



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

May 8, 2009

Mr. Charles H. Weir  
Assistant City Attorney  
City of San Antonio  
P.O. Box 839966  
San Antonio, Texas 78283-3966

OR2009-06175

Dear Mr. Weir:

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# 342624 (San Antonio ORR 2009-2802).

The San Antonio Police Department (the "department") received a request for Case No. 80-783512. You claim that the submitted information is excepted 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 excepts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Gov't Code § 552.101. Section 552.101 encompasses section 261.201 of the Family Code, which provides in relevant part:

(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.

Fam. Code § 261.201(a). Upon review, we conclude the submitted information constitutes a report of alleged or suspected abuse or neglect made under chapter 261 of the Family Code.

*See id.* § 261.001(1), (4) (defining “child abuse” and “neglect” for purposes of section 261.201); *id.* § 101.003(a) (defining “child” for purposes of section 261.201). Therefore, this report is subject to section 261.201(a)(1). You have not indicated that the department has adopted a rule governing the release of this type of information. Accordingly, we find the submitted information is confidential under section 261.201(a)(1) of the Family Code and the department must withhold it in its entirety under section 552.101 of the Government Code.<sup>1</sup> *See* Open Records Decision No. 440 at 2 (1986) (construing 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](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,



Ana Carolina Vieira  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

ACV/jb

Ref: ID# 342624

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

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<sup>1</sup>We note a parent or other legal representative of a child who is a requestor may be entitled to access to the Department of Family and Protective Services’ (the “DFPS”) records. Section 261.201(g) of the Family Code provides that the DFPS, upon request and subject to its own rules: shall provide to the parent, managing conservator, or other legal representative of a child who is the subject of reported abuse or neglect information concerning the reported abuse or neglect that would otherwise be confidential under this section if the department has edited the information to protect the confidentiality of the identity of the person who made the report and any other person whose life or safety may be endangered by the disclosure. Fam. Code § 261.201(g).