



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

October 13, 2009

Mr. Darrell G-M Noga
Fee, Smith, Sharp & Vitullo, LLP
Counsel for City of Coppell
Three Galleria Tower
13155 Noel Road, Suite 1000
Dallas, Texas 75240

OR2009-14443

Dear Mr. Noga:

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# 358092 (City of Coppell Open Records Request # 9771).

The City of Coppell (the "city"), which you represent, received a request for information pertaining to two named individuals during a specified time period. You claim that the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.130 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." Gov't Code § 552.101. Section 552.101 encompasses information protected by other statutes, such as section 58.007 of the Family Code. Juvenile law enforcement records relating to conduct that occurred on or after September 1, 1997 are confidential under section 58.007. For the purposes of section 58.007, "child" means a person who is ten years of age or older and under seventeen years of age. *See* Fam. Code § 51.02(2). 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 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 Subchapter B, D, and E.

Id. § 58.007(c). We have reviewed the submitted information and find it all involves allegations of juvenile delinquent conduct that occurred after September 1, 1997. It does not appear any of the exceptions in section 58.007 apply. Thus, the entirety of the submitted information is confidential pursuant to section 58.007(c) of the Family Code, and the city must withhold Group Exhibits 2, 3 and 4 from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code.¹

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 McGuire
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JM/jb

Ref: ID# 358092

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

¹As our ruling is dispositive, we do not address your remaining arguments against disclosure.