OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL · STATE OF TEXAS
JOHN CORNYN

May 21, 1999

Mr. J. David Dodd, III
Nichols, Jackson, Dillard, Hager & Smith, L.L.P.
1800 Lincoln Plaza
500 North Akard
Dallas, Texas 75201

OR99-1414

Dear Mr. Dodd:

You have asked whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act, chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 126206.

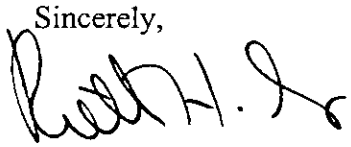
You assert that the requested information is excepted from disclosure based on section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 58.007 of the Family Code. Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Section 552.101 encompasses confidentiality provisions such as Family Code section 58.007. Juvenile law enforcement records relating to conduct that occurred on or after September 1, 1997 are confidential under section 58.007. The relevant language of section 58.007(c) reads as follows:

> (c) Except as provided by Subsection (d), law enforcement records and files concerning a child may not be disclosed to the public and shall be:
>
> (1) kept separate from adult files and records; and
>
> (2) maintained on a local basis only and not sent to a central state or federal depository, except as provided by Subchapter B.

The information at issue involves juvenile conduct that occurred after September 1, 1997. It does not appear that any of the exceptions in section 58.007 apply; therefore, the requested information is confidential pursuant to section 58.007(c) of the Family Code. You must withhold the information from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code.

We are resolving this matter with this 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 may not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Sincerely,



Ruth H. Soucy
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

RHS/nc

Ref.: ID# 126206

encl: Submitted documents