



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

September 10, 2015

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

OR2015-18881

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# 578801 (ORR# LOPR062915).

The Plano Police Department (the "department") received two requests for information from different requestors regarding a specified arrest. You indicate the department does not maintain information responsive to a portion of the requests.<sup>1</sup> You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted representative sample of information.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>The Act does not require a governmental body to release information that did not exist when it received a request or to create responsive information. *See Economic Opportunities Dev. Corp. v. Bustamante*, 562 S.W.2d 266 (Tex. Civ. App.—San Antonio 1978, writ dismissed); Open Records Decision Nos. 605 at 2 (1992), 555 at 1 (1990), 452 at 3 (1986), 362 at 2 (1983).

<sup>2</sup>We assume that the "representative sample" of records submitted to this office is truly representative of the requested records as a whole. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 499 (1988), 497 (1988). This open records letter does not reach, and therefore does not authorize the withholding of, any other requested records to the extent that those records contain substantially different types of information than that submitted to this office.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code exempts from disclosure “information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision.”<sup>3</sup> Gov’t Code § 552.101. Section 552.101 encompasses information made confidential by section 261.201 of the Family Code, which provides, in relevant part, as follows:

(a) [T]he following information is confidential, is not subject to public release under [the Act], 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 [chapter 261 of the Family Code] 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 [chapter 261 of the Family Code] 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); Act of May 29, 2015, 84<sup>th</sup> Leg., R.S., ch. 734, § 82, 2015 Tex. Sess. Law Serv. 2218, 2244 (Vernon) (to be codified as an amendment to Fam. Code § 261.201(k)). The submitted information consists of information used or developed in an investigation of alleged or suspected abuse or neglect under chapter 261 of the Family Code. Accordingly, the submitted information falls within the scope of section 261.201 of the Family Code. *See* Fam. Code §§ 101.003(a) (defining “child” for the purposes of this section as a person under 18 years of age who is not and has not been married or who has not

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<sup>3</sup>The Office of the Attorney General will raise a mandatory exception on behalf of a governmental body, but ordinarily will not raise other exceptions. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 481 (1987), 480 (1987), 470 (1987).

had the disabilities of minority removed for general purposes), 261.001(1), (4) (defining “abuse” and “neglect” for purposes of chapter 261 of the Family Code). In this instance, the second requestor is a parent of the child victim listed in the submitted information. However, the second requestor is alleged to have committed the suspected abuse or neglect. Additionally, although the first requestor may be a parent, managing conservator, or other legal representative of the child victim, the first requestor is also alleged to have committed the suspected abuse or neglect. Thus, neither of the requestors has a right of access to the information at issue under section 261.201(k). *See* Act of May 29, 2015, 84<sup>th</sup> Leg., R.S., ch. 734, § 82, 2015 Tex. Sess. Law Serv. 2218, 2244 (Vernon) (to be codified as an amendment to Fam. Code § 261.201(k)). Therefore, we conclude the submitted information is confidential pursuant to section 261.201 of the Family Code and the department must withhold it under section 552.101 of the Government Code on that basis.<sup>4</sup>

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,



Kristi L. Godden  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

KLG/eb

Ref: ID# 578801

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

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<sup>4</sup>As our ruling is dispositive, we need not address your remaining argument against disclosure.