



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

September 27, 2011

Mr. Benjamin Sampract  
Assistant City Attorney  
City of Fort Worth  
1000 Throckmorton Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

OR2011-14006

Dear Mr. Sampract:

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# 431901 (Fort Worth PIR # W010444).

The City of Fort Worth (the "city") received a request for a specified police report. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 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 "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, including section 261.201 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.

Fam. Code § 261.201(a). Upon review, we find the submitted information pertains to an investigation of alleged or suspected child abuse or neglect. Therefore, the information is within the scope of section 261.201 of the Family Code. *See id.* § 261.001(1)(E) (definition of child abuse includes sexual assault and 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 person under 17 years of age). As you do not indicate that the city has adopted a rule that governs the release of this type of information, we assume that no such regulation exists. Given that assumption, and based on our review, we determine the submitted information is confidential pursuant to section 261.201 of the Family Code. *See* Open Records Decision No. 440 at 2 (1986) (predecessor statute). Accordingly, the city must withhold these documents from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 261.201 of the Family Code.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, because section 261.201(a) protects all “files, reports, records, communications, audiotapes, videotapes, and working papers” related to an investigation under section 261.201, the city must not release front page offense report information in such cases. *See* Fam. Code § 261.201(a)(2).

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,



Kirsten Brew  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

KB/em

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

Ref: ID# 431901

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)