



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

August 1, 2013

Ms. Cheryl Elliott Thornton  
Assistant County Attorney  
Harris County  
1019 Congress, 15th Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002

OR2013-13283

Dear Ms. Thornton:

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# 499484 (C.A. File No. 13PIA0310).

The Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences (the "institute") received a request for information related to a specified autopsy. 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 submitted information.

We note the requested information was the subject of a previous request for a ruling, in response to which this office issued Open Records Letter No. 2012-20286 (2012). In that ruling, we determined that the institute may withhold the information at issue under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code on behalf of the Harris County Sheriff's Office. As we have no indication the law, facts, and circumstances on which Open Records Letter No. 2012-20286 was based have changed, we conclude the department may continue to rely on Open Records Letter No. 2012-20286 as a previous determination and withhold the requested information in accordance with that ruling. *See* Open Records Decision No. 673 (2001) (so long as law, facts, and circumstances on which prior ruling was based have not changed, first type of previous determination exists where requested information is precisely same information as was addressed in prior attorney general ruling, ruling is addressed to same governmental body, and ruling concludes information is or is not excepted from disclosure). As we reach this conclusion, we need not address your arguments.

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.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl\\_ruling\\_info.shtml](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtml), 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 may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Cindy Nettles  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

CN/dls

Ref: ID# 499484

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)