



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

January 22, 2013

Ms. Sol M. Cortez
Assistant City Attorney
City of El Paso
2 Civic Center Plaza, 9th Floor
El Paso, Texas 79901

OR2013-01212

Dear Ms. Cortez:

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# 477218.

The El Paso Police Department (the "department") received a request for information pertaining to a specified 9-1-1 call. You claim portions of the submitted information are 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 marked the telephone number and address of a 9-1-1 caller. In Open Records Letter No. 2003-0708 (2003), this office issued a previous determination authorizing the department to withhold the originating telephone numbers and addresses of 9-1-1 callers furnished by a service supplier established in accordance with chapter 772 of the Health and Safety Code under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 772.318 of the Health and Safety Code without requesting a decision from this office. See Gov't Code § 552.301(a); Open Records Decision No. 673 (2001) (listing elements of second type of previous determination under section 552.301(a) of the Government Code). You indicate the telephone number and address you have marked are the originating telephone number and address of a 9-1-1 caller furnished by a service supplier established in accordance with chapter 772. As such, provided the originating telephone number and address at issue were furnished to the department by a service supplier, the department must rely on Open Records Letter No. 2003-0708 as a previous determination

and withhold the marked telephone number and address in accordance with the previous determination.

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 the doctrine of common-law privacy, which protects information if (1) the information contains highly intimate or embarrassing facts, the publication of which would be highly objectionable to a reasonable person, and (2) the information is not of legitimate concern to the public. *Industrial Found. v. Texas Indus. Accident Bd.*, 540 S.W.2d 668, 685 (Tex. 1976). The type of information considered intimate or embarrassing by the Texas Supreme Court in *Industrial Foundation* included information relating to sexual assault, pregnancy, mental or physical abuse in the workplace, illegitimate children, psychiatric treatment of mental disorders, attempted suicide, and injuries to sexual organs. *Id.* at 683. This office also has found that some kinds of medical information or information indicating disabilities or specific illnesses are excepted from required public disclosure under common-law privacy. See Open Records Decision Nos. 470 (1987) (illness from severe emotional and job-related stress), 455 (1987) (prescription drugs, illnesses, operations, and physical handicaps), 343 (1982) (references in emergency medical records to drug overdoses, acute alcohol intoxication, obstetrical or gynecological operations or illnesses, convulsions or seizures, and emotional or mental distress). Upon review, we agree the information you have marked is highly intimate or embarrassing and of no legitimate public concern. Additionally, we find the information we have marked and indicated is highly intimate or embarrassing and of no legitimate public interest. Accordingly, the department must withhold this information under section 552.101 in conjunction with common-law privacy.¹

In summary, provided the originating telephone number and address at issue was furnished to the department by a service supplier, the department must rely on Open Records Letter No. 2003-0708 as a previous determination and withhold the marked telephone number and address. The department must withhold the information you have marked, as well as the information we have marked and indicated, under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy. The remaining information must be released.

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,

¹As our ruling for this information is dispositive, we need not address your remaining argument against its disclosure.

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, consisting of several overlapping, fluid strokes that form the name Ana Carolina Vieira.

Ana Carolina Vieira
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

ACV/ag

Ref: ID# 477218

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

