



Office of the Attorney General  
State of Texas

DAN MORALES  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 16, 1997

Mr. Terry Trimble  
Interim Commissioner  
Texas Department of Human Services  
P.O. Box 149030  
Austin, Texas 78714-9030

OR97-0847

Dear Mr. Trimble:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 105418.

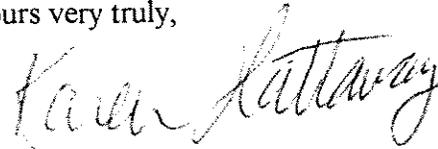
The Texas Department of Human Services (the "department") received an open records request for information on insurance coverage, including dental coverage, for each department employee broken down by plan, type of coverage, and optional coverage. The requestor subsequently amended his request to specifically exclude the employees' names and social security numbers. You contend that because the department previously released to the requestor an alphabetical list of all department employees, the department's list containing the requested insurance information, which is also organized alphabetically by employee name, would tend to reveal each individual employee's choices of insurance coverage, even if all personally identifying information was deleted from the list. Consequently, you contend that the release of the redacted document would implicate the employees' privacy interests by revealing personal financial decision information, which is confidential under section 552.101 of the Government Code. See Open Records Decision No. 600 (1992).

We agree. The release of the list of employee insurance coverages, as it currently exists, could easily be used by the requestor to discern each employee's insurance options by comparing it with the previously released alphabetical list of employees. Unless the department is capable of re-organizing the list of employee insurance information in some order other than it currently exists (with the deletion of the information you have highlighted), we conclude that the information at issue must be withheld in its entirety pursuant to section 552.101 of the Government Code.

We are resolving this matter with an informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts

presented to us in this request and should not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,



Karen E. Hattaway  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

KEH/RWP/gle

Ref.: ID# 105418

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Mr. Jerry Abel  
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(w/o enclosures)