



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

August 2, 2012

Chief Gregory L. Grigg
Chief of Police
City of Deer Park
2911 Center Street
Deer Park, Texas 77536-4942

OR2012-12125

Dear Chief Grigg:

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# 460780 (Deer Park Request #48).

The Deer Park Police Department (the "department") received a request for background history and any history during the past four years pertaining to specified individuals, and information pertaining to a specified incident involving a named individual.¹ You claim that 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.

Initially, we note you have submitted only information pertaining to the specified incident. Thus, to the extent any other responsive information existed and was maintained by the department on the date the department received the request for information, we presume the department has released it. If not, the department must do so at this time. *See Gov't Code §§ 552.301, .302; see also Open Records Decision No. 664 (2000) (if governmental body*

¹You state the department sought and received clarification of the request for information. *See Gov't Code § 552.222(b)* (stating that if information requested is unclear to governmental body or if a large amount of information has been requested, governmental body may ask requestor to clarify or narrow request, but may not inquire into purpose for which information will be used).

concludes that no exceptions apply to the requested information, it must release the information as soon as possible).

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, such as 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 [chapter 261 of the Family Code] 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 [chapter 261 of the Family Code] or in providing services as a result of an investigation.

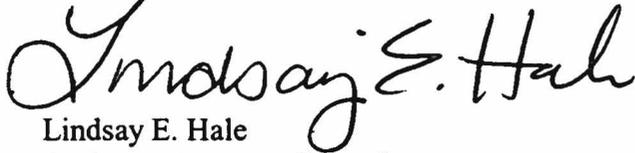
Fam. Code § 261.201(a). Because the submitted information pertains to an investigation of alleged or suspected child abuse or neglect, the information falls within the scope of section 261.201 of the Family Code. *See id.* §§ 101.003(a) (defining “child” for purposes of this section as person under 18 years of age who is not and has not been married or who has not had the disabilities of minority removed for general purposes), 261.001(1), (4) (defining “abuse” and “neglect” for purposes of chapter 261 of the Family Code). As you do not indicate that the department 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 department must withhold the submitted information from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 261.201 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lindsay E. Hale". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".

Lindsay E. Hale
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

LEH/ag

Ref: ID# 460780

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)