



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

August 9, 2010

Mr. William Edmundson
Lieutenant, Record Division
Pharr Police Department
1900 South Cage
Pharr, Texas 78577-6751

OR2010-11997

Dear Mr. Edmundson: ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

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# 389864.

The Pharr Police Department (the "department") received a request for case number 10-24309. You claim that the submitted 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. This section encompasses information made confidential by statute, such as section 261.201(a) of the Family Code. Section 261.201(a) provides as follows:

(a) [T]he 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, and videotapes, and working

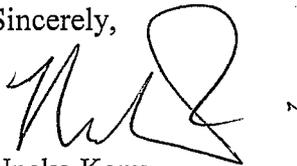
papers used or developed in an investigation under this chapter or in providing services as a result of an investigation.

Fam. Code § 261.201(a). Upon review, we find the submitted information relates to an investigation of alleged or suspected child abuse. *See id.* § 261.001(1)(E) (definition of “abuse” for purposes of Fam. Code ch. 261 includes sexual assault under Penal Code section 22.011); *see also* Penal Code § 22.011(c) (defining “child” for purposes of Penal Code section 22.011 as a person younger than 17 years of age). We find this information falls within the scope of section 261.201. As you do not indicate the department has adopted a rule governing the release of this type of information, we assume that no such regulation exists. We, therefore, conclude that the submitted information is confidential pursuant to section 261.201(a). *See* Open Records Decision No. 440 at 2 (1986) (construing predecessor statute). Accordingly, the department 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. As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address your arguments against disclosure.

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,



Nneka Kanu
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

NK/tp

Ref: ID# 389864

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)