by the institute for a ruling, in response to which this office issued Open Records Letter No. 2011-14678 (2011). In the previous ruling, we concluded the institute may withhold the requested information under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code. You do not indicate there has been any change in the law, facts, and circumstances on which the previous ruling is based. We therefore conclude the institute may rely on Open Records Letter No. 2011-14678 as a previous determination and withhold the submitted information on the basis of the previous ruling.¹ See Open Records Decision No. 673 at 6-7 (2001) (listing elements of first type of previous determination under Gov't Code § 552.301(a)).

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.

¹As we are able to make this determination, we need not address your arguments against disclosure.
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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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James W. Morris, III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

James W. Morris, III
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JWM/em

Ref: ID# 456595

Enc: Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)