



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

May 11, 2011

Ms. T. Trisha Dang  
Assistant City Attorney  
City of Corpus Christi  
P.O. Box 9277  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78469-9277

OR2011-06496

Dear Ms. Dang:

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# 417235.

The City of Corpus Christi (the "city") received a request for any information related to a felony offense involving a named individual. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure pursuant to sections 552.101 and 52.108 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 "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 of the Family Code, which provides, in part, 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.

Fam. Code § 261.201(a). Upon review, we agree the submitted information consists of information used or developed in an investigation of alleged or suspected child abuse under chapter 261. *See id.* § 261.001(1) (defining “abuse” for purposes of Family Code chapter 261); *see also* Penal Code § 22.04(c) (defining “child” for purposes of injury to a child as a person 14 years of age or younger). You do not indicate the city’s police department has adopted a rule governing the release of this type of information; therefore, we assume no such regulation exists. Given that assumption, we conclude the city must withhold the submitted information in its entirety under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 261.201(a) of the Family Code. *See* Open Records Decision No. 440 at 2 (1986) (addressing predecessor statute).<sup>1</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,



Jennifer Burnett  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

JB/dls

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<sup>1</sup>As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address your remaining arguments against disclosure.

Ref: ID# 417235

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)