



Office of the Attorney General  
State of Texas

DAN MORALES  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

June 18, 1998

Ms. Sandra C. Joseph  
Open Records/Disclosure Officer  
Comptroller of Public Accounts  
P.O. Box 13528  
Austin, Texas 78711-3528

OR98-1506

Dear Ms. Joseph:

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# 115810.

The Comptroller of Public Accounts (the "comptroller") received a request for certain warrants derived from child support monies which were issued during a specified time period. The requestor in this instance is the individual from whom the funds are obtained through an automatic deduction from state payroll. You claim that the requested information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Chapter 231 of the Family Code pertains to the administration of Title IV-D child support programs. Chapter 231 contains the following provisions:

Sec. 231.001. DESIGNATION OF TITLE IV-D AGENCY.

The office of the attorney general is designated as the state's Title IV-D agency.

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Sec. 231.004. TITLE IV-D REGISTRY.

The Title IV-D agency shall establish a registry for Title IV-D cases that shall:

(1) receive child support payments;

- (2) maintain a record of child support paid and any arrearages owed under each order;
- (3) distribute child support payments received as required by law; and
- (4) maintain custody of official child support payment records.

...

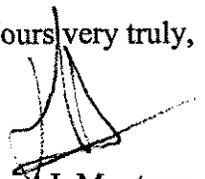
Sec. 231.108. CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS AND PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS

- (a) [A]ll files and records of services provided under this chapter, including information concerning a custodial parent, noncustodial parent, child, and an alleged or presumed father, are confidential.

In this instance, the requestor seeks copies of all warrants pertaining to his child support payments issued and canceled during March 1994 through August 1997. In reviewing the sample warrants submitted to this office for review, we believe that a child support warrant is confidential under section 231.108(a) of the Family Code.<sup>1</sup>

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,



Janet I. Monteros  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

JIM/alg

Ref.: ID# 115810

Enclosures: Submitted documents

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<sup>1</sup>We observe that even though the Comptroller does not appear to identify the warrants at issue as child support payments, the lack of identification does not remove them from the confidentiality provision of section 231.108(a) of the Family Code.