



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

January 30, 2013

Mr. Ronald J. Bounds
Assistant City Attorney
City of Corpus Christi
P.O. Box 9277
Corpus Christi, Texas 78469-9277

OR2013-01695

Dear Mr. Bounds:

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# 480944 (Corpus Christi File No. 882).

The City of Corpus Christi (the "city") received a request for the ambulance report and bills for a named individual on a specified date. You state some of the requested information will be released. 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 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. This section encompasses information protected by other statutes, such as section 773.091 of the Health and Safety Code, which provides, in part, the following:

(b) Records of the identity, evaluation, or treatment of a patient by emergency medical services personnel or by a physician providing medical supervision that are created by the emergency medical services personnel or physician or maintained by an emergency medical services provider are confidential and privileged and may not be disclosed except as provided by this chapter.

...

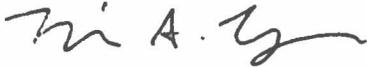
(g) The privilege of confidentiality under this section does not extend to information regarding the presence, nature of injury or illness, age, sex, occupation, and city of residence of a patient who is receiving emergency medical services.

Health & Safety Code § 773.091(b), (g). Except for the information specified in section 773.091(g), emergency medical services (“EMS”) records are deemed confidential under section 773.091. *See id.* §§ 773.091. You state the submitted information consists of EMS records. Upon review, we agree the submitted information constitutes EMS records that are confidential under section 773.091. Therefore, with the exception of the information subject to section 773.091(g), the city must withhold the submitted information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 773.091 of the Health and Safety Code.¹

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,



Nicholas A. Ybarra
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

NAY/eb

Ref: ID# 480944

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

¹This ruling does not affect an individual’s right of access to a patient’s EMS records from the EMS provider. *See* Health & Safety Code §§ 773.092, .093; *cf. Abbott v. Tex. State Bd. of Pharmacy*, No. 03-11-00481-CV, 2012 WL 5974080 (Tex. App.—Austin Nov. 21, 2012, no pet.) (Medical Practice Act does not provide patient general right of access to his or her medical records from governmental body responding to request for information under Public Information Act).