

# THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

The *Texas Register* publishes summaries of the following: Requests for Opinions, Opinions, and Open Records Decisions.

An index to the full text of these documents is available on the Attorney General's website at <https://www.texas.attorneygeneral.gov/attorney-general-opinions>. For information about pending requests for opinions, telephone (512) 463-2110.

An Attorney General Opinion is a written interpretation of existing law. The Attorney General writes opinions as part of his responsibility to act as legal counsel for the State of Texas. Opinions are written only at the request of certain state officials. The Texas Government Code indicates to whom the Attorney General may provide a legal opinion. He may not write legal opinions for private individuals or for any officials other than those specified by statute. (Listing of authorized requestors: <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/attorney-general-opinions>.)

## Requests for Opinions

### **RQ-0583-KP**

#### **Requestor:**

Ms. Shandra Carter

Executive Director

Texas Juvenile Justice Department

Post Office Box 12757

Austin, Texas 78701

Re: Office of Independent Ombudsman authority to interview youth and inspect facilities under Chapter 261 of the Human Resources Code (RQ-0583-KP)

#### **Briefs requested by March 28, 2025**

### **RQ-0584-KP**

#### **Requestor:**

The Honorable Joe Gonzales

Bexar County Criminal District Attorney

101 West Nueva

San Antonio, Texas 78205

Re: Legality of an automated traffic-enforcement system for speeding citations

(RQ-0584-KP)

#### **Briefs requested by March 31, 2025**

*For further information, please access the website at [www.texasattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov) or call the Opinion Committee at (512) 463-2110.*

TRD-202500789

Justin Gordon

General Counsel

Office of the Attorney General

Filed: March 4, 2025

## Opinions

### **Opinion No. KP-0484**

The Honorable Brian Birdwell

Chair, Senate Committee on Natural Resources

Texas State Senate

Post Office Box 12068

Austin, Texas 78711-2068

Re: Authority of the Texas Ethics Commission to toll its obligation under Government Code § 571.1242(g) in circumstances beyond litigation (RQ-0568-KP)

#### **S U M M A R Y**

Subsection 571.1242(g) of the Government Code unambiguously imposes a jurisdictional deadline by which the Texas Ethics Commission must take specified action on a complaint. Subsection 571.1244(2), on the other hand, concerns procedures for preliminary reviews and unambiguously pertains to procedural deadlines—not the Commission's jurisdiction. This is likewise confirmed by the general objectives of the Commission's enabling framework, which aims to streamline the complaint process such that the Commission's failure to timely resolve claims during preliminary review results in a loss of jurisdiction over the underlying allegations. As such, the Commission may not toll its jurisdictional deadline outside of litigation.

Rules that provide otherwise are facially invalid insofar as they conflict with both the plain text and general objectives of the Commission's enabling framework.

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Justin Gordon

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Office of the Attorney General

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