



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

November 17, 2014

Mr. Andrew B. Thompson
Interim General Counsel
Office of Legal Services
Corpus Christi Independent School District
P.O. Box 110
Corpus Christi, Texas 78403-0110

OR2014-20861

Dear Mr. Thompson:

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# 543593.

The Corpus Christi Independent School District (the "district") received a request for a specified statement and any additional statements related to the requestor's termination. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.135 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.135 of the Government Code provides in relevant part the following:

- (a) "Informer" means a student or a former student or an employee or former employee of a school district who has furnished a report of another person's possible violation of criminal, civil, or regulatory law to the school district or the proper regulatory enforcement authority.
- (b) An informer's name or information that would substantially reveal the identity of an informer is excepted from [required public disclosure].

Gov't Code § 552.135(a)-(c). Because the legislature limited the protection of section 552.135 to the identity of a person who reports a possible violation of "law," a school district that seeks to withhold information under that exception must clearly identify to this office the specific civil, criminal, or regulatory law that is alleged to have been violated. *See id.* § 552.301(e)(1)(A). You state the submitted information identifies an employee who reported an alleged violation of criminal law. Based on your representation and our review, we conclude the district must withhold the submitted information in its entirety under section 552.135 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.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtml, 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 may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Ellen Webking
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

EW/ac

Ref: ID#543593

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)