



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

November 3, 2016

Mr. Zachary Brown
Assistant General Counsel
Office of the General Counsel
Texas Department of Criminal Justice
P.O. Box 4004
Huntsville, Texas 77342-4004

OR2016-24473

Dear Mr. Brown:

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# 633021.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (the "TDCJ") received a request for documents pertaining to custody of the requestor's child and a named individual. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.134 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Gov't Code § 552.101. Section 552.101 encompasses section 508.313(a) of the Government Code, which reads as follows:

- (a) All information obtained and maintained [by the department], including a victim protest letter or other correspondence, a victim impact statement, a list of inmates eligible for release on parole, and an arrest record of an inmate, is confidential and privileged if the information relates to:

(1) an inmate of the institutional division [of the department] subject to release on parole, release to mandatory supervision, or executive clemency;

(2) a releasee; or

(3) a person directly identified in any proposed plan of release for an inmate.

Id. § 508.313(a); *see id.* § 508.001(9) (“releasee” means a person released on parole or to mandatory supervision). The TDCJ states the submitted information consists of records of a releasee that are subject to section 508.313 of the Government Code. You state the requestor is not authorized to obtain this information under section 508.313(c). *See id.* § 508.313(c). You also state that this information is not made public under section 552.029 of the Government Code. *See id.* § 508.313(f). Further, there is no indication this information is made public under chapter 62 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. *See id.* § 508.313(e). Accordingly, the TDCJ must withhold the submitted information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 508.313 of the Government Code.¹

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,



Ashley Crutchfield
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

AC/bw

¹As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address your remaining argument against disclosure.

Ref: ID# 633021

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)