



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

September 10, 2013

Ms. Rebecca E. Quinn
Assistant County Attorney
El Paso County
500 East San Antonio, Room 503
El Paso, Texas 79901

OR2013-15714

Dear Ms. Quinn:

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# 503450 (CA-OP-13-366).

The El Paso Medical Examiner's Office (the "medical examiner") received a request for the death certificate, autopsy report, and photographs pertaining to a named deceased individual. You state the medical examiner will release some of the requested information. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

We note the submitted information was the subject of a previous request for information, in response to which this office issued Open Records Letter No. 2013-12579 (2013). In that decision, we ruled that the submitted information was excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 11 of article 49.25 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. As we have no indication that the law, facts, or circumstances on which the prior ruling was based have changed, the medical examiner must continue to rely on that ruling as a previous determination and continue to withhold the submitted information in accordance with that decision. *See* Open Records Decision No. 673 (2001) (governmental body may rely on previous determination when records or information at issue are precisely same records or information that were previously submitted to this office pursuant to section 552.301(e)(1)(D); governmental body which received request for

records or information is same governmental body that previously requested and received ruling from attorney general; prior ruling concluded that precise records or information are or are not excepted from disclosure under Act; and law, facts, and circumstances on which prior ruling was based have not changed since issuance of ruling). As we are able to make this determination, we do not address the submitted argument.

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, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tamara H. Holland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tamara H. Holland
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

THH/ac

Ref: ID# 503450

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)