



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

December 10, 2013

Ms. Lori Robinson
Staff Attorney
Legal Services Department
Austin Independent School District
1111 West Sixth Street
Austin, Texas 78703

OR2013-21412

Dear Ms. Robinson:

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# 508238.

The Austin Independent School District (the "district") received a request for the personnel file of a named district employee and any documents concerning that employee that the district sent to the Texas Education Agency or to the State Board of Educator Certification. You inform us you have released some of the requested information to the requestor. 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 exception encompasses information other statutes make confidential, such as section 261.201 of the Family Code. Section 261.201 provides in 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

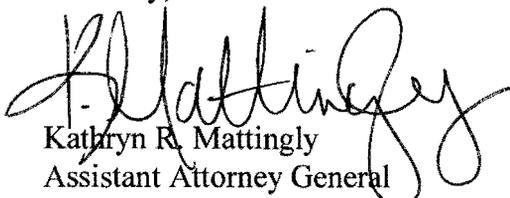
(2) except as otherwise provided in this section, the files, reports, records, communications, audiotapes, videotapes, and working papers used or developed in an investigation under this chapter or in providing services as a result of an investigation.

Fam. Code § 261.201(a); *see id.* §§ 101.003 (defining child for purposes of Family Code title 5), 261.001(1), (4) (defining “abuse” and “neglect” for purposes of Fam. Code ch. 261). You assert the submitted information was used or developed in an investigation under chapter 261 of the Family Code. Although the district is not an agency authorized to conduct an investigation under chapter 261, section 261.406 of the Family Code authorizes the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and law enforcement agencies to conduct investigations involving public schools under chapter 261. *See id.* §§ 261.103 (listing agencies that may conduct investigations under Fam. Code ch. 261), .406 (investigations in schools). Based on your representations and our review of the information at issue, we agree the district must withhold the submitted information 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.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtml, 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 may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,


Kathryn R. Mattingly
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

KRM/bhf

Ref: ID# 508238

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)