



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

August 29, 2017

Mr. Matthew L. Grove
Assistant County Attorney
Fort Bend County
401 Jackson Street, 3rd Floor
Richmond, Texas 77469

OR2017-19682

Dear Mr. Grove:

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# 673378.

The Fort Bend Sheriff's Office (the "sheriff's office") received a request for a specified arrest record. 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 submitted information.

We note you have submitted court orders of restricted access pertaining to the requested information. These orders were entered in accordance with section 58.203 of the Family Code, which states the Texas Department of Public Safety shall certify that juvenile law enforcement records are subject to automatic restriction of access under certain circumstances. Fam. Code § 58.203. Section 58.204(b) provides:

(b) On certification of records in a case under Section 58.203, the [Texas Department of Public Safety] may permit access to the information in the juvenile justice information system relating to the case of an individual only:

(1) by a criminal justice agency for a criminal justice purpose, as those terms are defined by Section 411.082, Government Code;

- (2) for research purposes, by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department;
- (3) by the person who is the subject of the records on an order from the juvenile court granting the petition filed by or on behalf of the person who is the subject of the records;
- (4) with the permission of the juvenile court at the request of the person who is the subject of the records;
- (5) with the permission of the juvenile court, by a party to a civil suit if the person who is the subject of the records has put facts relating to the person's records at issue in the suit; or
- (6) with the written permission of the individual, by military personnel, including a recruiter, of this state or the United States if the individual is an applicant for enlistment in the armed forces.

Id. § 58.204(b). Furthermore, section 58.207 of the Family Code provides, in relevant part:

(a) On certification of records in a case under Section 58.203, the juvenile court shall order:

(1) that the following records relating to the case may be accessed only as provided by Section 58.204(b):

...

(E) records maintained by a law enforcement agency[.]

...

(b) [O]n receipt of an order under Subsection (a)(1), the agency maintaining the records:

(1) may allow access only as provided by Section 58.204(b); and

(2) shall respond to a request for information about the records by stating that the records do not exist.

Id. § 58.207(a)(1)(E), (b). In this instance, the requestor is not one of the entities listed in section 58.204(b), to which access is allowed. Therefore, in accordance with the submitted

orders of restricted access and section 58.207(b) of the Family Code, we find the department must respond to the request by stating the records at issue do not exist.¹

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,



Kelly McWethy
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

KSM/sb

Ref: ID# 673378

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

¹As we are able to make this determination, we do not address your remaining argument against disclosure of this requested information.