



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

November 18, 2010

Ms. Jameene Y. Banks
Denton, Navarro, Rocha & Bernal, P.C.
2517 North Main Avenue
San Antonio, Texas 78212

OR2010-17504

Dear Ms. Banks:

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# 400462.

The City of Copperas Cove (the "city"), which you represent, received a request for police report number 05-0367. You claim that the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101, 552.103, 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 "[i]nformation 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(a) of the Family Code, which provides as follows:

(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.
- (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.

Fam. Code § 261.201(a). You state section 261.201 applies to the submitted information. Upon review, we agree the submitted information consists of files, reports, records, communications, audiotapes, videotapes, or working papers used or developed in an investigation under chapter 261 of the Family Code, so as to fall within the scope of section 261.201(a). *See id.* § 261.001(1)(E) (definition of child abuse includes sexual assault or aggravated sexual assault under Penal Code sections 22.011 and 22.021); *see also* Penal Code § 22.011(c)(1) (defining “child” for purposes of Penal code sections 22.011 and 22.021 as a person younger than 17 years of age). As you do not state that the city police department has adopted a rule that governs the release of this type of information, we assume that none exists. Given that assumption, we conclude the submitted information is confidential under section 261.201(a) of the Family Code, and the city must withhold the submitted information in its entirety under section 552.101 of the Government Code on that basis. 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_or1.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/em

Ref: ID# 400462

Enc. Submitted documents

cc: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)