



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

February 15, 2011

Ms. Loris Jones
Public Information Officer
Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-810
Austin, Texas 78701-3942

OR2011-02309

Dear Ms. Jones:

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# 409421.

The Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (the "board") received a request for all complaints, statements, and written material prepared or maintained by the board in regard to a named doctor. You state you have released some information to the requestor with social security numbers redacted pursuant to section 554.147(b) of the Government Code.¹ 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. This exception encompasses information that other statutes make confidential. You claim the submitted information is confidential under section 801.207 of the Occupations Code. Section 801.207(b) provides that "[a]n investigation record of the board, including a record relating to a complaint that is found to be groundless, is

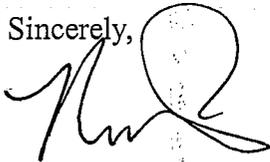
¹Section 552.147(b) of the Government Code authorizes a governmental body to redact a living person's social security number from public release without the necessity of requesting a decision from this office under the Act. Gov't Code § 552.147(b).

confidential.” Occ. Code § 801.207(b). You state the submitted information relates to a complaint filed with the board and its subsequent investigation. Therefore, based on your representation and our review, we conclude the submitted information is confidential under section 801.207(b) of the Occupations Code and must be withheld from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code.

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,



Nneka Kanu
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

NK/vb

Ref: ID# 409214

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)