



TEXAS PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT (OPEN RECORDS)

March 26 – 27, 2020

Double Tree Hotel

Cost: TPA Member-\$250.00 / Non-Member \$280.00
Includes Lunch on Thursday and Coffee Breaks
Register at: [Click Here](#)

TCOLE hours: **10** MCLE Hours: **10 Pending from the State Bar**

Dear Colleague:

The Texas Police Association will sponsor a 10-hour seminar on the "**Public Information Act**" at the Double Tree Hotel in Austin on Thursday and Friday, March 26 – 27, 2020.

This course, which is designed for law enforcement personnel, government attorneys and government staff responsible for receiving and processing Open Records/Public Information Requests. The course will include legislation enacted by the 86th Texas Legislature and most current Case Law, Attorney General Decisions and their application.

Registration will open at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 26th, with the seminar beginning at 9:00 a.m. The seminar will conclude at noon on Friday, March 27th. Lunch will be provided for all seminar attendees at the hotel on Thursday, March 26th. Coffee and soft drinks will be provided during the breaks.

As "Transparency in Government" continues to be a political issue, the number of requests for information from government agencies continue to increase. The timely responses to these requests are often complicated by changes in the law through court opinions. These challenges can easily lead to frustration on the part of the public and/or mistakes in releasing protected information by the government agency. The increasing number of opinions on what and how information is released under the Act from the Attorney General's office add to the potential for confusion in determining what information is subject to release and what information falls within the exceptions to the Act.

This training is designed to provide you and your staff with definitive answers to your questions on open records and how you and your staff fulfill your responsibilities to open government. This training is designed to give a practical guide to those officials who have the responsibility to respond to open records/public information requests. While the legal aspects of the Act will be covered, they will be taught in a manner which provides guidance in interpreting the Act along with instruction in drafting requests for opinions from the Attorney General's office.

The training is organized in such a manner that it covers all the statutory material and case law in a logical, self-paced presentation which is designed to facilitate questions and class participation.

Counsel: The course will be taught by Mr. John C. West, Jr., J.D. Mr. West is currently on the General Counsel for the Office of the Inspector General of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and formerly the Chief of Legal Services for the Texas Department of Public Safety. Prior to his appointment as Chief, Mr. West served as General Counsel and Assistant General Counsel for DPS. Mr. West has been involved with Public Information

Act since it was passed in 1973. Mr. West has been licensed to practice law since 1969.

Topics to be covered in this seminar are:

- Updated Changes to the Public Information Act affected by the 86th Legislative Session
- History and Development of the Concept of Open Records in Texas
- Provisions Covered by the Texas Public Information Act
- Requesting Opinions under the Public Information Act
 - What to ask, When to ask, How to ask
 - Pitfalls of the request process
 - Knowing when to be reasonable
 - Protecting your interests

Status of the act with respect to:

- Body Cameras
- Birth Dates
- Litigation exception
- Open criminal case exception
- Copyright problems
- Opinions, evaluations and recommendations
- Land transactions
- Purchasing documents
- Personnel records
- Peace officer pictures and addresses
- Special Right of Access for Individuals
- Federal Freedom of Information and Federal Privacy Acts
- Sanctions under the Act and Impact of Failure to Comply
- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA)
- And New Cases

The Double Tree Hotel, located at 6505 IH 35 North in Austin, has reserved a block of rooms for seminar attendees at a prevailing **Government Rate**. Please refer to the group name of "Texas Police Association Public Information Act Seminar March 2020" when making reservations. The hotel's telephone number is (800) 866-3126 or (512) 454-3737. Please be sure to make your reservations by **March 2, 2020**, as this room rate will expire at that time. You may also use the following link to make your room reservations: <https://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/A/AUSLNDT-PIA-20200325/index.jhtml>.

Parking is also available for this Seminar at the discounted rate of \$5.00 per vehicle per day.

Enclosed is a registration form for you and the members of your party desiring to attend. You are reminded that in order for the registration to be accepted, the fee for must accompany each registration.

TCOLE training credit will be given to peace officers attending this program. MCLE credit through the State Bar of Texas is pending.

If you need any additional information, or if we may assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to call our office at (512) 458-3140.

Please share this with anyone else you feel will benefit from this training.



REGISTRATION FORM
TEXAS PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT SEMINAR



Double Tree Hotel
Austin, Texas
March 26 - 27, 2020

Name:

1. _____ Title: _____
(Please Print)

Email address: _____ PID# _____

2. _____ Title: _____

Email address: _____ PID# _____

3. _____ Title: _____

Email address: _____ PID# _____

Name of Agency/Organization: _____

Address: _____
Street or Box City Zip

Phone: _____ E-Mail _____

TPA Member Registration\$250.00 each

Non-Member Registration\$280.00 each

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____

Return to: Texas Police Association
P. O. Box 4247
Austin, TX 78765-4247
(512) 458-3140 Fax 458-1799
Email: mona@texaspoliceassociation.com

No refunds, replacements welcome.

____ American Express _____ Discover _____ MasterCard _____ Visa

Name (on card): _____

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Sec. Code _____

Signature: _____ Today's Date: _____

_____ CASH

_____ CHECK/MONEY ORDER