



# TEXAS PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT (OPEN RECORDS)

November 29, 2022

## Sheraton Austin Georgetown Hotel & Conference Center

**Cost: TPA Member \$150.00 / Non-Member \$200.00**  
**Includes Coffee and Soft Drinks – Lunch On Your Own**  
**Register at: [Click Here](#)**

TCOLE hours: 7      MCLE Hours: 7 Pending Approval from the State Bar

Dear Colleague:

The Texas Police Association will sponsor a 7-hour seminar on the "**Public Information Act**" at the Sheraton Austin Georgetown Hotel and Conference Center in Georgetown, Texas on Tuesday, November 29, 2022.

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 be an overview of this subject prior to the next Legislative Session that will begin in January 2023. It will include Legislation enacted by the 87<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature and most current Case Law, Attorney General Decisions and their application.

The seminar will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. Registration will open at 8:00 a.m. Lunch will be "On Your Own" for all seminar attendees. 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 recently retired from the General Council for the Office of the Inspector General of the Texas the Dept. 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:**

- 26 Updated Changes to the Public Information Act affected by the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session
- Expanded Section on Writing Opinion Request Letters
- 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 Sheraton Austin Georgetown Hotel and Conference Center, located at 1101 Woodlawn Avenue, Georgetown, Texas 78628, has reserved a block of rooms for seminar attendees at a prevailing **Government Rate (\$102.00)**. Please refer to the group name of “Texas Police Association Public Information Act Seminar” or by using the link below when making reservations. The hotel's telephone number is (800) 477-3340 or (737) 444-2700. *Please be sure to make your reservations by November 14, 2022, as this room rate will expire at that time.*

Room reservation link: <https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1666189306599&key=GRP>

Complimentary covered self-parking is also available for this Seminar.

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.

***Please note – Registrations using a Credit Card as the form of payment will have the Credit Card Fees passed on to the registrant.*** Invoicing is also available upon request for those wishing to register.

TCOLE training credit will be given to peace officers attending this program. MCLE credit through the State Bar of Texas has been applied for and is waiting for approval.

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**  
**Sheraton Austin Georgetown Hotel & Conference Center**  
**Georgetown, Texas**  
**November 29, 2022**



Name:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please Print)

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ TCOLE PID# \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ TCOLE PID# \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ TCOLE PID# \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Agency/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street or Box City Zip

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**TPA Member Registration** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$150.00 each**

**Non-Member Registration** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$200.00 each**

**Total Amount** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Invoicing Available Upon Request**

**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

*Credit card fees will be passed along to the registrant.*