



Office of the Attorney General  
State of Texas

DAN MORALES  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

August 24, 1998

Ms. Katheryn Heather West  
Assistant City Attorney  
City of Dallas  
Municipal Building-City Hall  
Dallas, Texas 75201

OR98-2014

Dear Ms. West:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 117694.

The Dallas Police Department (the "department") received a request for a particular offense report. You contend that the requested documents are excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 261.201 of the Family Code. We have considered the exception you claim and have reviewed the documents at issue.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision. Section 261.201(a) of the Family Code provides as follows:

(a) The following information is confidential, is not subject to public release under Chapter 552, Government Code, 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, and working papers used or developed in an investigation under this chapter or in providing services as a result of an investigation.

Because the documents at issue relate to an allegation of child abuse, the documents are within the scope of section 261.201(a) of the Family Code. You have not indicated that the department has adopted a rule that governs the release of this type of information. Therefore, we assume that no such regulation exists. Given that assumption, the requested documents are confidential pursuant to section 261.201(a) of the Family Code. *See* Open Records Decision No. 440 (1986) at 2 (predecessor statute). Accordingly, the department must withhold the requested documents from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code as information made confidential by law.

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/mjc

Ref: ID# 117694

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Mr. Tracy Williams  
1279 Whispering Trails  
Dallas, Texas 75241  
(w/o enclosures)