



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

September 17, 2012

Mr. Robert Henneke
County Attorney
Kerr County
700 Main Street, Suite BA-103
Kerrville, Texas 78028

OR2012-14734

Dear Mr. Henneke:

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# 469524.

The Kerr County Attorney's Office (the "county attorney's office") received two requests from the same requestor for information pertaining to a specified incident. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the claimed exception and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, we note that the information you seek to withhold includes blood analysis results. Section 724.018 of the Transportation Code provides that, on the request of the person who has given a specimen at the request of a peace officer, full information concerning the analysis of the specimen must be made available to that person or the person's attorney. Transp. Code § 724.018. Although you raise section 552.108 of the Government Code for this information, the exceptions to disclosure found in the Act generally do not apply to information that other statutes make public. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 623 at 3 (1994), 525 at 3 (1989). In this instance, the requestor is an attorney representing the person who provided the blood specimen at the request of a peace officer. Therefore, the submitted blood analysis results must be released to this requestor pursuant to section 724.018 of the Transportation Code.

Section 552.108(a)(2) excepts from disclosure "[i]nformation held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime . . . if . . . it is information that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime only in relation to an investigation that did not result in 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. *See id.* § 552.301(e)(1)(A) (governmental body must provide comments explaining why exceptions raised should apply to information requested). You state the incident at issue did not result in conviction or deferred adjudication. Based on your representation and our review, we find section 552.108(a)(2) applies to the remaining information.

However, section 552.108 does not except from disclosure basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime. *Id.* § 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) (summarizing types of information considered to be basic information), *writ ref'd n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976). Basic information must be released even if it does not literally appear on the front page of an offense or arrest report. *See Open Records Decision No. 127* (1976) (summarizing types of information deemed public by *Houston Chronicle*). Thus, with the exception of basic information, the county attorney's office may withhold the remaining information under section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code.

In summary, the county attorney's office must release the blood analysis results to this requestor pursuant to section 724.018 of the Transportation Code. With the exception of basic information, the county attorney's office may withhold the remaining information under section 552.108(a)(2) of the Government Code.

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,



Misty Haberer Barham
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

MHB/som

Ref: ID# 469524

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)