



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

March 8, 2011

Mr. Gregory A. Alicie  
Open Records Specialist  
Baytown Police Department  
3200 North Main Street  
Baytown, Texas 77521

OR2011-03227

Dear Mr. Alicie:

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# 410820.

The Baytown Police Department (the "department") received a request for a specified report. You claim that the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.147 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. Section 552.101 encompasses information made confidential by other statutes, including section 261.201 of the Family Code, which provides, in relevant part:

(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, other than the [Texas Department of Family and Protective Services] or the Texas Youth Commission, 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.

(l) Before a child or a parent, managing conservator, or other legal representative of a child may inspect or copy a record or file concerning the child under Subsection (k), the custodian of the record or file must redact:

...

(2) any information that is excepted from required disclosure under [the Act], or other law; and

(3) the identity of the person who made the report.

Fam. Code § 261.201(a), (k), (l)(2), (l)(3). Upon review, we agree the submitted information was used or developed in an investigation of suspected child abuse or neglect. *See id.* § 261.001(1), (4) (defining “abuse” and “neglect” for purposes of Family 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 your representations and our review, we find the submitted information is generally confidential under section 261.201 of the Family Code.

As you acknowledge, the requestor is a parent of the child victim listed in the report. Further, the requestor is not alleged to have committed the suspected abuse or neglect. As such, this requestor has a right of access to the submitted information pursuant to section 261.201(k). *Id.* § 261.201(k). Therefore, the department may not withhold the submitted information from the requestor under section 261.201(a). Section 261.201(l)(3), however, states the identity of the reporting party must be withheld. *Id.* § 261.201(l)(3). Thus, the department must withhold the reporting party’s identifying information, which we have marked, under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 261.201(l)(3) of the Family Code. In addition, section 261.201 provides that any information otherwise excepted from required disclosure under the Act or other law may be withheld from disclosure. *Id.* § 261.201(l)(2). You have marked information to be withheld

under section 552.147 of the Government Code. Accordingly, we will consider the applicability of this exception for this information.

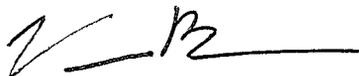
Section 552.147 of the Government Code provides that “[t]he social security number of a living person is excepted from” required public disclosure under the Act. Gov’t Code § 552.147. Accordingly, the department may withhold the social security numbers you have marked under section 552.147.<sup>1</sup>

In summary, the department must withhold the identifying information of the reporting party, which we have marked, under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 261.201(1)(3) of the Family Code. The department may withhold the social security numbers you have marked under section 552.147 of the Government Code. The remaining information must be released to this requestor.<sup>2</sup>

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](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,



Vanessa Burgess  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

VB/dls

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<sup>1</sup>Section 552.147(b) of the Government Code authorizes a governmental body to redact a living person’s social security number from public release without the necessity of requesting a decision from this office under the Act.

<sup>2</sup>We note the information being released contains confidential information regarding the alleged child victim to which the requestor has a right of access. See Fam. Code § 261.201(k). Accordingly, if the department receives another request for this particular information from a different requestor, then the department should again seek a decision from this office.

Ref: ID# 410820

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)