



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

May 16, 2013

Ms. Lillian Guillen Graham
Assistant City Attorney
City of Mesquite
P.O. Box 850137
Mesquite, Texas 75185-0137

OR2013-08194

Dear Ms. Graham:

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# 492001.

The Mesquite Police Department (the "department") received a request for information related to the requestor's son, including several specified incidents. You state the department will release some responsive information to the requestor. You indicate the department will redact some information pursuant to Open Records Letter No. 2012-07334 (2012).¹ You claim some of the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101, 552.117, 552.130, and 552.147 of the Government Code. We have considered your claims 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 section encompasses information protected by other statutes, such as section 58.007 of the Family Code, which provides in pertinent part as follows:

¹Open Records Letter No. 2012-07334 is a previous determination issued to the department authorizing the department to withhold FBI numbers under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 411.083 of the Government Code and federal law without requesting a ruling from this office.

(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.

...

(j) Before a child or a child's parent or guardian may inspect or copy a record or file concerning the child under Subsection (e), the custodian of the record or file shall redact:

(1) any personally identifiable information about a juvenile suspect, offender, victim, or witness who is not the child; and

(2) any information that is excepted from required disclosure under [the Act], or other law.

Fam. Code § 58.007(c), (e), (j). Juvenile law enforcement records relating to delinquent conduct that occurred on or after September 1, 1997 are confidential under section 58.007(c). *See id.* § 51.03 (defining "delinquent conduct"). For purposes of section 58.007(c), "child" means a person who is ten years of age or older and under seventeen years of age at the time of the incident. *See id.* § 51.02(2). The submitted information involves juveniles engaged

in delinquent conduct that occurred after September 1, 1997. As such, this information is confidential under section 58.007(c) of the Family Code.

However, in this instance, the requestor is the parent of one of the juvenile offenders listed in the information at issue. Therefore, this requestor has a right to inspect information concerning her child under section 58.007(e). *Id.* § 58.007(e). Accordingly, the department may not withhold the submitted information from this requestor under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 58.007(c) of the Family Code. However, any personally identifiable information concerning other juvenile suspects, offenders, victims, or witnesses must be redacted under section 58.007(j)(1). *See id.* § 58.007(j)(1). Accordingly, the department must withhold the identifying information of the other juveniles you have marked pursuant to section 552.101 in conjunction with section 58.007(j)(1). Additionally, section 58.007(j)(2) provides that information subject to any other exception to disclosure under the Act or law must be redacted. *Id.* § 58.007(j)(2). Thus, we will address your other arguments for portions of the remaining information.

You claim section 552.117 of the Government Code for some of the remaining information. Section 552.117(a)(1) excepts from disclosure the home addresses and telephone numbers, emergency contact information, social security numbers, and family member information of a current or former official or employee of a governmental body who requests that this information be kept confidential under section 552.024 of the Government Code. *See Gov't Code* §§ 552.024, .117. We note, however, that section 552.117 applies only to records that a governmental body is holding in an employment capacity. The information at issue consists of law enforcement records maintained by the department and is not held by the department as an employer. Therefore, we find section 552.117(a) of the Government Code does not apply in this situation, and the department may not withhold any portion of the information you have marked on that basis.

Section 552.130 of the Government Code provides information relating to a motor vehicle operator's or driver's license or permit issued by an agency of this state or another state or country is excepted from public release. *Id.* § 552.130(a)(1). Upon review, we agree the department must withhold the driver's license information you have marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

Section 552.147 of the Government Code provides, "[t]he social security number of a living person is excepted from" required public disclosure under the Act. *Id.* § 552.147. Upon review, we find the department may withhold the social security numbers you have marked under section 552.147 of the Government Code.²

²We note section 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).

In summary, the department must withhold (1) the information you have marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 58.007(j)(1) of the Family Code and (2) the information you have marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code. The department may withhold the social security numbers you have marked under section 552.147 of the Government Code. The remaining information must be released.³

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,



Cindy Nettles
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

CN/dls

Ref: ID# 492001

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

³We note this requestor has a right of access to the information being released, which is confidential with respect to the general public. Gov't Code § 58.007(e). Therefore, if the department receives another request for this information from an individual other than this requestor, the department must again seek a ruling from this office.