



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

August 29, 2014

Mr. Grant Jordan
Assistant City Attorney
City of Fort Worth
1000 Throckmorton Street, Third Floor
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

OR2014-15313

Dear Mr. Jordan:

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# 534617.

The City of Fort Worth (the "city") received a request for information pertaining to a named individual. You claim the requested 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 protected by other statutes, such as section 58.007 of the Family Code, which 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.

...

(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). Thus, under section 58.007, law enforcement records relating to a juvenile engaged in delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision on or after September 1, 1997, are confidential. *See id.* § 51.03(a), (b) (defining "delinquent conduct" and "conduct indicating a need for supervision"). For purposes of section 58.007(c), a "child" is 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 law enforcement records that involve juveniles engaged in delinquent conduct that occurred after September 1, 1997. Accordingly, this information is subject to section 58.007(c).

However, in this instance, the requestor is a recruiter for the United States Marine Corps (the "Marine Corps"), and one of the juvenile suspects named in the reports is a potential enlistee in the Marine Corps. Under section 58.007(e), the juvenile may inspect law enforcement records concerning himself. *Id.* § 58.007(e). In this case, the Marine Corps has provided signed, written consent from the individual at issue. Therefore, this requestor has a right to inspect the submitted information under section 58.007(e). *Id.* Accordingly, the city may not withhold the information at issue from this requestor under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 58.007(c) of the Family Code. However,

personally identifiable information concerning any other juvenile suspect, offender, victim, or witness that is not the juvenile suspect at issue must be redacted pursuant to section 58.007(j)(1). *See id.* § 58.007(j)(1). Thus, the city must withhold the information we have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 58.007(j)(1) of the Family Code.¹ As you raise no other exceptions to disclosure, 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.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,



Jennifer Luttrall
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JL/akg

Ref: ID# 534617

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

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

²We note the requestor has a special right of access to the information being released in this instance. *See* Fam. Code § 58.007(e). Because such information is confidential with respect to the general public, if the city receives another request for this information from a different requestor, the city must again seek a ruling from this office.