



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

March 25, 2009

Mr. Gregory A. Alicie  
Open Records Specialist  
Baytown Police Department  
3200 North Main Street  
Baytown, Texas 77521

OR2009-03875

Dear Mr. Alicie:

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# 342424.

The Baytown Police Department (the "department") received a request for information related to a specified incident. You state that you will redact social security numbers pursuant to section 552.147 of the Government Code.<sup>1</sup> You claim that portions of the submitted information are 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 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, which 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 types of information considered intimate and embarrassing by the Texas Supreme Court in *Industrial*

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<sup>1</sup>We note that section 552.147(b) of the Government Code authorizes a governmental body to redact a living person's social security number from public release without the necessity of requesting a decision from this office under the Act.

*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. In addition, this office has found that some kinds of medical information or information indicating disabilities or specific illnesses is protected by common-law privacy. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 470 (1987) (illness from severe emotional and job-related stress), 455 (1987) (prescription drugs, illnesses, operations, and physical handicaps). Upon review, we conclude that the information you have highlighted in yellow is intimate or embarrassing and of no legitimate public interest. Thus, this information must be withheld under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy.

Next, you claim that the information that you have highlighted in pink is excepted from disclosure under section 552.130 of the Government Code. Section 552.130 excepts from public disclosure information that relates to:

- (1) a motor vehicle operator's or driver's license or permit issued by an agency of this state; [or]
- (2) a motor vehicle title or registration issued by an agency of this state[.]

Gov't Code § 552.130(a). We agree that the department must withhold the Texas motor vehicle information you have highlighted in pink under section 552.130.

In summary, the department must withhold the yellow-highlighted information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy. The department must withhold the pink-highlighted information under section 552.130 of the Government Code. The remaining information must be released to the requestor.<sup>2</sup>

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

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<sup>2</sup>Because the records being released contain information relating to the requestor that would be excepted from disclosure to the general public in order to protect the requestor's privacy, the department must request another ruling from our office if it receives a future request for this information from an individual other than this requestor or his authorized representative. *See id.* § 552.023(b).

information under the Act must be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the Office of the Attorney General at (512) 475-2497.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cindy Nettles".

Cindy Nettles  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

CN/jb

Ref: ID# 342424

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)