



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

September 18, 2012

Mr. Steven Meyer
Assistant City Attorney
Arlington Police Department
P.O. Box 1065
Arlington, Texas 76004-1065

OR2012-14837

Dear Mr. Meyer:

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# 469739 (Ref. No. 8775-082012).

The Arlington Police Department (the "department") received a request for a specified incident report. You claim 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 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 other statutes make confidential. Section 58.007 of the Family Code provides in part:

(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 Subchapters B, D, and E.

...

(e) Law enforcement records and files concerning a child may be inspected or copied by a juvenile justice agency as that term is defined by Section 58.101, a criminal justice agency as that term is defined by Section 411.082, Government Code, the child, and the child's parent or guardian.

Fam. Code § 58.007(c), (e); *see id.* § 51.03(b) (defining "conduct indicating need for supervision" for purposes of Fam. Code tit. 3). Section 58.007(c) is applicable to records of juvenile conduct that occurred on or after September 1, 1997. The juvenile must have been at least 10 years old and less than 17 years of age when the conduct occurred. *See id.* § 51.02(2) (defining "child" for purposes of Fam. Code title 3).

We find the submitted information involves a juvenile offender, so as to be generally confidential under section 58.007(c) of the Family Code. In this instance, however, the requestor may be a parent of the juvenile involved. In that event, the requestor would have a right to inspect law enforcement records concerning the juvenile pursuant to section 58.007(e). *See id.* § 58.007(e). But as we are unable to determine whether the requestor is the juvenile's parent, we will rule conditionally. Thus, if the requestor is not the juvenile's parent, then the department must withhold the submitted information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 58.007(c) of the Family Code. But if the requestor is the juvenile's parent, then the department must release the submitted information pursuant to section 58.007(e).

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tamara H. Holland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T".

Tamara H. Holland
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

THH/ag

Ref: ID# 469739

c. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)