Public Information Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a public information request?

   A public information request is a request to a governmental body for records or information that is already in existence and that is written, produced, collected, assembled, or maintained by the governmental body. The laws and procedures governing public information requests are found in the Texas Public Information Act, Texas Government Code chapter 552.

2. What kinds of information may I not be entitled to receive by making a public information request?

   *Generally, all information is considered public. However, the Public Information Act lists several categories of information that are confidential and/or excepted from disclosure to the public. Click **here** for more information.*

3. How do I submit a public information request to Brazoria County?

   *A public information request to Brazoria County may be submitted in one of the three below ways. When making a request, please complete and submit the "Texas Public Information Act Request Form," which can be found **here**:*

   By E-mail
   piarequest@brazoriacountytx.gov

   By United States Mail
   Brazoria County Criminal District Attorney's Office – Civil Division
   237 E. Locust, Suite 305
   Angleton, Texas 77515

   In Person
   Brazoria County Criminal District Attorney's Office – Civil Division
   237 E. Locust, Suite 305
   Angleton, Texas 77515

4. Am I required to submit a public information request for every piece of information I want?

   No. Brazoria County posts many of its records online to make it easier for the public to access. Please consider searching for records online before submitting a public information request, as you may be able to obtain the information faster that way.

5. Where can I get court records?

   All court records—criminal or civil; traffic, felony, misdemeanor, divorce, etc.—are maintained by the clerks of the courts in which the case was filed, and can only be obtained

*through them. Rules for public access to court records are differente than the Public Information Act, and can be viewed **here**.*

6. Can I require Brazoria County answer questions, create new information, or perform legal research through a public information request?

   No. The Public Information Act pertains to records and information that is already in existence. Governmental bodies are not required to answer questions, create new information, or perform legal research in response to a request for public information.

7. What can I expect to pay for public information?

   *You may be required to pay costs for Brazoria County to process and provide information responsive to your request. The regulations governing the costs associated with public information requests can be found **here**.*

8. Can I obtain certified copies of records through a public information?

   No. Certified copies of records are not available through a public information request. If you need certified copies of records, please contact the office that is responsible for maintaining the records.