



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

March 12, 2008

Mr. Gregory Alicie
Open Records Specialist
Baytown Police Department
3200 North Main Street
Baytown, Texas 77521

OR2009-01120

Dear Mr. Alicie:

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# 333391.

The Baytown Police Department (the "department") received a request for information pertaining to a specified arrest. You claim that the requested information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101, 552.108, and 552.147 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." This section encompasses information protected by other statutes. Section 261.201(a) of the Family Code provides as follows:

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

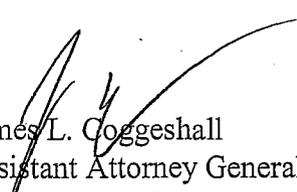
an investigation under this chapter or in providing services as a result of an investigation.

Fam. Code § 261.201(a). The submitted information consists of files, reports, records, communications, or working papers used or developed in an investigation under chapter 261; therefore, this information is within the scope of section 261.201. You do not indicate that the department has adopted a rule governing the release of this type of information; therefore, we assume that no such regulation exists. Based on this assumption, we conclude that the submitted information is confidential pursuant to section 261.201 of the Family Code, and the department must withhold it under section 552.101 of the Government Code.¹ See Open Records Decision No. 440 at 2 (1986) (predecessor statute).

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.oag.state.tx.us/open/index_orl.php, 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 must be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the Office of the Attorney General at (512) 475-2497.

Sincerely,



James L. Coggeshall
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JLC/cc

Ref: ID# 333391

Enc. Submitted documents

cc: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

¹As our ruling is dispositive, we do not address your other arguments to withhold this information. We also note that if the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services has created a file on this alleged abuse, a parent of the child may have the statutory right to review that file. See Fam. Code § 261.201(g).