



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

January 28, 1998

Ms. Bonnie Lee Goldstein
Vial, Hamilton, Koch & Knox, L.L.P.
1717 Main Street, Suite 4400
Dallas, Texas 75201-7388

OR98-0269

Dear Ms. Goldstein:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 112616.

The City of Highland Village (the "city"), which you represent, received a request for "any and all paperwork in the investigation" of an injury to a child. You claim that the requested information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 261.201 of the Family Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Section 261.201 of the Family Code reads in part as follows:

(a) The following information is confidential, is not subject to public release under Chapter 552, Government Code, and may be disclosed only for purposes consistent with this code and applicable federal or state law or under rules adopted by an investigating agency:

(1) a report of alleged or suspected abuse or neglect made under this chapter and the identity of the person making the report; and

(2) except as otherwise provided in this section, the files, reports, records, communications, audiotapes, videotapes, and working papers used or developed in an investigation under this chapter or in providing services as a result of an investigation.

We believe that the requested information consists of reports, records, and working papers used or developed in an investigation made under chapter 261 of the Family Code.¹ You have not informed this office of any rules the city has adopted that would permit access to the requested records. We, therefore, conclude that the requested records are confidential pursuant to section 261.201 of the Family Code. *See* Open Records Decision No. 440 (1986) at 2 (construing predecessor statute). Accordingly, the city must not release the requested report to the requestor under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 261.201 of the Family Code.

We are resolving this matter with an informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and should not be relied on as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have any questions regarding this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,



Vickie Prehoditch
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

VDP/ glg

Ref.: ID# 112616

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Mr. Tom Lombard
153 Gayle Lane
Highland Village, Texas 75067
(w/o enclosures)

¹We note that a parent of a victim of alleged child abuse or neglect may have a right to obtain from the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services portions of the information concerning a report of alleged abuse or neglect. Fam. Code § 261.201(g).