



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

June 2, 2016

Ms. Yvette Aguilar  
Assistant City Attorney  
City of Corpus Christi  
P.O. Box 9277  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78469-9277

OR2016-12596

Dear Ms. Aguilar:

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# 612605 (CCPD File No. CNar1).

The Corpus Christi Police Department (the "department") received a request for police reports involving both the requestor and another named individual. You state you have released some information. You state you will redact the dates of birth of members of the public pursuant to the previous determination issued in Open Records Letter No. 2016-00831 (2016).<sup>1</sup> You claim 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 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 made confidential by other statutes, such as section 261.201 of the Family Code. Section 261.201 provides, in relevant part:

---

<sup>1</sup>Open Records Letter No. 2016-00831 authorizes the department to withhold dates of birth of members of the public under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with common-law privacy without the necessity of requesting an attorney general's decision.

(a) [T]he following information is confidential, is not subject to public release under Chapter 552, Government Code, and may be disclosed only for purposes consistent with this code and applicable federal or state law or under rules adopted by an investigating agency:

(1) a report of alleged or suspected abuse or neglect made under this chapter and the identity of the person making the report; and

(2) except as otherwise provided in this section, the files, reports, records, communications, audiotapes, videotapes, and working papers used or developed in an investigation under this chapter or in providing services as a result of an investigation.

...

(k) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), an investigating agency, other than the [Texas Department of Family and Protective Services] or the Texas Juvenile Justice Department on request, shall provide to the parent, managing conservator, or other legal representative of a child who is the subject of reported abuse or neglect, or to the child if the child is at least 18 years of age, information concerning the reported abuse or neglect that would otherwise be confidential under this section. The investigating agency shall withhold information under this subsection if the parent, managing conservator, or other legal representative of the child requesting the information is alleged to have committed the abuse or neglect.

Fam. Code § 261.201(a), (k). You state the submitted information was used or developed in an investigation by the department of alleged or suspected child abuse or neglect under chapter 261 of the Family Code. *See id.* §§ 101.003(a) (defining “child” for purposes of section 261.201), 261.001(1), (4) (defining “abuse” and “neglect” for purposes of section 261.201 of Family Code). Upon review, we find the information you marked is subject to chapter 261 of the Family Code. We note the requestor is a parent of the child victim listed in the submitted information, but the requestor is alleged to have committed the alleged abuse or neglect. Thus, the requestor does not have a right of access to the submitted information under section 261.201(k). *Id.* § 261.201(k). The department must withhold the information you marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 261.201 of the Family Code.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code also encompasses section 264.408 of the Family Code which provides, in pertinent part:

(a) The files, reports, records, communications, and working papers used or developed in providing services under this chapter are confidential and not

subject to public release under Chapter 552, Government Code, and may only be disclosed for purposes consistent with this chapter. Disclosure may be to:

(1) the department, department employees, law enforcement agencies, prosecuting attorneys, medical professionals, and other state agencies that provide services to children and families; and

(2) the attorney for the child who is the subject of the records and a court-appointed volunteer advocate appointed for the child under Section 107.031.

*Id.* § 264.408(a). Thus, section 264.408(a) provides that information used or developed in providing services under chapter 264 of the Family Code, which concerns child welfare services, is confidential. Although you contend that some of the submitted information is subject to section 264.408(a), you do not explain, and the documents themselves do not reflect, this information pertains to the provision of services by a child advocacy center under chapter 264 of the Family Code. Accordingly, the information you marked may not be withheld under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 264.408 of the Family Code.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code also encompasses chapter 411 of the Government Code, which makes confidential criminal history record information (“CHRI”) generated by the National Crime Information Center or by the Texas Crime Information Center. *See* Gov’t Code § 411.083(a). Title 28, part 20 of the Code of Federal Regulations governs the release of CHRI that states obtain from the federal government or other states. Open Records Decision No. 565 (1990). The federal regulations allow each state to follow its individual laws with respect to the CHRI it generates. *See id.* Section 411.083 of the Government Code deems confidential CHRI that the Department of Public Safety (“DPS”) maintains, except that DPS may disseminate this information as provided in chapter 411, subchapter E-1 or F of the Government Code. *See* Gov’t Code § 411.083(a). Sections 411.083(b)(1) and 411.089(a) authorize a criminal justice agency to obtain CHRI; however, a criminal justice agency may not release CHRI except to another criminal justice agency for a criminal justice purpose. *Id.* § 411.089(b)(1). Other entities specified in chapter 411 of the Government Code are entitled to obtain CHRI from DPS or another criminal justice agency; however, those entities may not release CHRI except as provided by chapter 411. *See generally id.* §§ 411.090-.127. Thus, any CHRI obtained from DPS or any other criminal justice agency must be withheld under section 552.101 in conjunction with chapter 411, subchapter F of the Government Code. Upon review, we find the information you marked consists of CHRI the department must withhold under section 552.101 in conjunction with section 411.083 of the Government Code.

In summary, the department must withhold the information you marked under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 261.201 of the Family Code. The department must also withhold the CHRI you marked under section 552.101 in conjunction with section 411.083 of the Government Code. The remaining information must be released.

The department asks this office to issue a previous determination that would permit it to withhold from disclosure information made confidential under section 261.201 of the Family Code without the necessity of requesting a decision under section 552.301 of the Government Code. We decline to issue such a previous determination at this time. Accordingly, 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](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,



Matthew Taylor  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

MHT/dls

Ref: ID# 612605

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)