



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

May 17, 2019

Ms. Eugenia A. Cano
First Assistant City Attorney
City of Sugar Land
P.O. Box 110
Sugar Land, Texas 77487-0110

OR2019-13259

Dear Ms. Cano:

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# 766270 (ORR# W006128).

The City of Sugar Land (the "city") received a request for information pertaining to a specified incident.¹ The city states it has released some of the requested information, but claims some of the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under sections 552.101 and 552.136 of the Government Code. We have considered the claimed exceptions and reviewed the submitted information.

¹The city sought and received clarification of the information requested. *See* Gov't Code § 552.222 (if request for information is unclear, governmental body may ask requestor to clarify request); *see also* *City of Dallas v. Abbott*, 304 S.W.3d 380, 387 (Tex. 2010) (if governmental entity, acting in good faith, requests clarification of unclear or over-broad request, ten-day period to request attorney general ruling is measured from date request is clarified).

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 section 773.091 of the Health and Safety Code, which provides, in part, the following:

(b) Records of the identity, evaluation, or treatment of a patient by emergency medical services personnel or by a physician providing medical supervision that are created by the emergency medical services personnel or physician or maintained by an emergency medical services provider are confidential and privileged and may not be disclosed except as provided by this chapter.

...

(g) The privilege of confidentiality under this section does not extend to information regarding the presence, nature of injury or illness, age, sex, occupation, and city of residence of a patient who is receiving emergency medical services.

Health & Safety Code § 773.091(b), (g). The information at issue consists of records of the identity, evaluation, or treatment of a patient made and maintained by emergency medical services personnel. Thus, section 773.091 is applicable to this information. Therefore, with the exception of the information subject to section 773.091(g) of the Health and Safety Code, which the city must release, the city must withhold the submitted information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 773.091(b) of the Health and Safety Code.²

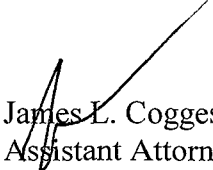
This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

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

²As our ruling is dispositive, we do not address the other argument of the city to withhold this information. In addition, this ruling does not affect an individual’s right of access to emergency medical service records from the emergency medical services personnel who provided treatment under chapter 773 of the Health and Safety Code. *See* Health & Safety Code §§ 773.092-.093; *cf. Abbott v. Tex. State Bd. of Pharmacy*, 391 S.W.3d 253 (Tex. App.—Austin 2012, no pet.) (Medical Practice Act, subtitle B of title 3 of the Occupations Code, does not provide patient general right of access to patient’s medical records from governmental body responding to request for information under Public Information Act).

providing public information under the Act may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



James L. Coggeshall
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JLC/gw

Ref: ID# 766270

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)