



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

July 30, 2010

Ms. Lizbeth Islas Plaster
Assistant City Attorney
City of Lewisville
P.O. Box 299002
Lewisville, Texas 75029-9002

OR2010-11485

Dear Ms. Plaster:

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# 388723.

The City of Lewisville (the "city") received a request for information pertaining to a specified incident. You claim that the submitted information is excepted 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 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 261.201 of the Family Code. Section 261.201 provides in part:

(a) Except as provided by Section 261.203, the following information is confidential, is not subject to public release under Chapter 552, Government Code, 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.

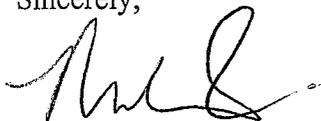
Fam. Code § 261.201(a), (k). You state the submitted information pertains to a Child Protective Services investigation and referral alleging abuse or neglect of a child. Upon review, we agree the submitted information was used or developed in an investigation of alleged child abuse or neglect. *See id.* §§ 261.001(1), (4) (defining “abuse” and “neglect” for purposes of chapter 261 of the Family Code); 101.003(a) (defining “child” for purposes of section 261.201 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). Therefore, we find the submitted information is generally confidential under section 261.201 of the Family Code. Although the requestor is the parent of the child victim listed in the submitted report, the report also reflects the requestor was suspected of committing the alleged abuse; we therefore find the requestor does not have a right of access to this report under section 261.201(k). *See id.* § 261.201(k). Accordingly, as you state that the city has not adopted a rule that would permit the release of this type of information, the city must withhold the submitted information in its entirety under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 261.201 of the Family 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nneka Kanu', written in a cursive style.

Nneka Kanu
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

NK/em

Ref: ID# 388723

Enc. Submitted documents

cc: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)