



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

November 5, 2010

Ms. Teresa L. Presley
Records Manager
City of Frisco
7200 Stonebrook Parkway
Frisco, Texas 75034

OR2010-16835

Dear Ms. Presley:

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# 399287.

The City of Frisco (the "city") received a request for the police report related to a specified incident involving the requestor's son. You claim 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. This section encompasses information protected by other statutes. Section 261.201(a) of the Family Code 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.

...

(k) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), an investigating agency . . . 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 represent that the submitted police report was used in an investigation by the Texas Department of Family Protective Services ("DFPS") of alleged or suspected child abuse. *See id.* § 261.001(1) (defining "abuse" for purposes of Fam. Code ch. 261); *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). Based on this representation, we agree this report is within the scope of section 261.201(a) of the Family Code. Although the requestor is the mother of the listed child victim, subsection 261.201(k) is inapplicable in this instance because the city is not the agency that investigated the abuse pursuant to chapter 261. *See id.* § 261.201(k) (permitting an investigating agency to release information otherwise confidential under subsection 261.201(a) in certain circumstances). Therefore, the submitted report is confidential pursuant to section 261.201 of the Family Code, and the city must withhold the report in its entirety under section 552.101 of the Government Code.¹ *See* Open Records Decision No. 440 at 2 (1986) (predecessor statute).

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.

¹We note a parent of a child who is the subject of reported abuse or neglect may have a right of access to certain abuse and neglect records maintained by the DFPS. Section 261.201(g) of the Family Code provides that DFPS, upon request and subject to its own rules, shall provide to the parent, managing conservator, or other legal representative of a child who is the subject of reported abuse or neglect information concerning the reported abuse or neglect that would otherwise be confidential under this section if DFPS has edited the information to protect the confidentiality of the identity of the person who made the report and any other person whose life or safety may be endangered by the disclosure. *See* Fam. Code § 261.201(g).

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 stylized flourish at the end.

Bob Davis
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

RSD/tp

Ref: ID# 399287

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)