



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

July 6, 2010

Mr. Lawrence G. Provins
Assistant City Attorney
City of Pearland
3519 Liberty Drive
Pearland, Texas 77581-5416

OR2010-09899

Dear Mr. Provins:

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# 385574.

The City of Pearland (the "city") received a request for documents pertaining to case number 10003157. You claim the submitted report is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions you claim and reviewed the submitted report.

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 section 261.201 of the Family Code, which provides as follows:

(a) [T]he following information is confidential, is not subject to public release under [the Act] 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, audiotapes, videotapes, and working papers

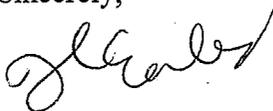
used or developed in an investigation under this chapter or in providing services as a result of an investigation.

Fam. Code § 261.201(a). You assert, and we agree, the submitted report pertains to an investigation of alleged or suspected child abuse. *See id.* § 261.001(1) (defining “abuse” for purposes of Fam. Code ch. 261). Thus, the report falls within the scope of section 261.201. You do not indicate the city’s police department has adopted a rule governing the release of this type of information. Based on your representations and our review, we find the report is confidential under section 261.201. *See id.* § 261.201(a). Accordingly, the report must be withheld in its entirety under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 261.201 of the Family Code.¹

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,



Jessica Eales
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JCE/eeg

Ref: ID# 385574

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

¹As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address your remaining argument against disclosure.