



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

September 21, 2009

Mr. Robert E. Reyna
Assistant City Attorney
City of San Antonio
P.O. Box 839966
San Antonio, Texas 78283-3966

OR2009-13230

Dear Mr. Reyna:

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# 360432 (COSA File No. 2008-1972).

The City of San Antonio (the "city") received a request for information relating to a specified case number. You claim that the requested information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the information you submitted.

We note that the city did not comply with section 552.301 of the Government Code in requesting this decision. Section 552.301 prescribes procedures that a governmental body must follow in asking this office to decide whether requested information is excepted from public disclosure. *See* Gov't Code § 552.301(a). Section 552.301(b) requires the governmental body to ask for the attorney general's decision and claim its exceptions to disclosure not later than the tenth business day after the date of its receipt of the written request for information. *See id.* § 552.301(b). Section 552.301(e) requires the governmental body to submit to this office, not later than the fifteenth business day after the date of its receipt of the request, (1) written comments stating why the governmental body's claimed exceptions apply to the information that it seeks to withhold; (2) a copy of the request for information; (3) a signed statement of the date on which the governmental body received the request or evidence sufficient to establish that date; and (4) the specific information that the governmental body seeks to withhold or representative samples if the information is

voluminous. *See id.* § 552.301(e)(1)(A)-(D). If a governmental body fails to comply with section 552.301, the requested information is presumed to be subject to required public disclosure under section 552.302 of the Government Code and must be released, unless there is a compelling reason to withhold any of the information. *See id.* § 552.302; *City of Dallas v. Abbott*, 279 S.W.3d 806 (Tex. App.—2007, pet. granted); *Simmons v. Kuzmich*, 166 S.W.3d 342 (Tex. App.—Fort Worth 2005, no pet.).

You state that the city received the instant request for information on October 17, 2008; therefore, the city's deadlines under subsections 552.301(b) and 552.301(e) were October 31 and November 7, 2008. The city requested this decision by U.S. Mail meter-marked August 28, 2009. Thus, the city did not comply with section 552.301, and the submitted information is therefore presumed to be public under section 552.302. This statutory presumption can generally be overcome when information is confidential by law or third-party interests are at stake. *See Open Records Decision Nos. 630 at 3 (1994), 325 at 2 (1982)*. Because your claim under section 552.101 of the Government Code can provide a compelling reason for non-disclosure, we will address that exception.

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. This exception encompasses information that other statutes make confidential. You raise section 552.101 in conjunction with section 261.201 of the Family Code, which provides in 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 [the Family 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 [chapter 261 of the Family Code] and the identity of the person making the report; and

(2) except as otherwise provided in this section, the files, reports, records, communications, audiotapes, videotapes, and working papers used or developed in an investigation under [chapter 261 of the Family Code] or in providing services as a result of an investigation.

Fam. Code § 261.201(a). You contend that the submitted information is confidential under section 261.201. We find, however, that the information at issue was not used or developed in an investigation of child abuse or neglect under chapter 261 of the Family Code. *See id.* § 261.001(1), (4) (defining "abuse" and "neglect" for purposes of Fam. Code ch. 261). We therefore conclude that the city may not withhold any of the submitted information under

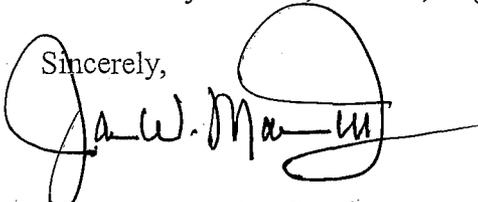
section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 261.201 of the Family Code.

We note that the submitted documents contain Texas motor vehicle information. Section 552.130 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure information relating to a motor vehicle title or registration issued by an agency of this state.¹ *See Gov't Code* § 552.130(a)(2). We have marked the information that the city must withhold under section 552.130. The rest of the submitted information must be released.

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, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



James W. Morris, III
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JWM/cc

Ref: ID# 360432

Enc: Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

¹Unlike other exceptions to disclosure under the Act, this office will raise section 552.130 on behalf of a governmental body, as this exception is mandatory and may not be waived. *See Gov't Code* §§ 552.007, .352; Open Records Decision No. 674 at 3 n.4 (2001) (mandatory exceptions).