



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

March 11, 2019

Ms. April M. Liwanag
Assistant General Counsel
Texas Board of Nursing
333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-460
Austin, Texas 78701

OR2019-06668

Dear Ms. Liwanag:

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# 754089 (Ref. No. 19-09).

The Texas Board of Nursing (the "board") received a request for the complainant's identity in a specified investigation. You claim some of 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.

Initially, the board states only the information it has marked is responsive to the present request. This ruling does not address the public availability of the remaining non-responsive information, and the board need not release it in response to this request.

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 exception encompasses section 301.466(a) of the Occupations Code, which provides as follows:

A complaint and investigation concerning a nurse under this subchapter, all information and material compiled by the board in connection with the complaint and investigation, and the information described by Subsection (d) are:

(1) confidential and not subject to disclosure under [the Act]; and

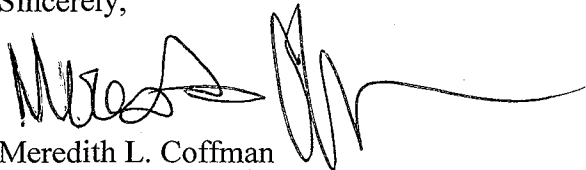
(2) not subject to disclosure, discovery, subpoena, or other means of legal compulsion for release to anyone other than the board or a board employee or agent involved in license holder discipline.

Occ. Code § 301.466(a). Section 301.466 only applies to information created or compiled by the board as part of an investigation by the board. The board states it created or compiled the submitted responsive information as part of an investigation. The board also states the information at issue does not fall into any of the categories of information that are subject to disclosure under section 301.466(c). Based on these representations, we agree the submitted responsive information is confidential under section 301.466(a). Further, the requestor is not entitled to receive this information under section 301.466(b) and the information at issue does not fall under section 301.466(c). Accordingly, we conclude the board must withhold the submitted responsive information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 301.466(a)(1) of the Occupations 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Meredith L. Coffman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Meredith L. Coffman
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

MLC/mo

Ref: ID# 754089

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)