



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

July 23, 2010

Ms. Yvette Aguilar  
Assistant City Attorney  
City of Corpus Christi  
321 John Sartain  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

OR2010-11024

Dear Ms. Aguilar:

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# 387722.

The Corpus Christi Police Department (the "department") received three requests from two requestors for a specified report. You claim that the requested information 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 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, including section 261.201 of the Family Code, which provides as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Section 261.203, the 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.

...

(k) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), an investigating agency, other than the [Texas Department of Family and Protective Services] or the Texas Youth Commission, on request, shall provide to the parent, managing conservator, or other legal representative of a child who is the subject of reported abuse or neglect, or to the child if the child is at least 18 years of age, information concerning the reported abuse or neglect that would otherwise be confidential under this section. The investigating agency shall withhold information under this subsection if the parent, managing conservator, or other legal representative of the child requesting the information is alleged to have committed the abuse or neglect.

(l) Before a child or a parent, managing conservator, or other legal representative of a child may inspect or copy a record or file concerning the child under Subsection (k), the custodian of the record or file must redact:

(1) any personally identifiable information about a victim or witness under 18 years of age unless that victim or witness is:

(A) the child who is the subject of the report; or

(B) another child of the parent, managing conservator, or other legal representative requesting the information;

(2) any information that is excepted from required disclosure under [the Act], or other law; and

(3) the identity of the person who made the report.

Fam. Code § 261.201(a), (k), (l). You state the submitted information was used or developed in an investigation of alleged or suspected child abuse. *See id.* § 261.001(1) (defining “abuse” for purposes of chapter 261 of the Family Code); *see also id.* § 101.003(a) (defining “child” for purposes of this section as person under 18 years of age who is not and has not been married or who has not had the disabilities of minority removed for general purposes). You do not indicate the department has adopted a rule governing release of this type of information. Upon review, we find the submitted information is generally confidential under section 261.201 of the Family Code. However, the first requestor is a parent of the child

victim listed in the report, and this parent is not alleged to have committed the suspected abuse. In this instance, the department may not withhold the submitted information from this requestor under section 261.201(a). *Id.* § 261.201(k). We note the second requestor is the attorney for the other parent of the child victim listed in the submitted information. However, this requestor's client is alleged to have committed the suspected abuse. Therefore, the submitted information falls within the scope of section 261.201(a), and this requestor does not have a right of access under section 261.201(k). Thus, the department must withhold the submitted information from the second requestor under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 261.201(a) of the Family Code. Section 261.201(1)(2) states before a parent may inspect records any information that is excepted from required disclosure under the Act or other law may still be withheld from disclosure. *Id.* § 261.201(1)(2). Accordingly, we will consider whether the submitted information may otherwise be withheld from the first requestor.

Section 552.101 also encompasses section 58.007 of the Family Code. Juvenile law enforcement records relating to conduct that occurred on or after September 1, 1997 are confidential under section 58.007(c). For purposes of section 58.007, "child" means a person who is ten years of age or older and under seventeen years of age. *Id.* § 51.02(2). Section 58.007 provides in relevant part:

(c) Except as provided by Subsection (d), law enforcement records and files concerning a child and information stored, by electronic means or otherwise, concerning the child from which a record or file could be generated may not be disclosed to the public and shall be:

- (1) if maintained on paper or microfilm, kept separate from adult files and records;
- (2) if maintained electronically in the same computer system as records or files relating to adults, be accessible under controls that are separate and distinct from controls to access electronic data concerning adults; and
- (3) maintained on a local basis only and not sent to a central state or federal depository, except as provided by Subchapters B, D, and E.

*Id.* § 58.007(c). After reviewing the submitted information, we find it involves alleged juvenile delinquent conduct that occurred after September 1, 1997. *Id.* § 51.03(a) (defining "delinquent conduct"). It does not appear any of the exceptions in section 58.007 apply; therefore, this information is confidential pursuant to section 58.007(c) of the Family Code. Accordingly, the department must withhold the submitted information from the first requestor under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 58.007(c) of the Family Code.

In summary, the submitted information must be withheld from the second requestor under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 261.201(a) of the Family Code. The submitted information must be withheld from the first requestor under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 58.007(c) of the Family Code.<sup>1</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 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,



Tamara Wilcox  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

TW/dls

Ref: ID# 387722

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

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<sup>1</sup>As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address your remaining arguments against disclosure.