



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

November 7, 2011

Ms. Bridget Chapman  
Acting City Attorney  
City of Georgetown  
P.O. Box 409  
Georgetown, Texas 78627-0409

OR2011-16329

Dear Ms. Chapman:

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# 439984 (ORR 443).

The Georgetown Police Department (the "department") received a request for a specified police report. You claim that the requested 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.

Initially, we note, and you acknowledge, that the department did not comply with its ten-business-day deadline under section 552.301(b) of the Government Code in requesting this decision. *See* Gov't Code § 552.301(b). The department also failed to comply with its fifteen-business-day deadline under section 552.301(e) of the Government Code. *See id.* § 552.301(e)(1). The submitted information, therefore, is presumed to be subject to required public disclosure and must be released, unless there is a compelling reason to withhold any of the information. *See id.* § 552.302; *Hancock v. State Bd. of Ins.*, 797 S.W.2d 379, 381 (Tex. App.—Austin 1990, no writ). This statutory presumption can generally be overcome when information is confidential by law or third-party interests are at stake. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 630 at 3 (1994), 325 at 2 (1982). You assert section 552.101 of the Government Code, which can provide a compelling reason to overcome this presumption; therefore, we will consider whether this section requires you to withhold the submitted information.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from public 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:

(a) [T]he following information is confidential, is not subject to public release under Chapter 552, Government Code, and may be disclosed only for purposes consistent with [the Family 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 files, reports, records, communications, audiotapes, videotapes, or working papers used or developed in an investigation under chapter 261 of the Family Code. *See id.* § 261.001(1) (defining “abuse”). As there is no indication that the department has adopted a rule that governs the release of this type of information, we assume that no such rule exists. Given that assumption, we conclude the submitted information is confidential pursuant to section 261.201 of the Family Code and must be withheld pursuant to section 552.101 of the Government 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](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,



Paige Lay  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

PL/ag

Ref: ID# 439984

Enc. Submitted documents

cc: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)