



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

August 20, 2010

Ms. P. Armstrong
Assistant City Attorney
Criminal Law and Police Division
City of Dallas
1400 South Lamar
Dallas, Texas 75215

OR2010-12695

Dear Ms. Armstrong:

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# 391708 (Dallas request no. 2010-5463).

The Dallas Police Department (the "department") received a request for the reports pertaining to service numbers 0158121-X and 0163577-X. You claim 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 representative sample of information.¹

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 exception encompasses information that other statutes make

¹We assume that the representative sample of records submitted to this office is truly representative of the requested records as a whole. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 499 (1988), 497 (1988). This open records letter does not reach, and therefore does not authorize the withholding of, any other requested records to the extent those records contain substantially different types of information than that submitted to this office.

confidential. You raise section 552.101 in conjunction with section 58.007 of the Family Code, which provides in 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.

Fam. Code § 58.007(c). Section 58.007(c) is applicable to records of juvenile delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision that occurred on or after September 1, 1997. In order for section 58.007(c) to apply, a child must be identified in the information at issue as a suspect or offender. *See id.* Section 51.02(2) of the Family Code defines a “child” for purposes of section 58.007 as a person who is ten years of age or older and under seventeen years of age at the time of the conduct. *Id.* § 51.02(2). We have reviewed the submitted reports and find they both involve allegations of a child engaged in delinquent conduct that occurred after September 1, 1997. *See id.* § 51.03(a) (defining “delinquent conduct” for purposes of section 58.007). You do not inform us, and it does not appear, that any of the exceptions in section 58.007 apply to the information in these reports. Therefore, the submitted information is confidential under section 58.007(c) of the Family Code and must be withheld in its entirety under section 552.101 of the Government Code. As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address your remaining 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Davis', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bob Davis
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

RSD/tp

Ref: ID# 391708

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)