



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

February 1, 2013

Mr. Ricardo Morado
Roerig, Oliveira & Fisher, L.L.P.
855 West Price Road, Suite 9
Brownsville, Texas 78520-8786

OR2013-01834

Dear Mr. Morado:

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# 478145.

The Rio Hondo Independent School District (the "district"), which you represent, received a request for the investigative files related to two specified complaints.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.

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 other statutes make confidential, such as section 58.007 of the Family Code. Section 58.007 provides in pertinent part as follows:

(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:

¹We note the district sought and received clarification of the information requested. See Gov't Code § 552.222 (providing that if request for information is unclear, governmental body may ask requestor to clarify request).

(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:

(1) any personally identifiable information about a juvenile suspect, offender, victim, or witness who is not the child[.]

Fam. Code § 58.007(c), (e), (j)(1). Section 58.007(c) is applicable to records of juvenile delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision that occurred on or after September 1, 1997. *See id.* § 51.03(a) (defining "delinquent conduct" for purposes of section 58.007). For purposes of section 58.007(c), "child" means a person who is 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 the submitted information, which was created by the district's police department, involves juvenile delinquent conduct that occurred after September 1, 1997. Accordingly, the submitted information is subject to section 58.007. However, in report number J-12-062, the requestor is the parent of the listed juvenile offender. Pursuant to section 58.007(e), the requestor has a right of access to inspect or copy his child's law enforcement records. *See id.* § 58.007(e). However, any personally identifiable information concerning other juvenile suspects, offenders, victims, or witnesses must be redacted under section 58.007(j)(1). *See id.* § 58.007(j)(1). Accordingly, the department must withhold the identifying information of the juvenile victim and witnesses we have marked in report number J-12-062 pursuant to section 552.101 in conjunction with section 58.007(j)(1). In report number J-12-065, however, the requestor is the parent of the

juvenile victim listed in the report and, thus, does not possess a right of access to this report under section 58.007(e). Therefore, the district must withhold report number J-12-065 in its entirety under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 58.007(c) of the Family Code. The remaining information must be released to this requestor.²

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,



Sarah Casterline
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

SEC/tch

Ref: ID# 478145

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

²Because the requestor has a special right of access to the information being released, if the district receives another request for this information from a different requestor, the district must again seek a ruling from this office.