



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

March 2, 2009

Ms. Kristy Ashberry  
City Secretary  
City of Rockwall  
385 South Goliad  
Rockwall, Texas 75087

OR2009-02685

Dear Ms. Ashberry:

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# 340079.

The Rockwall Police Department (the "department") received two requests from the same requestor for reports pertaining to two specified incidents. You claim that the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.130 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions 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 the doctrine of common-law privacy. Common-law privacy protects information that (1) contains highly intimate or embarrassing facts the publication of which would be highly objectionable to a reasonable person, and (2) is not of legitimate concern to the public. *Indus. Found. v. Tex. Indus. Accident Bd.*, 540 S.W.2d 668, 685 (Tex. 1976). The type of information considered intimate and embarrassing by the Texas Supreme Court in *Industrial Foundation* included information relating to sexual assault, pregnancy, mental or physical abuse in the workplace, illegitimate children, psychiatric treatment of mental disorders, attempted suicide, and injuries to sexual organs. *Id.* at 683. Generally, only highly intimate information that implicates the privacy of an individual is withheld. However, in certain instances, where it is demonstrated that the

requestor knows the identity of the individual involved, as well as the nature of the incident, the entire report must be withheld to protect the individual's privacy. You inform us, and the submitted documents reflect, that the requestor knows the identity of the individual involved and the nature of the incidents in the submitted reports. Therefore, withholding only the individual's identity or certain details of the incidents from the requestor would not preserve the subject individual's common-law right of privacy. Accordingly, to protect the privacy of the individual to whom the information relates, the department must withhold both reports in their entirety under section 552.101 of the Government Code. As our determination on this issue is dispositive, we do not address your remaining argument against disclosure.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information 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 information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at [http://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/index\\_orl.php](http://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/index_orl.php), or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act must be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the Office of the Attorney General at (512) 475-2497.

Sincerely,



Travis Tidmore  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

TT/sdk

Ref: ID# 340079

Enc. Submitted documents

cc: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)