



Office of the Attorney General  
State of Texas

DAN MORALES  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

July 5, 1993

Ms. Mercedes Leal  
Senior Assistant County Attorney  
Harris County Attorney's Office  
1001 Preston, Suite 634  
Houston, Texas 77002-1891

OR93-419

Dear Ms. Leal:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, article 6252-17a, V.T.C.S. Your request was assigned ID# 20494.

The Harris County Youth Village (the "youth village") has received a request for "copies of all documents relating to and showing the number of detainees escaping or fleeing the Harris County Youth Village during the period between January 1, 1990 through December 31, 1992." You advise us that you do not object to release of some of the requested information. However, you have submitted to us for review six exhibits, marked B through G. Exhibit B lists the name of juveniles who were "AWOL" from the youth village, the date of each "AWOL," and a narrative description of each incident. Exhibits C, D, E, F, and G include intra-agency or inter-agency memorandums relating to youth village security. You claim that this information is excepted from required public disclosure by sections 3(a)(1), 3(a)(4), 3(a)(8), and 3(a)(11) of the Open Records Act.

Section 3(a)(1) of the Open Records Act excepts from required public disclosure "information deemed confidential by law, either Constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." You claim that section 51.14 of the Family Code makes the identities of the juveniles confidential. Section 51.14(b) provides in part:

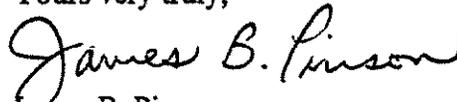
(b) All files and records of a public or private agency or institution providing supervision of the child by arrangement of the juvenile court, or having custody of the child under order of the juvenile court are open to inspection only by [certain listed entities].

*See also* Open Records Decision Nos. 394 (1983); 216 (1978); 181 (1977) (police reports identifying or tending to identify juveniles are governed by section 51.14 of the Family Code). The records at issue here are in the possession of the youth village. We understand the youth village to be an "institution providing supervision of the child by

arrangement of the juvenile court, or having custody of the child under order of the juvenile court." We do not understand the requestor to be among the entities to which section 51.14(b) requires inspection of the information. Thus, the requested information falls within the protection of section 51.14 of the Family Code and must be withheld in its entirety under section 3(a)(1) of the Open Records Act. As we resolve this matter under section 3(a)(1), we need not address the applicability of sections 3(a)(4), 3(a)(8), and 3(a)(11) of the Open Records Act.

Because case law and prior published open records decisions resolve your request, we are resolving this matter with this informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact this office.

Yours very truly,



James B. Pinson  
Assistant Attorney General  
Opinion Committee

JBP/GCK/jmn

Ref.: ID# 20494

cc: Mr. Ralphaell Wilkins  
Wilkins & Associates  
901 One Westheimer Plaza  
5718 Westheimer  
Houston, Texas 77057