



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

May 31, 2012

Ms. Teresa J. Brown
Senior Open Records Assistant
Plano Police Department
P.O. Box 860358
Plano, Texas 75086-0358

OR2012-08367

Dear Ms. Brown:

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# 459266 (SOLE042412).

The Plano Police Department (the "department") received a request for information pertaining to an incident involving the requestor's son on a specified date. You state some information has been released to the requestor. You claim some of the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101, 552.108, and 552.130 of the Government Code.¹ We have considered the exceptions 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. Section 552.101 encompasses information protected by other statutes, including section 58.007 of the Family Code, which provides for the confidentiality of juvenile law enforcement records related to delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision that occurred on or after September 1, 1997. *See* Open Records Decision No. 680 at 4 (2004); *see also* Fam. Code § 51.03(a), (b) (defining "delinquent conduct" and "conduct indicating a need for supervision"). Section 58.007 provides in relevant part:

¹Although you do not raise section 552.130 of the Government Code in your brief, we understand you to claim this section based on your markings in the submitted information.

(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.

Id. § 58.007(c), (e), (j). 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 reported conduct. *See id.* § 51.02(2). As you note, the submitted information is a law enforcement record that involves juveniles accused of delinquent conduct that occurred after September 1, 1997; and is therefore, is subject to section 58.007(c). However, you state the requestor is the parent of one of the juvenile offenders in the submitted report. Under section 58.007(e) of the Family Code, a child's parent has a right to inspect or copy law enforcement records

concerning her own child. *See id.* § 58.007(e). Accordingly, the department may not withhold the submitted information from this requestor pursuant to section 58.007(c). However, personally identifiable information concerning any other juvenile suspects, offenders, victims, or witnesses must be redacted pursuant to section 58.007(j)(1) of the Family Code. *See id.* § 58.007(j)(1). You have marked information you seek to withhold pursuant to section 58.007(j)(1). We note some of the information you seek to withhold does not identify other juvenile suspects, offenders, victims, or witnesses. This information, which we have marked for release, may not be withheld under section 552.101 in conjunction with section 58.007(j)(1). Thus, except for the information we have marked for release, the department must withhold the information you have marked under section 552.101 in conjunction with section 58.007(j)(1). Additionally, section 58.007(j)(2) of the Family Code provides that information subject to any other exception to disclosure under the Act or other law must be redacted. *See id.* § 58.007(j)(2). Accordingly, we will address your claims under sections 552.108 and 552.130 of the Government Code.

Section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code excepts from disclosure “[i]nformation held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime . . . if . . . release of the information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime[.]” Gov’t Code § 552.108(a)(1). A governmental body that claims an exception to disclosure under section 552.108 must reasonably explain how and why this exception is generally applicable to the information at issue. *See id.* §§ 552.108(a)(1), .301(e)(1)(A); *Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706 (Tex. 1977). You state the information at issue relates to a pending criminal case. Based upon your representation and our review, we find that section 552.108(a)(1) is applicable to the information you have marked. *See Houston Chronicle Publ’g Co. v. City of Houston*, 531 S.W.2d 177 (Tex. Civ. App.—Houston [14th Dist.] 1975), *writ ref’d n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976) (court delineates law enforcement interests that are present in active cases).

However, section 552.108 does not except from disclosure basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime. Gov’t Code § 552.108(c). Basic information refers to the information held to be public in *Houston Chronicle*. *See* 531 S.W.2d at 186-87; Open Records Decision No. 127 at 3-4 (1976) (summarizing types of information deemed public by *Houston Chronicle*). We note you seek to withhold the entire narrative portion of the submitted report under section 552.108. However, the remaining portions of the report do not contain information sufficient to satisfy the requirement that a “detailed description of the offense” be released as basic information. *See* ORD 127. Accordingly, we determine the department must release a sufficient portion of the narrative to encompass a detailed description of the offense to satisfy the required release of basic information pursuant to *Houston Chronicle*. Thus, with the exception of the basic information, the department may withhold the information you have marked under section 552.108(a)(1).

Section 552.130 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure information that relates to a motor vehicle operator’s or driver’s license or motor vehicle title or registration issued by an agency of this state or another state or country. Gov’t Code § 552.130(a)(1)-(2). Upon

review, we agree the department must withhold the information you have marked under section 552.130.

In summary, except for the information we have marked for release, the department must withhold 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. Except for the basic information, the department may withhold the information you have marked under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code. The department must withhold the information you have marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code. The remaining information must be released.

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,



Ana Carolina Vieira
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

ACV/ag

Ref: ID# 459266

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)