



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

March 21, 2012

Mr. Darrell G-M Noga  
For City of Coppell  
Fee, Smith, Sharp & Vitullo, L.L.P.  
13155 Noel Road, Suite 100  
Dallas, Texas 75240

OR2012-04096

Dear Mr. Noga:

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# 448223 (Coppell ORR No. 10648).

The City of Coppell (the "city"), which you represent, received a request for all files associated with a specified police report regarding the requestor's son. 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 representative sample of information.<sup>1</sup>

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. Juvenile law enforcement records relating to delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision that occurred on or after September 1, 1997 are confidential under section 58.007(c) of the Family Code. Fam. Code § 51.03(a), (b) (defining "delinquent

---

<sup>1</sup>We assume the "representative sample" of records submitted to this office is truly representative of the requested records as a whole. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 499 (1988), 497 (1988). This open records letter does not reach, and therefore does not authorize the withholding of, any other requested records to the extent those records contain substantially different types of information than that submitted to this office.

conduct” and “conduct indicating a need for supervision”). Section 58.007 provides in relevant part:

(c) 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.

...

(e) Law enforcement records and files concerning a child may be inspected or copied by a juvenile justice agency as that term is defined by Section 58.101, a criminal justice agency as that term is defined by Section 411.082, Government Code, the child, and the child’s parent or guardian.

...

(j) Before a child or a child’s parent or guardian may inspect or copy a record or file concerning the child under Subsection (e), the custodian of the record or file shall redact:

...

(2) any information that is excepted from required disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code, or other law.

*Id.* § 58.007(c), (e), (j). For purposes of section 58.007(c), a “child” is a person ten years of age or older and under seventeen years of age at the time of the reported conduct. *See id.* § 51.02(2). Upon review, we agree that the submitted information involves a child engaged in delinquent conduct that occurred after September 1, 1997. Thus, the submitted report is

subject to section 58.007(c). In this instance, however, the requestor is the parent of the juvenile offender. As such, the requestor has a right to inspect juvenile law enforcement records concerning his child pursuant to section 58.007(e) of the Family Code. *See id.* § 58.007(e). However, section 58.007(j)(2) provides that information subject to any other exception to disclosure under the Act or other law must also be redacted. *See id.* § 58.007(j)(2). Accordingly, we will address your argument under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with Family Code section 261.201.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code also encompasses information protected by section 261.201 of the Family Code, which provides in relevant part:

(a) [T]he 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.

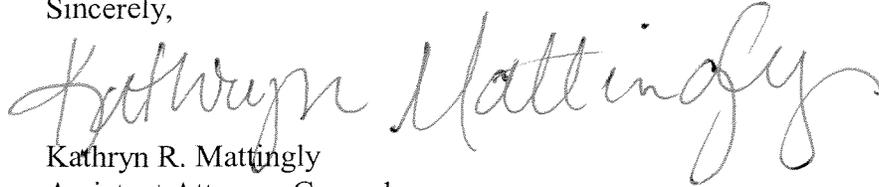
*Id.* § 261.201(a). Upon review, we find the submitted information was used or developed in an investigation of an alleged or suspected child abuse. *See id.* § 261.001(1)(E) (defining “abuse” for purposes of chapter 261 of the Family Code as including offense of sexual assault under section 22.011 of the Penal Code); *see also* Penal Code § 22.011 (defining “child” for purposes of sexual assault of a child as person under 17 years of age). You have not indicated that the city has adopted a rule that governs the release of this type of information. Therefore, we assume no such regulation exists. Given that assumption, the submitted information is confidential under section 261.201 of the Family Code and must be withheld in its entirety under 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathryn R. Mattingly". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Kathryn R. Mattingly  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

KRM/dls

Ref: ID# 448223

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)