



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

GREG ABBOTT

September 2, 2009

Mr. Mark G. Mann
Assistant City Attorney
City of Garland
P.O. Box 469002
Garland, Texas 75046

OR2009-12422

Dear Mr. Mann:

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# 354194 (Garland request no. GCA09-0486).

The City of Garland Police Department (the "department") received a request for police reports pertaining to the requestor's son or daughter at a specified address during a specified time period. You state you have released most of the responsive reports in their entirety. You claim that the marked portions of the submitted reports are excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 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. Section 552.101 encompasses information protected by other statutes, such as section 58.007 of the Family Code. Juvenile law enforcement records relating to delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision that occurred on or after September 1, 1997 are confidential under section 58.007. Fam. Code § 58.007. The submitted incident reports involve juvenile delinquent conduct that occurred after September 1, 1997. Therefore, section 58.007 is applicable to these reports. We note, however, that the requestor is the father of the juvenile offender. A governmental body may not withhold a child's law enforcement records from a parent under section 58.007(c). *Id.* § 58.007(e). However, pursuant to section 58.007(j), a governmental body may raise other exceptions to disclosure. *Id.* § 58.007(j)(2). Accordingly, we will address your argument under section 552.108(a)(1) against disclosure of the submitted police reports.

Section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code excepts from disclosure “[i]nformation held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime . . . if . . . release of the information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime.” Gov’t Code § 552.108(a)(1). A governmental body claiming section 552.108 must reasonably explain how and why the release of the requested information would interfere with law enforcement. *See id.* §§ 552.108(a)(1), 301(e)(1)(A); *see also Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706 (Tex. 1977). You inform this office that charges have been filed in connection with the case to which the submitted reports relate, and that there has been no disposition of these charges. You also state that release of the information you marked would interfere with this ongoing case. Based on your representations and our review, we determine release of the marked information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime. *See Houston Chronicle Publ’g Co. v. City of Houston*, 531 S.W.2d 177 (Tex. Civ. App.—Houston [14th Dist.] 1975), *writ ref’d n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976) (court delineates law enforcement interests that are present in active cases). Accordingly, the department may withhold the information you marked in the submitted reports pursuant to section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code.

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, 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, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Bob Davis
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

RSD/cc

Ref: ID# 354194

Enc. Submitted documents

cc: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)