



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

November 19, 2009

Mr. Todd Greenwood
Assistant District Attorney
Wichita County District Attorney's Office
900 Seventh Street
Wichita Falls, Texas 76301-2482

OR2009-16513

Dear Mr. Greenwood:

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# 366708.

The Wichita County District Attorney's Office (the "district attorney") received a request for information pertaining to a specified case number. You claim that the submitted information is exempted 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 exempts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Gov't Code § 552.101. This exception encompasses information that other statutes make confidential. You raise section 552.101 in conjunction with section 58.005 of the Family Code, which provides in part:

- (a) Records and files concerning a child, including personally identifiable information, and information obtained for the purpose of diagnosis, examination, evaluation, or treatment or for making a referral for treatment of a child by a public or private agency or institution providing supervision

of a child by arrangement of the juvenile court or having custody of the child under order of the juvenile court may be disclosed only to:

- (1) the professional staff or consultants of the agency or institution;
- (2) the judge, probation officers, and professional staff or consultants of the juvenile court;
- (3) an attorney for the child;
- (4) a governmental agency if the disclosure is required or authorized by law;
- (5) a person or entity to whom the child is referred for treatment or services if the agency or institution disclosing the information has entered into a written confidentiality agreement with the person or entity regarding the protection of the disclosed information;
- (6) the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission for the purpose of maintaining statistical records of recidivism and for diagnosis and classification; or
- (7) with leave of the juvenile court, any other person, agency, or institution having a legitimate interest in the proceeding or in the work of the court.

Fam. Code § 58.005(a). In this instance, the submitted information is related to an investigation by the Wichita County Sheriff's Office. We conclude that this information was not obtained for the purpose of diagnosis, examination, evaluation, or treatment or for making a referral for treatment of a child by a public or private agency or institution providing supervision of a child by arrangement of the juvenile court or having custody of the child under order of the juvenile court. Therefore, the submitted information is not confidential under section 58.005 of the Family Code and may not be withheld from disclosure on that basis under section 552.101 of the Government Code. As no further exceptions to disclosure are raised, the submitted information must be released.

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,



Laura Ream Lemus
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

LRL/jb

Ref: ID# 366708

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)