



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

August 11, 2006

Ms. J Middlebrooks  
Assistant City Attorney  
City of Dallas  
Criminal Law and Police Section  
1400 S. Lamar  
Dallas, Texas 75215

OR2006-09120

Dear Ms. J. Middlebrooks:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 256284.

The Dallas Police Department (the "department") received a request for two specific reports. You claim that the submitted 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.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Gov't Code § 552.101. This section encompasses information that is made confidential by statute. Section 261.201(a) of the Family Code provides 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, and working papers used or developed in an investigation under this chapter or in providing services as a result of an investigation.

Fam. Code § 261.201(a). Here, you state that report number 0367869-R was used or developed in an investigation of alleged or suspected child abuse. *See* Fam. Code § 261.001(1) (defining “abuse” for the purposes of chapter 261 of the Family Code). Thus, based on your representations and our review, we find that the information is within the scope of section 261.201 of the Family Code. You have not indicated that the department has adopted a rule that governs the release of this type of information; therefore, we assume that no such regulation exists. Given that assumption, the department must withhold report number 0367869-R in its entirety under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 261.201 of the Family Code. *See* Open Records Decision No. 440 at 2 (1986) (predecessor statute).<sup>1</sup>

You claim that the 9-1-1 caller’s originating telephone number in Call For Service Record number 0627788-P is confidential under section 772.318 of the Health and Safety Code, which is also encompassed by section 552.101 of the Government Code. Chapter 772 authorizes the development of local emergency communications districts. Section 772.318 of the Health and Safety Code makes confidential the originating telephone numbers and addresses of 9-1-1 callers that are furnished by a service supplier. *See* Open Records Decision No. 649 (1996). Section 772.318 applies to an emergency communication district for a county with a population of more than 20,000. We understand you to assert that the department is within an emergency communication district that is subject to section 772.318. You claim that the originating telephone number contained in Call For Service Record number 0627788-P is confidential under chapter 772. Upon review, we agree that the telephone number you have marked must be withheld under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 772.318 of the Health and Safety Code.

In summary, the department must withhold report number 0367869-R in its entirety under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 261.201 of the Family Code. The department must withhold the telephone number you have marked in Call For

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<sup>1</sup>We note, however, that if the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services has created a file on this alleged abuse, the child’s parent(s) may have the statutory right to review that file. *See* Fam. Code § 261.201(g); Act of June 2, 2003, 78th Leg., R.S., ch. 198, § 1.27, 2003 Tex. Gen. Law 611, 641 (“A reference in law to the Department of Protective and Regulatory Service means the Department of Family and Protective Services.”).

Service Record number 0627788-P under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 772.318 of the Health and Safety Code. The remaining information must be released.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular records at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For example, governmental bodies are prohibited from asking the attorney general to reconsider this ruling. Gov't Code § 552.301(f). If the governmental body wants to challenge this ruling, the governmental body must appeal by filing suit in Travis County within 30 calendar days. *Id.* § 552.324(b). In order to get the full benefit of such an appeal, the governmental body must file suit within 10 calendar days. *Id.* § 552.353(b)(3), (c). If the governmental body does not appeal this ruling and the governmental body does not comply with it, then both the requestor and the attorney general have the right to file suit against the governmental body to enforce this ruling. *Id.* § 552.321(a).

If this ruling requires the governmental body to release all or part of the requested information, the governmental body is responsible for taking the next step. Based on the statute, the attorney general expects that, upon receiving this ruling, the governmental body will either release the public records promptly pursuant to section 552.221(a) of the Government Code or file a lawsuit challenging this ruling pursuant to section 552.324 of the Government Code. If the governmental body fails to do one of these things, then the requestor should report that failure to the attorney general's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. The requestor may also file a complaint with the district or county attorney. *Id.* § 552.3215(e).

If this ruling requires or permits the governmental body to withhold all or some of the requested information, the requestor can appeal that decision by suing the governmental body. *Id.* § 552.321(a); *Texas Dep't of Pub. Safety v. Gilbreath*, 842 S.W.2d 408, 411 (Tex. App.—Austin 1992, no writ).

Please remember that under the Act the release of information triggers certain procedures for costs and charges to the requestor. If records are released in compliance with this ruling, be sure that all charges for the information are at or below the legal amounts. Questions or complaints about over-charging must be directed to Hadassah Schloss at the Office of the Attorney General at (512) 475-2497.

If the governmental body, the requestor, or any other person has questions or comments about this ruling, they may contact our office. Although there is no statutory deadline for

contacting us, the attorney general prefers to receive any comments within 10 calendar days of the date of this ruling.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jaclyn N. Thompson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jaclyn N. Thompson  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

JNT/ir

Ref: ID# 256284

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Ms. Sharleen Graf  
13820 Meandering Way  
Dallas, TX 75240-3713  
(w/o enclosures)