



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

April 14, 2009

Mr. C. Patrick Phillips
Assistant City Attorney
City of Fort Worth
1000 Throckmorton Street 3rd Floor
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

OR2009-04899

Dear Mr. Phillips:

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# 339725 (PIR No. 1666-09).

The Fort Worth Police Department (the "department") received a request for information relating to specified offenses involving a named individual. You state that some of the requested information has been released. You claim that the submitted information is exempted 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 exempts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Gov't Code § 552.101. This exception encompasses information that other statutes make confidential. You raise section 552.101 in conjunction with section 58.007 of the Family Code, which provides in part:

(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.

Fam. Code § 58.007(c). Section 58.007(c) is applicable to records of juvenile conduct that occurred on or after September 1, 1997. *See* Act of June 2, 1997, 75th Leg., R.S., ch. 1086, §§ 20, 55(a), 1997 Tex. Gen. Laws 4179, 4187, 4199; Open Records Decision No. 644 (1996). The juvenile must have been at least 10 years old and less than 17 years of age when the conduct occurred. *See* Fam. Code § 51.02(2) (defining “child” for purposes of title 3 of Family Code). Section 58.007(c) is not applicable to information that relates to a juvenile as a complainant, victim, witness, or other involved party and not as a suspect or offender. You inform us that the submitted information involves a juvenile offender. Based on your representation and our review of the information at issue, we find that the submitted information is confidential under section 58.007(c) of the Family Code.

Section 58.007(e) of the Family Code provides, however, that “[l]aw 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 [of the Family Code] [or] a criminal justice agency as that term is defined by Section 411.082, Government Code[.]” *Id.* § 58.007(e). Section 58.101 of the Family Code provides that “‘juvenile justice agency’ means an agency that has custody or control over juvenile offenders.” *Id.* § 58.101(5). Section 411.082 of the Government Code defines a “criminal justice agency” as including “a federal or state agency that is engaged in the administration of criminal justice under a statute or executive order and that allocates a substantial portion of its annual budget to the administration of criminal justice” and “a nongovernmental railroad or campus police department that has obtained an originating agency identifier from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.” Gov’t Code § 411.082(3)(A)-(B).

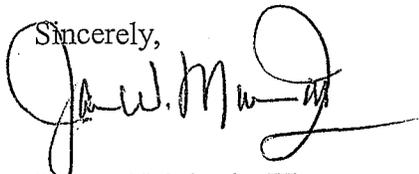
In this instance, the requestor identifies himself as a U.S. Probation Officer Assistant for the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas. He states that the submitted information involves an individual who is under investigation in the Del Rio Division of the court. You do not indicate, and we are not otherwise able to determine, whether the requestor seeks access to the submitted information on behalf of a juvenile justice agency or a criminal justice agency for the purposes of section 58.007(e) of the Family Code. Nevertheless, if the department is able to determine that this particular requestor represents a juvenile justice agency or a criminal justice agency, as provided by section 58.007(e) of the

Family Code, then the requestor has a right of access to the submitted information under section 58.007(e) of the Family Code. Otherwise, the requestor has no right of access to the submitted information, and the information must be withheld from the requestor under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 58.007(c) of the Family Code as information made confidential by law. We note that a release of information made confidential by section 58.007(c) under the authority of section 58.007(e) would not constitute a disclosure of confidential information to the public for the purposes of section 552.352 of the Government Code or a selective disclosure of information to the public for the purposes of section 552.007. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 680 at 7-8 (2003), 655 at 8-9 (1997); *compare* Attorney General Opinion DM-353 at 4 n.6 (1995) (interagency transfer of information prohibited where confidentiality statute enumerates specific entities to which release of confidential information is authorized, and receiving agency is not among statute's enumerated entities).

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 W. Morris, III
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JWM/cc

Ref: ID# 339725

Enc: Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)