



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

August 10, 2011

Mr. B. Chase Griffith
Counsel for City of McKinney
Brown & Hofmeister, L.L.P.
740 East Campbell Road, Suite 800
Richardson, Texas 75081

OR2011-11496

Dear Mr. Griffith:

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# 428711.

The McKinney Police Department (the "department") received a request for information pertaining to a specified address. You state the department has released some of the requested information, but 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. This section encompasses information protected by other statutes. Juvenile law enforcement records relating to conduct that occurred on or after September 1, 1997, are confidential under section 58.007. Section 58.007(c) provides as follows:

Except as provided by Subsection (d), law enforcement records and files concerning a child and information stored, by electronic means or otherwise, 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 Subchapters B, D, and E.

Fam. Code § 58.007(c). Upon review, we agree the submitted information consists of law enforcement records of a juvenile engaged in delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision after September 1, 1997. *See id.* §§ 51.02(2) (for purposes of section 58.007, “child” means a person who is ten years of age or older and under seventeen years of age), 51.03(a), (b) (defining “delinquent conduct” and “conduct indicating a need for supervision” for purposes of section 58.007). Thus, the submitted information is confidential under section 58.007(c) of the Family Code. Although the requestor is a representative of the Child Protective Services Division of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, she does not indicate she has a right of access to this information under state or federal law. *See Open Records Decision Nos. 598 (1991), 583 (1990), 451 (1986).* Accordingly, the department must withhold the submitted information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 58.007(c) 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,


James L. Coggeshall
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JLC/eb

Ref: ID# 428711

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)