



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

May 9, 2011

Ms. Susan K. Bohn  
General Counsel  
Lake Travis Independent School District  
3322 Ranch Road 620 South  
Austin, Texas 78738

OR2011-06412

Dear Ms. Bohn:

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# 416929 (District ID# 022311-E-40/DL 4476).

The Lake Travis Independent School District (the "district") received a request for all employee exit interview documents created or submitted during January 2011. You state some information is being released to the requestor. You inform us that the district has redacted information subject to section 552.117 of the Government Code as permitted by section 552.024(c) of the Government Code.<sup>1</sup> We note you have also redacted a personal e-mail address under section 552.137 of the Government Code pursuant to Open Records Decision No. 684 (2009).<sup>2</sup> You claim that portions of the remaining requested information are excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code. We have considered the claimed exception and reviewed the submitted information.

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<sup>1</sup>Section 552.117 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure the home addresses and telephone numbers, social security numbers, and family member information of current or former officials or employees of a governmental body. Section 552.024 of the Government Code authorizes a governmental body to withhold information subject to section 552.117 without requesting a decision from this office if the employee or official or former employee or official chooses not to allow public access to the information. *See* Gov't Code §§ 552.117, .024(c).

<sup>2</sup>Open Records Decision No. 684 is a previous determination to all governmental bodies authorizing them to withhold ten categories of information, including e-mail addresses of members of the public under section 552.137, without the necessity of requesting an attorney general decision.

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 the doctrine of common-law privacy, which protects information if it (1) contains highly intimate or embarrassing facts, the publication of which would be highly objectionable to a reasonable person, and (2) is not of legitimate concern to the public. *Indus. Found. v. Tex. Indus. Accident Bd.*, 540 S.W.2d 668, 685 (Tex. 1976). This office has found personal financial information that does not relate to a financial transaction between an individual and a governmental body is excepted from required public disclosure under common-law privacy. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 600 (1992) (employee's designation of retirement beneficiary, choice of insurance carrier, election of optional coverages, direct deposit authorization, forms allowing employee to allocate pretax compensation to group insurance, health care or dependent care), 545 (1990) (deferred compensation information, participation in voluntary investment program, election of optional insurance coverage, mortgage payments, assets, bills, and credit history). You state that the information you have marked pertains to the decisions of former district employees regarding whether to purchase insurance under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act ("COBRA"). You further state the district does not contribute to COBRA coverage for former employees. Upon review, we agree the information you have marked constitutes personal financial information not relating to a transaction between an individual and a governmental body. Thus, the district must withhold the information you have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy. The district must release the remaining information.

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, toll free at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Kate Hartfield  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

KH/em

Ref: ID# 416929

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)