



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

November 8, 2010

Mr. Charles H. Weir
Assistant City Attorney
City of San Antonio
P.O. Box 839966
San Antonio, Texas 78283-3966

OR2010-16929

Dear Mr. Weir:

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# 403994 (COSA File No. 2010-6744).

The City of San Antonio (the "city") received a request for a specified police report. You claim that the requested information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code.¹ We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from public 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 58.007 of the Family Code. The relevant language of section 58.007 provides:

(c) Except as provided by Subsection (d), law enforcement records and files concerning a child and information stored, by electronic means or otherwise,

¹Although you also raise section 552.108 of the Government Code as an exception to disclosure of the submitted information, you have provided no arguments regarding the applicability of this section. We, therefore, assume you no longer assert section 552.108.

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 Subchapter B, D, and E.

...

(e) Law enforcement records and files concerning a child may be inspected or copied by a juvenile justice agency as that term is defined by Section 58.101, a criminal justice agency as that term is defined by Section 411.082, Government Code, the child, and the child's parent or guardian.

Fam. Code § 58.007(c), (e). Juvenile law enforcement records relating to conduct that occurred on or after September 1, 1997 are confidential under section 58.007. *See* Act of June 2, 1997, 75th Leg., R.S., ch. 1086, §§ 20, 55 (a), 1997 Tex. Gen. Laws 4179, 4187, 4199; Open Records Decision No. 644 (1996). For purposes of section 58.007, "child" means a person who is ten years of age or older and under seventeen years of age at the time of the reported conduct. *See* Fam. Code § 51.02(2).

We have reviewed the information at issue and find that the report pertains to a juvenile runaway. Thus, this report involves a juvenile engaged in conduct in need of supervision. *See id.* § 51.03(b) (defining "conduct indicating a need for supervision" as "the voluntary absence of a child from the child's home without the consent of the child's parent or guardian for a substantial length of time or without intent to return"). Therefore, this information is ordinarily subject to the confidentiality requirement of section 58.007(c). However, section 58.007 allows the review or copy of juvenile law enforcement records by a child's parent or guardian. *See id.* § 58.007(e). The information you have submitted reflects that the requestor is the child's parent. Therefore, the city must make the report available to the requestor to inspect or copy pursuant to section 58.007(e).

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,



Paige Lay
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

PL/eeg

Ref: ID# 403994

Enc. Submitted documents

cc: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)