



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

February 27, 2014

Ms. Cathy Bourg
Deputy City Secretary
City of Burleson
141 West Renfro
Burleson, Texas 76028-4261

OR2014-03518

Dear Ms. Bourg:

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# 515275.

The City of Burleson (the "city") received three requests for information related to a specified incident. You claim the requested information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exceptions 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 protected by other statutes, 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:

- (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.

Fam. Code § 58.007(c). Law enforcement records relating to juvenile conduct, whether delinquent conduct or conduct in need of supervision, that occurred on or after September 1, 1997, are confidential under section 58.007 of the Family Code. *See id.* § 51.03 (defining “delinquent conduct” and “conduct in need of supervision” for purposes of title 3 of Family Code). 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 when the conduct occurred. *See id.* § 51.02(2). Upon review, we find the submitted information consists of records involving allegations of juveniles engaged in delinquent conduct or conduct in need of supervision occurring after September 1, 1997. *Cf.* Open Records Decision No. 127 at 8 (1976) (arson investigation division of fire department considered to be law enforcement unit). You do not indicate, nor does it appear, that any of the exceptions in section 58.007 of the Family Code apply to this information. Thus, the submitted information is confidential under section 58.007(c), and the city must withhold it under section 552.101 of the Government 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.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,



Cindy Nettles
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

CN/dls

¹As our ruling is dispositive, we do not address the city’s arguments.

Ref: ID# 515275

Enc. Submitted documents

c: 3 Requestors
(w/o enclosures)