



Public Information Act Requests

Recently several centers have received Public Information requests from citizens. The definition of the term “governmental body encompasses all public entities in the executive and legislative branches of government at the state and local levels.” Community Centers definitely fall under this definition. The law states “A governmental body’s duties under section 552.221(a) to produce information, or under section 552.301(a) to request a ruling from the attorney general, arise only after it receives a written request.” The Center must respond to the written request “promptly” which means “soon as possible under the circumstances, that is, within a reasonable time, without delay.” There is a ten day requirement if there is a prior determination that requires the governmental body to withhold the information. The requestor must be notified of this in writing.

When the governmental body receives a written request “for information the governmental body wishes to withhold, it must seek an attorney general decision within ten business days of its receipt of the request and state the exceptions to disclosure that it believes are applicable.” Otherwise, the requirement of prompt compliance with the request applies.

Pam Beach is available for your questions about the Act. A webinar on this topic will be presented in the near future. The attorney general’s Public Information Act Handbook 2026 is available online at:

<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/files/divisions/open-government/PIA-Handbook-2026.pdf>