



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

March 30, 2011

Ms. Teresa J. Brown
Senior Open Records Assistant
Plano Police Department
P.O. Box 860358
Plano, Texas 75086-0358

OR2011-04359

Dear Ms. Brown:

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# 413127 (ORR# JEWA011111).

The Plano Police Department (the "department") received a request for all records, call logs, citations, and 9-1-1 tapes regarding ten named individuals from a specified time period. 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. 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 [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.

Fam. Code § 261.201(a), (k). You state the submitted information relates to investigations of alleged child abuse or neglect. *See id.* § 261.001(1), (4) (defining “abuse” and “neglect” for purposes of chapter 261 of the Family Code); *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). Upon review, we find the submitted information falls within the scope of section 261.201(a) of the Family Code. As you do not indicate the department has adopted a rule that governs the release of this type of information, we assume no such rule exists. Given that assumption, we conclude the department must withhold report number 2010-00177091 in its entirety under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 261.201 of the Family Code. We note the requestor is a parent of the child victim listed in the remaining reports; however, the requestor is alleged to have committed the child abuse or neglect. Thus, the requestor does not have a right of access to the remaining information at issue under section 261.201(k). *See id.* § 261.201(k). Rather, the department must withhold the remaining information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 261.201(k) of the Family Code. *See* Open Records Decision No. 440 at 2 (1986) (addressing predecessor statute).

In summary, the department must withhold report number 2010-00177091 under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 261.201(a) of the Family Code. The department must withhold the remaining information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 261.201(k) of the Family Code.

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,



Mack T. Harrison
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

MTH/em

Ref: ID# 413127

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)